

john g lake the law of the spirit of life

john g lake the law of the spirit of life is a foundational concept that underpins his entire ministry and theological framework. This principle, deeply rooted in Scripture, speaks to a dynamic, living power that transcends the limitations of the flesh and the Old Covenant law. John G. Lake, a renowned healing evangelist of the early 20th century, consistently preached and demonstrated this profound truth, emphasizing that believers are not bound by the carnal mind or the dictates of physical circumstances. This article will delve into the core tenets of this law, its biblical basis, and its practical implications for Christian living and divine health, as articulated and lived out by John G. Lake. We will explore how this spiritual law operates through faith and the indwelling Holy Spirit, empowering believers to overcome sickness, fear, and sin. Furthermore, we will examine Lake's emphasis on the victory that is already ours in Christ through this life-giving power.

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Understanding the Law of the Spirit of Life

The Law of the Spirit of Life, as understood and taught by John G. Lake, is a divine principle established by God that governs the redeemed life of a believer. It is not a set of rules or regulations in the human sense, but rather an active, inherent power that flows from the indwelling Spirit of God. This law is in direct contrast to the law of sin and death, which held humanity captive before the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Lake emphasized that this spiritual law is the supreme governing force in the life of one who is born again, offering liberation and a pathway to experiencing God's perfect will.

At its core, the Law of the Spirit of Life signifies a new operating system for humanity, initiated by the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence. It is the power of resurrection life, the very life of God, made accessible and active within the believer. This life is characterized by vitality, victory, and the ability to live above the limitations of the natural world. John G. Lake's

teachings consistently pointed to this law as the source of supernatural intervention and transformation in every area of life, from physical healing to spiritual victory.

The Biblical Foundation of the Law of the Spirit of Life

The concept of the Law of the Spirit of Life finds its most explicit articulation in the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Romans, specifically chapter 8. This chapter serves as the bedrock for John G. Lake's understanding and proclamation of this spiritual principle. Paul contrasts the ineffectiveness of the Mosaic Law to bring righteousness and life with the triumphant power of the Spirit-infused life available through Christ.

Romans 8:2 states, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." This verse is pivotal. It establishes that a new governing principle, the Law of the Spirit of Life, has been introduced through Jesus Christ and is now operative for believers. This law is inherently life-giving and liberates individuals from the dominion of sin and the ultimate consequence of death.

Further verses in Romans 8 illuminate this concept:

- Romans 8:4 speaks of the righteous requirement of the law being fulfilled in those who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- Romans 8:11 emphasizes that if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies by His Spirit dwelling in you.
- Romans 8:14 declares that as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God, indicating a life led by divine guidance and power.

These scriptural passages, central to John G. Lake's ministry, underscore that this law is not merely an abstract theological concept but a living, active force that transforms the believer's entire being and experience.

John G. Lake's Interpretation and Application

John G. Lake's interpretation of the Law of the Spirit of Life was profoundly practical and experiential. He did not view it as a passive endowment but as

a dynamic reality to be apprehended and lived by. For Lake, this law was the essence of the New Covenant, a superior covenant offering a direct and intimate relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. He taught that believers were no longer under the dictates of the old covenant, which was based on human effort and conditional obedience, but were now empowered by an internal, divine life.

Lake's sermons and writings frequently highlight that the Law of the Spirit of Life is the power that makes the believer superior to the circumstances of the physical world. He would often use the analogy of a new constitution or a superior legal system that supersedes all others. This meant that the principles of the spiritual realm, governed by the Law of the Spirit of Life, held ultimate authority over the physical realm, including sickness, disease, and even death.

Key aspects of Lake's application included:

- **Divine Health as the Norm:** Lake taught that divine health was not an exception but the intended state for every believer, a direct manifestation of the life of Christ within.
- **Victory Over Sin and Fear:** He emphasized that the indwelling Spirit, operating under this law, provides the power to overcome the temptations of the flesh and the fear of circumstances.
- **Reliance on the Holy Spirit:** Lake consistently exhorted believers to live in conscious reliance on the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to direct their thoughts, actions, and beliefs, thereby activating the Law of the Spirit of Life.
- **The Power of the Word:** He saw the Word of God as a vital channel through which the Holy Spirit communicates and empowers believers to live by this spiritual law.

The Manifestation of the Law in Daily Life

The Law of the Spirit of Life, as taught by John G. Lake, is not confined to moments of prayer or worship; it is intended to be the governing principle of a believer's entire existence. Its manifestation is seen in the consistent experience of God's presence, power, and provision in the mundane as well as the extraordinary aspects of life. This law empowers individuals to live from a place of victory, not apprehension, and to operate under divine principles rather than carnal reasoning.

When a believer truly apprehends and lives by the Law of the Spirit of Life, the Holy Spirit becomes the active agent in their daily decisions and

reactions. This leads to a life characterized by peace, joy, and an unshakeable confidence in God's ability to work all things for good. It means that every situation, every challenge, is viewed through the lens of God's perfect will and the power that is already resident within.

