

## Kill or be killed

*Ebola: the virus that scares even scientists* (Independent)

- 1976 - Congo
- This year - Guinea, Sierra Leone & Liberia. In Guinea, 122 cases so far, 78 deaths.
- Outbreaks closely monitored. No cure!
- Outbreak in UK in 1976 - Porton Down. Scientist -> needle.
- Only 4 scientists in UK authorised to handle it.

But - in my own heart there lurks a more deadly plague.

### **Rom 8:12-17**

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

### **What this verse doesn't mean.**

Who is this verse written to? = Christians.

How are we saved? How do we get eternal life?

So the life Paul mentions here can't be eternal life because Paul ties life here in with overcoming sin.

### **Explain final perseverance of saints.**

**Rom 8:29-30** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.



### **Briefly unpack.**

So - what does Paul mean when he says "if you live according to the flesh you will die"?

Die doesn't mean eternal death.

= lack of vitality, fruit etc. Saved - but just, no fruit, no reward. Saved thru the flames.

So, what does Paul mean, "but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

=Thriving, growing, maturing.

**One of the main ways we can thrive, mature and enjoy being a Christian is by overcoming sin.**

### **Big issue.**

Here is the big issue - **Rom 8:13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The flesh = old nature, sin at work in us.

But, if by the power and ability that the Holy Spirit gives we kill sin - we will live! Flourish, thrive & grow.

**Big point, main theme = kill sin or sin will kill you.**

**Psa 106:43**

Many times he delivered them,

but they were rebellious in their purposes

and were **brought low through their iniquity.**

### **By the Spirit.**

The Bible says that the only way to effectively kill sin is by the Spirit - **what does this mean?**

You might think that all you need is to be filled with the Holy Spirit - wrong!

**Samson.**



Give brief outline of him.

No character.

**What is one of the main works of the Holy Spirit in our lives?** = Applying the finished work of Jesus to our lives.

Holy Spirit is actively working in us but not automatic.

Repentance - ongoing, process. Not one off.

Choices - daily.

Choice - choose life/death.

**Becoming like Jesus consists of little decisions every day. What to watch, who to associate with.**

**1Tim 4:7** train yourself to be godly.

**Unpack Gal 5.** Walk, desires, led etc.

**Gal 5:16-25**

<sup>16</sup> But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and **the desires of the Spirit** are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we **live by the Spirit**, let us also **keep in step with the Spirit**.

**Be specific.**

**Ezk 14:13-14** "Son of man, if a country sins against me by being unfaithful and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its men and their



animals, 14 even if these three men—**Noah, Daniel and Job**—were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign Lord.

See also v19-20

**God picks out 3 examples of Holy men from OT.** NB, Daniel was alive at same time as Ezekiel.

Noah walked with God

Job & Daniel made specific commitments.

**Job 31:1** I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.

**Background to Daniel.** **Dan 1:8** But Daniel determined in his heart that he would not defile himself by [eating his portion of] the king's rich and dainty food or by [drinking] the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might [be allowed] not to defile himself.

It would have been easy - but Daniel determined in his head.

**Rom 6:19** I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.



Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

Kill sin - or sin or sin will kill you.