

## **The Holy Spirit in Romans 8 (Part 2)**

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • March 19, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2023

Scripture Reader and Reading: Dominic Meyer – Romans 8.1–4

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

### **Prelude: What we have already seen:**

#### **I. Romans 8.1–4 • The Holy Spirit Sets Us Free**

##### **A. 8.1 • There is no condemnation in Christ**

**1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**

– Romans 8.1

##### **B. 8.2 • Condemnation does not exist because of the Spirit of life**

**2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**

– Romans 8.2

##### **C. 8.3–4 • Therefore, God fulfills his ultimate purpose in us in the Spirit**

**3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

– Romans 8.3–4

#### **II. What the Law required of us,**

A. which was righteousness,

B. we can now have, but

1. we cannot walk according to the flesh;

2. we have to walk according to the Spirit.

- a) What does that mean to walk according to the Spirit?
- b) That is what Paul explains next.

**Persuasion:**

**I. Romans 8.5–8 • The Mind of the Spirit**

**5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

**– Romans 8.5–8**

A. Walking after the flesh means

1. to mind the things of the flesh.
2. The mind of the flesh hates God.
  - a) Why? It does not subject itself to the law of God.
  - b) It hates what God teaches and commands.

B. Walking after the Spirit means

1. to mind the things of the Spirit.
2. The mind of the Spirit loves God.
  - a) The mind of the Spirit subjects itself to the Law of God.
  - b) Why? Because it loves God.

C. What occupies the mind of the flesh and the mind of the Spirit differ.

1. The person with the mind of the flesh:

**19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

– Galatians 5.19–21

**14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.**

– James 3.14–16

- a) This person only has worldly goals.
- b) The teaching of the Spirit does not even enter into his thinking.
  - (1) This can picture
    - (a) not only a man of the world, but
    - (b) also one who claims to be a Christian.
  - (2) Such a person
    - (a) sees the world or has a world view
    - (b) that is guided by the flesh.

2. The person with the mind of the Spirit:

**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**

– Galatians 5.22–23

**17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**

– James 3.17–18

- a) Everything this person does,

- b) it is all about doing what the Spirit wants done.
  - (1) The teaching of the Spirit always occupies the mind of this person.
  - (2) Such a person
    - (a) sees the world or has a world view
    - (b) that is guided by the Spirit of God.

## II. Romans 8.9–11 • In the Spirit and the Spirit in Us

### A. 8.9 • In the Spirit means

**9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**

#### – Romans 8.9

1. Minding the things of the Spirit,
  - a) the Spirit dwells in us, and
  - b) we subject ourselves to the law of God.
2. As Christians,
  - a) we are not in the flesh,
  - b) meaning that our thinking is not in the flesh.
3. Instead, we are in the Spirit,
  - a) not just in location, but
  - b) in the way that we think.
    - (1) We are in the Spirit, because
    - (2) the Spirit of God dwells in us,
      - (a) since we have subjected ourselves to the law of God:

**38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”**

– **Acts 2.38**

**32 “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”**

– **Acts 5.32**

4. Contrariwise, if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ,
  - a) that person does not belong to Christ.
  - b) Based on Acts 2.38 and 5.32,
    - (1) this is why it is absolutely necessary
      - (a) to obey God,
      - (b) starting with baptism.
    - (2) It is sad
      - (a) that so many people just float along in life, believing
        - i) that they belong to God and
        - ii) that heaven is their home.
      - (b) They give no thought to obeying Spirit as revealed in Scripture.
        - i) The Day of Judgment will bring shocking news to them.
        - ii) As Jesus once affirmed:

**“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”**

– **Matthew 7.21**

**B. 8.10 • The result of the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ**

**10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.**

– **Romans 8.10**

1. The body is dead because of sin.
  - a) Physical death and other ailments exist because of sin,
  - b) whether our own or someone else's, in particular Adam's.
    - (1) Why then walk after the sins of the flesh?
    - (2) Do we not increase death and its cousins?
2. The Spirit is life because of righteousness.
  - a) What good the human spirit obtains or achieves, such as life,
  - b) exists because of righteousness.
    - (1) Initially, righteousness is from God (Rom 3.21–22),

**21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22a even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.**

– **Romans 3.21–22a**

- (2) However, in conjunction with God's declaration of righteousness
  - (a) we begin to live righteously:

**34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."**

– **Acts 10.34–35**

- (b) This righteousness comes from
  - i) the Holy Spirit, but
  - ii) also from what we do.
3. If Christ is in us,

- a) it will show.
- b) For one thing, the body will be dead.
  - (1) Yes, our bodies still live, but
  - (2) from the context you know that he means the mind of the flesh.
    - (a) If I am aware of the fact
    - (b) that Christ dwells in me,
      - i) then I will not have my mind in the flesh.
      - ii) My body will be dead to the sinful desires of the flesh.

**1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

**– Colossians 3.1–4**

- c) Paul also argued that since I have the Spirit,
  - (1) I will be alive because of righteousness.
  - (2) Remember that what the Lord wants to see in us is righteousness.
- 4. This is the whole idea behind repentance or even conversion.
  - a) If I say that I have repented,
    - (1) it has to show in my life.
    - (2) As John the Baptist told the Pharisees and Sadducees:

**7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 9 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut**

**down and thrown into the fire.”**

**– Luke 3.7–9**

**43 “For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”**

**– Luke 6.43–45**

**6 He also spoke this parable: “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’ 8 But he answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. 9 And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.’”**

**– Luke 13.6–9**

5. We cannot expect the Holy Spirit to lead us,
  - a) if we will not listen to the word and
  - b) if we will not make an effort to change our lives,
    - (1) bringing our lives into conformity with his will.
    - (2) Some people expect the Holy Spirit
      - (a) to take over their minds, but
      - (b) that is not what the Scripture says.
        - i) It is something that we have to *want* to do.
        - ii) The Spirit does not force us into change.

### C. 8.11 • The Hope of the Resurrection

**11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

#### – Romans 8.11

1. If we answer Paul back
2. that we have the Spirit of God,
  - a) then knowing
    - (1) that we have the Spirit and
    - (2) that we walk after the Spirit
  - b) we have the hope of the resurrection.
3. Some of our brethren argue
  - a) that we do not have the Spirit dwelling in us literally, but
  - b) think on verse 11.
    - (1) We know that we will be resurrected, because
    - (2) the Spirit that dwelt in Jesus and
      - (a) raised him from the dead,
      - (b) also dwells in us.
        - i) Then notice the very last part,
        - ii) that because the Spirit of God dwells in us,
          - (1) he will give life to our *mortal* bodies.
          - (2) He makes a connection between
            - (a) the Spirit in us and
            - (b) giving life to our mortal bodies.
            - (c) We will die, but
            - (d) the Spirit in us will cause the resurrection.