

things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise" Paul says ( Phil 4:8) "think on these things!"

It is not only true that what a person thinks about reveals what he is, but also what he thinks about vitaly affects what his is becoming. Romans 8:12 "Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation- but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it."

The implication here is that we are obligated to live according to the Spirit. Now to speak of being debtors, of being obligated, strongly implies the matter of motivation, and the part that it plays in sanctification.

Now at first glance, a new believer could be led to think that, with the external revelation of the will of God as the standard of righteousness, and the internal principle of righteousness communicated in regeneration, and the indwelling Holy Spirit to provide the enablement to righteousness, he has everything necessary for progress in sanctification. And in one sense, he does have everything!

However, in another sense there I one more ingredient needed of the believer is to discharge his obligation, not to live according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. And that ingredient is Love.

You will recall that our Lord said in John 14:15 " If ye love me, keep my commandments," and in John 14:21 "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he is that loveth me." In John's first epistle, John writes, "But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected." And in Galatians 5:6 Paul says, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." Later in this very epistle to the Romans, Paul says "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God" These mercies focus upon the redemptive work of Christ,