

“Life by Design”

- If God “designed” this life, why is it SO hard?
- Does God really want me to know certain things and be directed by Him since He seems to make it SO hard?
- The answer is found in “God’s Design.”

I. We are created in God’s image!

Genesis 1:26, 28 (NIV)

26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” **28** God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

- A. We are “according to His likeness”; therefore, we were designed to “act like Him.”
 1. This speaks to living, existing and functioning as a spiritual person.
 2. This was lost in the garden, but Jesus’ redemption restores it!

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (NIV)

45 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. **46** The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. **47** The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. **48** As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. **49** And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

- B. The “EXACT” point in time when this “life by design” change is showed in **Gen. 3:7!**

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

1. “Eyes were opened” is the Hebrew word “ayin”.
 2. It means: to reason, logic, understand by emotion or feeling.
- C. This was the moment our “awareness” changed!
From spiritual to natural!
1. We were once MORE spiritually aware than naturally aware!

Genesis 2:25 (NIV)

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

2. Through disobedience we awakened our lower nature!

3. The result:

- a. Hiding from God
- b. Afraid of God
- c. Lost the Father relationship

D. BUT...we don't have to live this way!!

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 (NIV)

9 However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" the things God has prepared for those who love him—**10** these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. **11** For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **12** What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. **13** This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. **14** The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

II. We are "designed" to be spiritual people – spiritually aware – spiritually lead – spiritually directed.

A. Notice what Paul says in **Romans 7:18**.

- 1. Romans 7:18 – "I know from experience that the carnal side of my being can scarcely be called the house of good!" J.B. Phillips

2. “I fully recognize that in my other self – in my animal nature – no good finds a home.”
Arthur S. Way
3. “I know that nothing good has its home in me; that is, in my lower self.” Williams N.T.
4. “I know that there dwells not in me, that is, in my flesh, any good.” Worrell N.T.
5. “I know that good does not live in me, so far as my human nature is concerned.”
Translators N.T.
6. “I know that I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can’t make myself do right. I want to, but I can’t.” New Living Translation

B. “Good” thing is the word “benefit”!

C. God designed and applied “The Law” to control and shut down the flesh or “lower nature”!

Galatians 3:19 (NIV)

19 Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator.

1. We were “kept” by the Law!

Galatians 3:22-25 (NLT)

22 But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.

God's Children through Faith

23 Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed.

24 Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. **25** And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.

2. The whole purpose was so that through Jesus' redemption, we could once again walk in the spirit – the way God designed!

Romans 7:4-6 (NIV)

4 So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. **5** For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. **6** But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

3. The RESULT –

Romans 8:3-5 (NIV)

3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **5** Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

D. Remember, Paul describes the flesh as our “lower nature”. God doesn’t want any “low living”.

III. Re-learning God’s original plan!

Galatians 5:16-18,24-25 (NIV)

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

A. Let’s **NOT** be like some Christians Paul describes!!!

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NIV)

3 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. **2** I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. **3** You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

B. We are the **TEMPLE OF GOD!** (see verse 16)