The practical outworkings of this law can be observed in:

- **Righteous Living:** The Spirit's promptings lead to choices that align with God's character, overcoming habitual sin and yielding a life of righteousness.
- **Spiritual Discernment:** Believers can discern spiritual realities and truth, distinguishing them from deceptive influences.
- **Boldness in Witness:** The indwelling Spirit grants the courage and unction to share the Gospel.
- **Supernatural Endurance:** The life of the Spirit provides the strength to persevere through trials and tribulations.

Overcoming Sickness and Disease

One of the most prominent and powerfully demonstrated aspects of John G. Lake's ministry was the healing of sickness and disease, directly attributed to the Law of the Spirit of Life. Lake's theology of divine health was not based on wishful thinking or mere human will, but on the tangible power of God that resides within the believer, operating through the Law of the Spirit of Life. He taught that sickness was an invasion of the body by the forces of death and decay, which were completely subdued by the resurrection life of Christ.

According to Lake, the believer's body, when filled with the Holy Spirit, becomes a temple of God and a conduit for His life. This divine life is inherently antagonistic to disease and infirmity. Therefore, when sickness manifested, it was a signal that the believer was not fully apprehending or yielding to the Law of the Spirit of Life within. The process of healing involved an act of faith where the believer recognized their spiritual position in Christ, that they were no longer under the dominion of death, but possessed the life of God.

Key principles Lake emphasized for overcoming sickness included:

- **Inherent Righteousness:** Recognizing that Christ's finished work has made believers righteous, and sin and sickness are not their portion.

- **The Power of the Indwelling Spirit:** Actively trusting the Holy Spirit to quicken their mortal bodies and expel any foreign or destructive element.
- **Confession of Faith:** Speaking the Word of God and confessing their healing and life in Christ, rather than confessing symptoms or disease.
- **Love as the Supreme Law:** Understanding that God's love is the ultimate force that overcomes all opposition, including sickness.

Lake often recounted testimonies of individuals who, by simply believing and appropriating the Law of the Spirit of Life, were instantly and permanently delivered from physical ailments that had plagued them for years.

The Role of Faith in Activating the Law

Faith is the essential catalyst for activating and experiencing the power of the Law of the Spirit of Life. John G. Lake consistently taught that while the Law of the Spirit of Life is a divine provision, it requires the believer's active faith to bring it into tangible manifestation. Faith, in this context, is not simply intellectual assent but a deep-seated trust and conviction in the reality of God's promises and His power working within.

Lake understood faith as the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). It is the spiritual muscle that engages with the divine power made available through the Holy Spirit. Without faith, the Law of the Spirit of Life remains a dormant potential; with faith, it becomes a dynamic force that changes circumstances and transforms lives. He stressed that faith is a choice and a discipline, cultivated through hearing and believing the Word of God.

The connection between faith and the Law of the Spirit of Life is multifaceted:

- **Belief in God's Word:** Faith is rooted in accepting God's promises as true and applicable to one's life.
- **Trust in the Holy Spirit:** Believers must trust that the Spirit dwelling within is the very life of God, able to overcome all opposition.
- **Confession and Declaration:** Speaking words of faith, aligned with God's Word, declares the victory that the Law of the Spirit of Life provides.
- **Receiving God's Provision:** Faith is the channel through which divine healing, strength, and provision are received.

Lake's ministry was a testament to the power of faith to unlock the boundless resources of the Law of the Spirit of Life, bringing supernatural results in the lives of those who believed.

The Freedom Found in the Law of the Spirit of Life

The Law of the Spirit of Life is the ultimate guarantor of freedom for the believer. It breaks the chains of bondage that humanity has historically been subject to, including the bondage of sin, the dominion of death, and the limitations imposed by the flesh and external circumstances. John G. Lake proclaimed this freedom as a foundational aspect of the New Covenant, a reality that every born-again individual has access to through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

This freedom is not license to sin, but liberation from its power and penalty. It is the ability to live a life of victory, characterized by righteousness and obedience not out of obligation, but out of an overflow of God's life and love within. The Law of the Spirit of Life empowers individuals to walk in the liberty that Christ secured on the cross, a liberty that transcends the restrictions of the natural world and the pronouncements of human systems.

The dimensions of freedom offered by this law include:

- **Freedom from the Law of Sin and Death:** As stated in Romans 8:2, this new law supplants the old order of condemnation and mortality.
- **Freedom from Fear:** The perfect love of God, manifested through His Spirit, casts out all fear.
- **Freedom from Circumstances:** Believers are empowered to rise above and conquer adverse situations by the life of God within.
- **Freedom to Live Righteously:** The Spirit's indwelling provides the internal power and inclination to live a life pleasing to God.

John G. Lake consistently exhorted believers to apprehend this freedom and live in its full reality, no longer slaves to their former condition but sons and daughters of God reigning in His life.

