

# Who's The Boss: **Your Body or Your Spirit?**

## A Lesson in Self Discipline pt2

*KJV Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

**The physical body of the believer is to be given completely over to God!**

**The Holy Spirit comes and reunites with our spirits; renews our minds and enables us to control our bodies! He sanctifies our bodies and uses them for the glory of God!**

*KJV 1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your **whole spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

As we grow in grace and the knowledge of God we like babies learn how to control our most basic bodily functions.

*NIV 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.*

*25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

*26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.*

*27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

**Paul disciplined his body through fasting, prayer and vows to God!**

The apostle Paul is comparing the Christians life with an Olympic athlete where everyone who competes is **serious about winning**.

- **He says everyone who competes goes into strict training!**

**Make no mistake about it we are in a competition, striving contending and fighting spiritual forces that seek to control us!**

The word used in the KJV is *mastery* –**contending with adversaries!**

We are either mastering life on earth or being mastered/controlled by the spiritual forces contending with us!

In *1 Cor 9:27* Paul says... ***I beat my body and make it my slave!***

Sad to say today for most people (even spirit filled believers) it's the opposite—our bodies wear us down and make us its slave!

**We eat only what it demands, we sleep when it demands, we take the medicine it demands, we watch, listen to and do what it demands!**

But the apostle Paul made his body a slave to the will of God!

Notice Paul does this with the aid of The Holy Spirit—God doesn't do it

**Paul fasted, prayed and disciplined his body denying it certain earthly pleasures at certain times.**

**US intelligence has estimated that over 1000 men per month travel to Iraq and Syria to join ISIS and become radicalized.**

Over 1000 young men per month are being radicalized by the internet

They're willing giving their minds and bodies as slaves to ISIS!

Paul was one of several of God servants who took what is called a **“Vow of The Nazarite”**.

*NIV Numbers 6:2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'If a man or woman wants to make a special vow, a vow of separation to the LORD as a Nazirite,*

**The point of the “Nazarite Vow” is special separation to The LORD!**

The bible mentions only (3) three who were Nazarites for life; Samson, Samuel and John The Baptist.

**The apostle Paul is the only NT believer who is recorded to have taken the Nazarite Vow twice.**

**➤ This Vow was a symbol of a life totally devoted to God!**

*2 Corinthians 6:4-7 but in everything we prove ourselves authentic servants of God; by resolute perseverance in times of hardships, difficulties and distress;*

*5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and fastings;*

*6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;*

*7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;*

The apostle Paul says he proved himself to be an authentic servant of God!

By gaining the strength to go through hard times, endure hardships, handle stress and difficult situations.

It's time for us to go into strict training!

Satan is gathering his army and they're serious about winning!

- They're serious about destroying the family
- Taking our young men into gangs
- Taking our young girls into the streets

This is why I'm having a first time ever "SPIRITUAL BOOT CAMP"

Those who want to join must sign up after church, I'll select people who will fast and pray at a higher level **Jan 1-7** you must be on 1<sup>st</sup> shift and be physically able to do it!