**The Spirit of God Dwells in You!**

**Romans 8:9-25**

**(Lesson #14)**

***9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 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 dwells in you.***

**Vs 9 - δέ** (de) *–* **But**, **so then**, **however**... **You, believers are not in the flesh!**

Paul in chapter seven outlined the warfare that is going on in each believer. He is reminding us that the presence of **internal warfare**, is **evidence** that you are in Christ, while a person set wholly on the flesh is a lost person, they cannot please God, they are in rebellion against God.

**Believers are not living a life governed by the flesh, rather they are governed by the Spirit that dwells in them.**

Believers are living in the Spirit. If in fact the Spirit of God dwells in them (modern vernacular – Jesus in your heart).

Do you see this, **the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and Christ in you** are all saying the same thing.

**The third person of God lives in YOU! Because that is true, you are not in the flesh! Because these things are true, you may stumble, but you cannot live in the flesh.**

**To live in the flesh shows that you do not have the Spirit, and all who belong to God have the Spirit!** But you are “in” the Spirit, connected to, in union with, the Spirit!

Now look at the back half of verse 9: ***“Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”***

**Theology Break: Having the Spirit of God (baptized by the Spirit)(Mar 1:8, Acts 1:5, 11:16):**

The moment you believed in Jesus, God’s Spirit (third person of the Godhead) came to live within you! This is a permanent indwelling of the Spirit in believers:

*“16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (Joh 14:16-17 ESV)*

*“37 ¶ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’" 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (Joh 7:37-39 ESV)*

When we are saved, we are given the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit lives within us. The permanent indwelling of the Spirit is not for a select few believers, but for all believers.

The Holy Spirit is given to believers as a down payment, a guarantee, a seal or confirmation of our future glorification in Christ ([2 Corinthians 1:22](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor%201.22); [Ephesians 4:30](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph%204.30)).

**When we are saved, God gives us all of his Spirit. He does not give His Spirit in percentages or degrees.** **We have THE Holy Spirit living with us. It is not a thing we are receiving but a person!**

In fact, if we do not have the Holy Spirit living within us, that means we are not saved. Born again is synonymous with having the Holy Spirit.

**Vs 10 - If Christ is in you. That is a conditional statement in the Greek. THEN - the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness**

Paul has established that Christ is in every believer and the believer is in Christ. **Since that is true!**

Now, when you placed faith in Jesus Christ, spiritually you were brought to life, spiritually you rose to new life right then. **But the body is still dying and, in a sense, as Paul has indicated it is dead.**

You are a spiritually alive person, who is carrying around dead flesh that is waiting for the resurrection!

**Vs 11 -** If... the Holy Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.

**Paul has already established he does...** Do you see the condition? Is that TRUE for you?

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you... Dwells is present tense. If this is true now. If he does because you have placed faith in Jesus. **If presently he does. THEN>>>** **The same holy Spirit will also give** (future tense and indicative mood) **life** to your, can I add, (good as dead right now) mortal bodies.

**But how will he do it?** Not much by way of details, but enough to get the point.

**At the resurrection of the dead, God will transform the mortal bodies of believers and make them immortal through the Spirit that now lives within them.** Just like Jesus!

**He will do it through the very same Spirit** (the third person of the Godhead) who is **living in you** (present tense) right now!

OK, I want to paint a picture from I Corinthians 15:51-54.

I would add death will be swallowed up, in the instant we are stripped of this fallen, Adamic flesh, and we were clothed with a completely righteous flesh, like Jesus has. Paul said it this way to the church in Corinth:

*“1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened —  not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.” (2Co 5:1-4 ESV)*

In as much as we have an eternal home in God’s house (**Joh 14:2**), we have an eternal tent, a new and eternal body in which we will live forever with God in heaven!

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***12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs —  heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.***

**Vs 12 -** But when we consider what God has done for us and what awaits us. We are not debtors to the flesh, but we are indeed debtors to God!

Debtors, not to live according to the flesh! When temptation comes along, remember, you do not have to obey, what has it done for you? You now have the ability to live in the Spirit, to walk in the Spirit!

What is life according to the flesh, Paul gives us some examples in Gal 5:

*“19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Ga 5:19-21 ESV)*

*“9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” (1Co 6:9-11 ESV)*

**As believers, indwelt by the Spirit of God, we owe a debt, to no longer to live according to the flesh!**

The ability to do so has been placed within us! God’s greatest provision has been given to us.

**Frank Thielman:** *“Believers are now free from the overpowering influence of the flesh and need not cave in to the pressure to sin that the flesh places on them.”*

*“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Ga 5:16 ESV)*

*“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,” (Eph 5:18 ESV)*

**Vs 13 - I hope you see the bleak picture of a person who would claims to be filled with the Spirit, and yet lives according to the flesh. Paul would say you are teetering on the brink of death.**

**To live after the flesh is death.** To live after the flesh is evidence that a person may not be born again!

**God’s amazing provision provides the ability for us**, day by day, and moment by moment, **“kill” the deeds of the old man.**

**What does putting to death the deeds of the body mean?** We have God’s Spirit in us. Now let us walk in the Spirit, let us be filled with the Spirit!