Living by the Spirit, Not by the Flesh

A central theme in John G. Lake's exposition of the Law of the Spirit of Life is the imperative to live by the Spirit rather than by the flesh. This distinction is critical because the flesh, representing our fallen Adamic nature, operates under the law of sin and death. The Spirit, however, operates under the Law of the Spirit of Life, bringing vitality, righteousness, and victory. Lake taught that the believer's primary task is to cultivate an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to guide, empower, and direct every aspect of their lives.

Living by the flesh is characterized by self-reliance, carnal reasoning, and submission to the lusts and desires of the natural body. It leads to defeat, frustration, and a life bound by limitations. Conversely, living by the Spirit involves yielding to the promptings and power of the Holy Spirit, trusting His guidance, and allowing His life to flow through the believer. This leads to a life of abundance, victory, and conformity to the image of Christ.

Lake's teachings on this subject emphasized:

- **Attentiveness to the Spirit:** Cultivating a sensitivity to the inner voice and promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- **Obedience to the Spirit:** Promptly and fully obeying the guidance of the Spirit, even when it seems counterintuitive to the flesh.
- **Dependence on the Spirit's Power:** Recognizing that true strength and ability come from the indwelling Spirit, not from personal effort.
- **Renewing the Mind:** Saturating the mind with God's Word and focusing on spiritual realities to displace carnal thinking.

By choosing to live by the Spirit, believers unlock the full potential of the Law of the Spirit of Life, experiencing God's power and presence in a transformative way. This is the path to experiencing the abundant life that Jesus promised and that John G. Lake so effectively demonstrated.

Conclusion: Embracing the Fullness of the Law

The Law of the Spirit of Life, as so powerfully articulated and lived out by John G. Lake, represents the pinnacle of spiritual reality available to the redeemed. It is the divine operating system for believers, offering a life characterized by supernatural vitality, freedom, and victory. This law is not

a distant ideal but a present reality, accessible through the indwelling Holy Spirit and activated by a steadfast faith in God's Word. Understanding and embracing this principle allows believers to transcend the limitations of their former selves and the fallen world, living from a place of inherent divine power.

John G. Lake's legacy serves as a compelling testament to the transformative power of this spiritual law. His ministry, marked by profound healings and a life lived in constant demonstration of God's power, was a direct result of his deep understanding and practical application of the Law of the Spirit of Life. By consistently directing people to this internal, life-giving force, he empowered them to experience the full measure of God's provision and power. The call to every believer today is to embrace this truth, to live by the Spirit, and to experience the boundless freedom and abundant life that is rightfully theirs through the Law of the Spirit of Life.

FAQ

Q: What is the core meaning of "The Law of the Spirit of Life" as taught by John G. Lake?

A: John G. Lake taught that "The Law of the Spirit of Life" refers to the divine, inherent power of the Holy Spirit within a believer that operates under a superior spiritual principle, freeing them from the dominion of sin and death. It's a dynamic, life-giving force that governs the redeemed life.

Q: Where does the biblical basis for "The Law of the Spirit of Life" originate?

A: The primary biblical basis for "The Law of the Spirit of Life" is found in Romans chapter 8, particularly Romans 8:2, which states, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Q: How did John G. Lake apply "The Law of the Spirit of Life" in his ministry?

A: John G. Lake applied this law practically by emphasizing divine health, victory over sickness and disease, overcoming sin and fear, and encouraging believers to live in conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit for every aspect of their lives.

Q: Is "The Law of the Spirit of Life" only for physical healing?

A: No, while divine healing was a significant demonstration of the Law of the Spirit of Life in John G. Lake's ministry, it extends to all areas of life, including spiritual victory, overcoming temptation, living a righteous life, and experiencing God's peace and provision.

Q: What is the role of faith in activating "The Law of the Spirit of Life"?

A: Faith is the crucial element that activates "The Law of the Spirit of Life." John G. Lake taught that while the power is inherent in the Spirit, faith is the mechanism by which believers apprehend and apply this power to their lives and circumstances.

Q: How does "The Law of the Spirit of Life" differ from the Old Testament Law?

A: The Law of the Spirit of Life is a principle of inherent power and liberty flowing from the indwelling Holy Spirit, leading to righteousness by grace. The Old Testament Law was a system of external commandments that, while holy, could not impart life or righteousness and ultimately revealed humanity's inability to keep it perfectly.

Q: Can a believer be under the "law of sin and death" while also possessing "The Law of the Spirit of Life"?

A: According to John G. Lake's understanding, once a person is born again and the Holy Spirit indwells them, they are no longer subject to the law of sin and death. "The Law of the Spirit of Life" has made them free from its dominion. The struggle might be in fully apprehending and walking in that freedom.

Q: What does it mean to live "by the Spirit, not by the flesh" in relation to this law?

A: Living by the Spirit means yielding to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit who operates under the Law of the Spirit of Life, leading to divine vitality and victory. Living by the flesh means operating from human ability and carnal desires, which are subject to the law of sin and death.

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