

**The Attackers: Walking with Endowed Power: the Spiritual Advance Inhibits Sinful Behavior Patterns; the Professional Christian; Newness of Life in Rom 6:4;**

1. Unfortunately, although saved and although the power of the sin nature has been broken (Romans 6), every believer is still going to sin (Romans 7).
2. During the process of spiritual growth, he is able to reduce the frequency of personal sins by renovating his soul (Romans 12:2).
3. Frequent sinning is the result of submission to facilitated wheel-track of wickedness accumulated during his pre-salvation life.
4. Spiritual advance will reduce the frequency to occasional sinning.
5. In the sophisticated spiritual life, the positive believer will only sin infrequently, but he will never be able to eliminate it entirely.
6. But it is the endowed power of the operational divine dynasphere that enables the believer to execute the sophisticated spiritual life and therefore function as a professional Christian.
7. Professionalism in any endeavor has to do with repetition. In sports it is muscle memory which requires in preparation constant repetition of specific movements associated with the game.
8. In vocational occupations, there are certain requirements that are demanded by the job and can involve manual dexterity, mental acumen, and a code of conduct that regulate one's performance.
9. Every occupation in life can be described by the coverall designation of "profession": a calling requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation.

10. Why should one's life as a Christian not also be regulated by the most sophisticated set of guidelines and directives ever encountered by mankind?
11. And why shouldn't its practitioners desire to become expert practitioners of this divine system?
12. Are you good at what you do for a living? Are you skilled in the sports in which you strive to excel? Are you not motivated to do the best you can in your avocational endeavors?
13. Then why not also strive to be a professional Christian in service to the God and Savior you proclaim to follow?
14. In this undertaking you have the benefit of divine power and a supernatural Teacher and Counselor to assist you in learning and applying the Policy Statement of your faith – the immutable, inerrant, and infallible Word of God.
15. This effort has been supplied with a system that has been proved effective under the most strenuous of circumstances, namely, the thirty-three year Incarnation of Jesus Christ whose true humanity was sustained perfectly by its endowed power, its assets, and its provisions.
16. This divine power system is the apparatus for the believer becoming functional in what Paul refers to as "newness of life":
  - (1) This phrase is found in only one passage of Scripture but its message is essential to understanding the impact the ministry of the Holy Spirit has on the spiritual life of the believer:

**Romans 6:4** - We have been buried together with Him through the baptism of the Holy Spirit into His physical death, in order that as Christ has been raised up from death through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of soul life. (EXT)

- (2) This verse emphasizes retroactive positional truth, that aspect of the baptism of the Holy Spirit that looks back on the cross and identifies us with the spiritual death, physical death, and burial of Jesus Christ.
- (3) The word “baptism” is the noun **βάπτισμα** (**baptisma**) and it means “identification.” A first thing is identified with a second thing permanently changing the first thing.
- (4) The spiritual death of Christ was brought about by the imputation of all human sins to His body followed by their judgment (1 Peter 2:23–24).
- (5) There was also a non-imputation. Those who function in the cosmic systems often get involved in good works apart from the grace of God and are classified as dead works in:

**Hebrews 9:14** - How much more shall the blood of the Christ, who through the instrumentality of His eternal Spirit has offered Himself without blemish to God, purify by an expiatory offering our conscience from dead works [ νεκρός ἔργον (**nekrós érgon**) ] to function as a royal priest to the living God. (EXT)