**Vs 14 - Statement of fact.** Not up for debate**! If you are led by the Spirit, you are a son or a daughter of God!**

Those who are led **(present tense)** by the Spirit of God, are **(present tense)** the Sons of God!

So let’s bring this a little bit sharper into English: **For as many as are being continually led by the Spirit of God, they are the true and eternal Sons and Daughters of God!**

Being led by the Spirit is not about something that happened 10 years ago. It is about an ongoing process in our lives, because God’s Spirit lives in us.

The Spirit helps us make decisions that please God and not cave to the desires of our flesh:

*“16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” (Ga 5:16-18 ESV)*

**God’s amazing provision.

Vs 15 -** Again, Paul reminds us of **God’s amazing provision**. When we placed faith in Jesus Christ we were not only justified, we were given the Spirit of God, the third person of the Godhead to live within us!

We did not receive the Spirit of slavery! So that we might sing back into fear...

You and I have been set free from the harsh conditions of slavery to sin and have become God’s adopted sons and daughters through the power of the Holy Spirit.

You have received the Spirit of God, what Paul here calls the “Spirit of Adoption” and although you were formally an alien, not part of the household of God, you have now been adopted into God’s family!

Adoption laws during Paul’s time:

**Chuck Missler:** *In Roman law, adoption was required, even of a legitimate son, to inherit. This ceremony, legally held in the forum, was called the “Adoption.” All born in his family were children, but only those adopted were rec­ognized as sons. After adoption, they could never be disowned. But they can be disinherited.*

Not only have we been adopted into the family of God and the Spirit enables us to cry out, to appeal to our loving Father! You and I now know the creator of the universe as **Abba**, **Father**, **Daddy**, as **Dad.**

He is no longer this God somewhere out there, who you have sinned against, and his righteous demands hang over our heads. Now, he is our dad, He is near, He loves us deeply and cares dearly for us!

**Vs 16 -** This is the verse we point people to when they are doubting their salvation.

I cannot verify you have been born again. That is not my job and I really do not have the knowledge to tell you for sure.

**But, the Holy Spirit on the other hand, he bears witness directly with your spirit that you are a child of God.** He speaks into the recesses of your heart.

In fact... **God’s Spirit is bearing witness to your Spirit, right now.** Pause, listen to his testimony what is He saying to you **right now** and what is your response?

**Notice verse 17,** and if you are God’s child: ***then you are an heir —  an heir of God and fellow heirs with Christ.***

**If you are a child of God you are an heir of God...**

**The word translated heir is κληρονόμος** (kleronomos). The word means someone who **receives an inheritance**, someone who **receives an allotted possession** of a son.

Now that is enough. I cannot get over the fact that a wicked vile sinner such as myself will not only spend eternity in heaven with God, but God the Father has an inheritance for me.

**Notice in verse 17: *you are a fellow heirs with Christ!*** The Greek word translated fellow heir is **συγκληρονόμος** (sugkleronomos). This Greek word means a **“joint heir”** a **co-equal heir**, an heir who is participating, co-equally.

Now notice, we are not co-equal heirs together (by ourselves alone). We are co-equal heirs with Jesus!

If we suffer with Jesus (trials, tribulations, persecutions) we can be assured that one day we will be glorified together with HIM!

We have talked about justification, we have talked about sanctification, now another “Christian” word, glorification. We will only discuss briefly and pick this back up at our next lesson.

**But this is the final promised, eternal state. For a short answer, glorification is God’s final removal of sin from the life of the saints. It is our final, eternal state, having a new spirit and then a new body.**

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***18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.***

**Vs 18 - Here we find the word that Paul has used a number of times: λογίζομαι** (logizomai). If you remember we said it is an **accounting term**, it is a bookkeeping term.

Paul is saying that I “reckon” or I “account” that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us!

**Two quick observations:**

1. Paul, the greatest apostle to ever live says there are sufferings, in this present world, for believers.
2. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles tells the church in Rome, who have placed faith in Jesus, that in this present world, there will be sufferings.

What is the takeaway lesson? Being a Christian does not make you immune from the sufferings of this world. Being a Christian does not prevent the sufferings of this present age!

In fact, to some degree it ensures that at times we will endure trials, tribulations, and even persecutions!

Notice, what Paul is reckoning: That the sufferings of this present age are nothing, compared to the glory that will be revealed **“in us.”**

**Two quick points:**

*“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2Co 3:18 ESV)*

Through the power and working of the Spirit, you and I are being changed from glory to glory, we are being transformed, day-by-day, to be more like Jesus.

One day, when we receive our resurrected bodies that process will be complete.

*“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,” (2Co 4:17 ESV)*

 Paul calls his afflictions light, compared to the weight of the glory that shall be revealed in us!

**If Paul’s afflictions are light (read II Cor 11:21-27), then our afflictions are super light compared to the amazing glory that shall be revealed in us, they are not even worthy to compare!**

**APPLICATION:** Can you join Paul in considering and comparing the light trials you go through today are nothing to be compared with the glory (new heaven and a new earth) and glory (new resurrected body) in which you will spend eternity in heaven with God are in comparison.

