



## The Spiritual Life of the Church Age Believer Is Designed to Replicate the Same Perfection as Its Prototype Did for Our Lord in the Incarnation

1. This brings us back to our verb, the present middle indicative of:  
(#23) **κατεργάζομαι, *katergazomai*** - “the one accomplishing it.”
  - present: Durative; denotes that which has begun in the past and continues to the present. The action is in progress and in a state of persistence.
  - middle: Deponent, is middle in form but active in meaning. Denotes Paul using himself as an example for the purpose of illustration.
  - indicative: Declarative; a statement of fact.
2. Paul had discovered that although his volitional decisions are responsible for the sins he commits it is his sinful nature that actually accomplishes the “deeds of the flesh.”
3. In status quo unbelief, a person’s soul is under the tyranny of the first husband, the sinful nature.
4. This begins at physical birth. The soul is imputed with Never-Ending Life to the Biological Life of the newly born child creating Human Life. This person is physically alive but spiritually dead.
5. The soul is created immediately by God and as a result is intrinsically pure containing no corruption in and of itself and is thus free of influence from the sinful nature.
6. But when Soul Life is imputed to the genetically contaminated Biological Life it becomes corrupted by the sinful nature to which it is inseparably united until physical death.
7. This was not the case with our original parents. Their physical bodies were created without the sinful nature so that when Soul Life was imputed it resulted in Perfect Life.
8. Adam and Ishah’s Human Life was perfect and, absent a sinful nature, was not subject to death. Their souls were perfect, however, they did not possess Eternal Life but rather Everlasting Life.
9. This changed at the fall when the decision to eat the forbidden fruit resulted in corruption of the body and a loss of Perfect Life in the soul.
10. Where previously Adam and Ishah had unbroken fellowship with the Lord this harmony is now broken and they are categorically condemned.
11. Our study of the Categories of Life Defined in Scripture brought to our attention the various types of life that are common within the angelic and human creations.
12. Unique among these is the spiritual life of the believer in the Church Age. When filled with the Holy Spirit the believer’s soul is encapsulated by the same perfection that Adam and Ishah enjoyed in pre-fall Eden.



13. In status quo spirituality, the Church Age believer's Soul Life is perfect being free of any unconfessed sin.
14. This condition is advanced upon by the fact that the Church Age believer also benefits from the guidance, leadership, and mentorship of the filling of the Holy Spirit.
15. Therefore, the perfect spiritual life enjoyed by Adam and Ishah before the fall is advanced upon by the availability of the prototype spiritual life of Christ which He utilized in the Incarnation.
16. This system was perfectly executed and proved effectual by our Lord during His earthly ministry and bequeathed to Church Age believers beginning at Pentecost.
17. Consequently, Paul recognizes the importance of this sophisticated spiritual life by mentioning his desire to execute its mandates and standards.
18. However, he also comes to realize that he is unable to consistently perform the lifestyle prescribed for the believer but instead accomplishes the lifestyle of the unbeliever.
19. On the one hand Paul desires to live the sophisticated spiritual life employed by our Lord in the Incarnation but instead makes the decision to revert back to the operational spiritual death that defined his life as an unbeliever.
20. Paul possesses all the assets to execute a spiritual life that is not only perfect but also unique in its power and sophistication.
21. However, because of facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness, he constantly reverts back to the lifestyle of the unbeliever.
22. PRINCIPLES:
  1. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, function under the three spiritual skills, and fulfill the mandates issued by God in Scripture, we live in the same perfection enjoyed by our Lord during His earthly ministry.
  2. When we let temptations motivate personal sin we begin to imitate the character and lifestyle of the unbeliever who is spiritually dead.
  3. When we perform the deeds of the flesh we cannot accomplish the fruits of the Spirit.

**Romans 7:20** - Now if, as a result of my personal volitional decision, I am performing what I do not desire (and I am), I am no longer the one accomplishing it but the sinful nature which continuously resides inside of me.

1. The verb for "resides" is the present active participle of:  
 (#24) οἰκέω, οἰκεῶ - "which continuously resides"  
 present: Durative; denotes that which has begun in the past and continues into the present.  
 active: The sinful nature produces the action of residing in Paul's body.  
 participle: Circumstantial; emphasizes that even though the sinful nature's power has been broken it still continues to reside inside Paul's body.
2. The durative present takes us back to Paul's physical birth when the imputation of soul life to biological life created human life.



3. Simultaneous with this was the imputation of Adam's original sin to the genetically formed sinful nature.
4. This condition, begun in the past, has continued throughout Paul's life, even after his salvation.
5. His body still has the residence of the sinful nature in its cell structure even though its power has been broken.
6. The sinful nature's sovereign power is restored by means of volitional consent after which it executes sinful acts.
7. These thoughts, decisions, and actions may not be what Paul desires to do in his efforts to please God, but he does them nonetheless.
8. When free will is seduced by the temptations of the lust pattern and makes the decision to sin, even though the sinful nature accomplishes the sinful behavior, it is Paul's volition that is held responsible.
9. A final prepositional phrase isolates the sinful nature inside the human body:  
**ἐν** plus the locative of place of **ἐμός, en emos** -  
 "inside of me"

**Romans 7:20** - (ETL) Now if, as a result of my personal volitional decision, I am performing [ **ποιέω, poieō** ] what I do not desire [ **θέλω, thelō** ] (and I am), I am no longer the one accomplishing [ **κατεργάζομαι, katergazomai** ] it but the sinful nature which continuously resides [ **οἰκέω, oikeō** ] inside of me.

10. This verse again documents Paul's *ménage à trios* which results in the sinful nature's *coup d'état*.