

July 2024

Dear Brethren:

Warmest greetings to everyone! This is my first *Monthly Letter* since I was ordained last April 2023. The first letter was only a self introduction, so maybe I can count this as my first. The moment I saw my schedule for the *Monthly Letter*, I felt that my heart began to beat faster. This is because it is a very special task, and because the ones who will read this are God's people—people who are chosen by God and who soon are to be Kings and Priests in the coming millennium at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

We just finished one of God's commanded Feasts, Pentecost. This represents the time of the giving of the Holy Spirit. Each one of us received the Holy Spirit of God at the time we were baptized. Pentecost is the Feast of the firstfruits, the ones called by God. We know that we are carnal beings, and will have to face death. We, as the ones called by God, who were given the Holy Spirit and had our minds opened, know that we have to do what is pleasing in God's eyes for our salvation, because the carnal mind leads to death.

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (Romans 8:6).

That is why baptism is required of God's chosen people, so that we will be given the Holy Spirit from God. The Holy Spirit will then help us fight against being carnally minded. These two both are present in us: the Holy Spirit, as well as the carnal mind which wars against the laws of God.

If we do not have the Holy Spirit and if we remain carnally minded, we cannot obey the laws of God. God made man, and only God knows the things we need in order to be able to fight our minds and overcome doing the works of the flesh.

Each one of us was given a sufficient amount of the Holy Spirit, and it is up to us to give importance to it, letting it strengthen us always to have the desire to obey God. Doing this will enable us to resist temptations in this world of flesh where Satan reigns.

What Are These Biblical Works of the Flesh?

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19–21).

Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin (Romans 7:20–25).

We always have the understanding that we will obey God, because we have the gift of the Holy Spirit. The intention is always to be a disciple of the Lord. However, even though we now have the Holy Spirit, we still have carnal minds driving us toward the works of the flesh dwelling in us.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would (Galatians 5:16–17).

The Works of the Carnal Mind Lead to Death

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For

to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together (Romans 8:1-17).

Once we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are also in Christ. It is with great joy that we are called by God in these wicked times and have been given the Holy Spirit to fight against the works of our carnal minds.

So we thank our God, the Father, who sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live in the flesh here on earth in order to save us from our sins. And one of the main purposes of the work of Jesus Christ, is the calling of His firstfruits. If God had not come in the flesh, we would not have known the Truth. He was the Word made flesh. So again, let us give thanks to our God, the Father, who sent His only Son, Jesus Christ. Let us strive to resist the works of the carnal mind by using our spiritual minds. The work of the Spirit will lead us to become the disciples of God, and will give us reminders always to follow the commandments of God. We must also make an effort to strengthen the Spirit within us. If not, and we continue to do the things that are not pleasing in God's eyes, then the Spirit will slowly fade until it goes away.

As we can see, the person who does not have the Holy Spirit does not know about God, for now. As for those of us who were given the opportunity to know God and were given the Holy Spirit and the knowledge of His purposes here on earth, we are given the opportunity to become Kings and Priests, if we can endure unto the end. Brethren, let us strive to be spiritually minded, because we have the Holy Spirit that will shield us from the works of our carnal minds.

I hope, brethren, that this short message will give us encouragement, that being called by God we can endure until the end walking on the right path toward salvation. We can, as long as our minds are filled with the Holy Spirit, to guide us always.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rolando Flores, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Rolando Flores, Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon W. Brisby', written in a cursive style.

Jon W. Brisby