**We will suffer in this life. Yes, it is a fallen world.**

But whatever that may be for each of us in this life, it is nothing to be compared with the glory! The glory, which shall be revealed in us.

The Greek word translated revealed is: **ἀποκαλύπτω** (apokalupto). It means to uncover, to unveil, to disclose, to make known, to manifest.

**There is coming a time when glory will be unveiled in each of us!**

**It is the resurrection, it is when our salvation is completed!**

**The glory that shall be revealed in us is Christ likeness!**

**The glory to be revealed is our destiny to be like Jesus! (Heb 2:10 and Rom 8:29)**

**Vs 19 -** Here Paul **personifies the creation**, and paints it as waiting and eagerly longing for the revealing.

First the creation is said to be **“eagerly longing”** eagerly waiting, patiently waiting, it is a picture of a person, with their neck stretched out to see what is coming.

**The creation is eagerly longing for the “revealing” of the Sons of God!** The Greek word translated **“revealing”** is **ἀποκάλυψις** (apokalupsis).

So if you are following Paul’s thoughts, he has moved from **sanctification** to **glorification** **(the final state)** and he pictures the whole creation **“eagerly longing”** for the revealing of God’s sons!

The whole creation is eagerly longing for the resurrection of the sons and daughters of God!

**Vs 20 -** The creation was subjected to futility, not willing, but because of him who subjected it in hope:

*“****17*** *¶ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;* ***18*** *thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.* ***19*** *By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."” (Ge 3:17-19 ESV)*

The creation, subjected (subordinated to) futility. The word futility means pointlessness or uselessness.

**In some way, in the New Creation, this futility will be eliminated.**

The creation is here pictured as an innocent bystander, caught up in the consequences of Adam’s sin against God.

Adam’s sin that brought ruin on the whole human race, also brought ruin on the entire creative order, the entire kosmos, if you will. The creation was not involved in the trespass, but rather **God subjected the creation** to futility.

In hope! It is likely that Paul has in mind the **protoevangelium**, the promise of God, in conjunction with the curse of God, that the seed, born of the woman would crush the serpent’s head! (Gen 3:15)

**Vs 21 -** The hope is **the coming day**, when the **entire creation** will be set free from the bondage of corruption.

The day when the entire creation **will obtain** **the freedom of the glory of the children of God!**

**One day, we will receive new glorified bodies and no longer be wrapped in sinful flesh and the creation which has been plunged into sin and we see its associated consequences (tornadoes, hurricanes, drought, disease, etc), will be set free (I Pet 3:7-12).**

**Vs 22 -** It is interesting, when Paul says **we know**.

I suspect, for many of the initial readers, these were things they should have known, but I am not sure they knew them with the clarity and with the certainty that Paul did.

Hear Paul; we know that the whole creation, is groaning together, like a woman who is going through birth pains, **waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God!**

**Groaning under the load of man’s sins! (Is 24:4-13)**

Again, you see how graphically Paul has **personified the creation**, waiting for the revelation of the sons and the daughters of God!

**Vs 23 -** But it is not just the creation, it is also you and I who are waiting.

But we are not simply waiting, we too are groaning under the weight of this sinful world.

Paul seems to be talking about nonverbal “sighs”, frustrations over sin in our members, groans over our occasional failings. Groaning to be delivered!

You and I the ones who Paul says have the **“firstfruits”** of the Spirit. We too, are **groaning inwardly, we to are waiting eagerly** for the adoption as sons.

Waiting for the final component, waiting for the redemption of our bodies. This is the culmination of salvation. This is the final piece of the puzzle, this is all we are waiting for now. A new glorified body and eternity in heaven with our creator!

Believers are adopted children now, but their status as such has not been made fully known. The day is coming when it will:

*“****20*** *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,* ***21*** *who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.” (Php 3:20-21 ESV)* (I Cor 15:43, 53)

**Vs 24 -** This is where our hope is now placed.

We have cast our hope on the final piece of our salvation. Believing that just as God raised Jesus from the dead, he will one day raise us in a new and glorified body, one that is like Christ’s body.

Eternity with God in a new heaven and a new earth, in a new a **glorified** body.

One day, all of this chaos and disorder (both external and internal) will be eliminated, it will be done away with.

**This is our ultimate hope, this is what awaits us, this is our future!**

**Vs 25 - As we hope, for what is promised, but yet what is unseen, we do so in patience.**

Now reflect back to what Paul has told us about waiting on promises that seem impossible to fulfill.

We should be like Abraham, as we wait, in the word, praying, and walking with God. As we wait, like Abraham we will find that*:*

*“18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” 19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.” (Ro 4:18-19 NKJV)*

Abraham’s patient waiting for the fulfillment of the impossible promise of God serves as a beautiful picture of you and I waiting for God to fulfill and amazing and seeming impossible promise to us as well.

But like Abraham, we have believed God, it has been accounted to us as righteousness, and now we grow stronger and stronger, waiting on God to fulfill this last amazing promise (I Cor 15:51-54)!

*“51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."” (1Co 15:51-54 ESV)*

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