

Romans Chapter 8
Week 7, v. 9-11

Rom 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Although we still live in a body made of flesh, we are no longer governed by it or living for carnal desires. Instead, we are controlled by the Holy Spirit that abides in us, helping us to understand the will of God.

Gal 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

...serious Christians, although they live in the flesh, yet do they not live after the flesh: But ye are in the Spirit, that is, illuminated, inclined, and enabled by the Spirit to do the will of God. William Burkitt's Notes on the New Testament

There is a clear contrast noted for us between two types of people? How are they described? Why did Paul think this was important to understand?

Think about this question: What is governing my decisions, my thoughts, my attitudes, my actions and my speech – the Spirit or the flesh? How can we tell if we are controlled by the Spirit?

If you are saved, the Spirit has to be governing your life. You cannot continue in and desire a life of sin and still be controlled by the Spirit.

2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves [to see] if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test?

Is your life bearing the fruit of the Spirit? -- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (see Gal 5:22-23)

This is not something we can do in and of ourselves – remember, we are weak! It is only through God's strength and work in our lives that we are able to walk in His ways.

Ezekiel 11:19 "And I shall give them one heart, and shall put a new spirit within them. And I shall take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

Ezekiel 36:26-27 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Rom 8:10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

The word *and* in Romans 8:10 continues the thought from the previous verse, like saying in addition to or and also.

Our body is still subject to a physical death because of sin but our spirit will live because of Christ's payment for our sin. Righteousness through Christ leads to salvation and eternal life.

...without righteousness there can be no hope of eternal life and happiness; we can be neither fit for the employment of heaven, nor for the enjoyment of heaven. William Burkitt's Notes on the New Testament

John 6:56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

John 14:20 "In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies,

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Romans 8:10 says the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

How do you see the spirit working in your life, causing you to make right decisions every day? Have you ever begun to say something, then your tongue has been held back? Have you wanted to respond negatively but have seen yourself respond with a better attitude? That's the Holy Spirit working in your life!

When someone gives you a compliment for your character, Who should that be attributed to? This is an opportunity to praise God for His work in your life through the power of His Holy Spirit! It also may be an opportunity to share the hope you have in the truth of the Gospel.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

How strong is the Spirit of God? Where does He dwell? What does that mean?

If we have the Spirit living in us, why do we sometimes get weak and vulnerable, tired and discouraged?

It is only because of God's grace that we are able to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. When we are directed by self we are weak. When we are directed by Spirit we are strong in the Lord.

We have the most amazing, powerful resource available to us at all times. But, we don't use it! **Is there anything God cannot do? Is there anything God does not know?** The beginning of verse 11 gives us a description of the Spirit – the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

1 Cor 6:14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

Eph 1:19-21 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. [These are] in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly [places], far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.

We belong to God – there is nothing that will take us from Him if He is truly in our hearts. Even the death of our physical bodies does not mean separation from Him – our soul lives on and our new, glorified bodies will be raised when Christ returns. Then we will be fully sanctified and the struggle with flesh will be obliterated in our lives!

1 Cor 15:42-44 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable [body], it is raised an imperishable [body]; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual [body.]

1Thess 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of [the] archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

What is the condition of being a part of all this glorious activity? Look at verse 11 again. It says *if the Spirit...dwells in you.*

The word *if* is a conjunction used to indicate the circumstances that would have to exist in order for an event to happen.

If we have truly received the Spirit and live under the influence of the Spirit in obedience to Christ, then we will be saved to eternal life.

You have the very same Spirit which Christ has: therefore at length he will do the same in you, that he did in Christ, that is, when all infirmities being utterly laid aside, and death overcome, he will clothe you with heavenly glory. Geneva Bible Notes

Application Questions

Read chapter 8 of Romans. Look through the notes and verses you may have jotted down during this study. Also consider the prayer requests that God put on your heart. As you go through the questions and scriptures below, write in any additional questions, verses and thoughts that God puts on your heart.

Look up 2 Corinthians 13:5. Carefully read it and spend some time in prayer. Is your life bearing the fruit of the Spirit?

In what ways?

If not, what needs to change?

Whom will you rely upon for this change?

What does John 15:5 say about our relationship with Christ?

According to Romans 8:11, how strong is the Spirit of God?

Where does the Spirit dwell?

What does it mean to have the Spirit dwell within you?

Read the following scriptures and write down what it means:

Romans 6:4

1 Cor 6:14

Eph 1:19-21

How has God spoken to your heart through His word?

Read through the 'apply it' questions on your bookmark. Is there any area where God might have you take a closer look?