

Romans part 8

Romans 8:9-11 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. ¹⁰ And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. 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.

- We ended last week with those that live according to the flesh do not please God
- But here is the good news – You are not in the flesh!
- When you got saved you received the Holy Spirit. All believers have the Spirit. There are not Spirit filled Christians and non Spirit filled Christians.
 - The baptism of the Spirit is real, but is something different, and the only way it is related to salvation is that you must be saved first.
- Paul says here that the condition we find ourselves in is this:
 - Christ is in me. I am alive (connected) to Christ. I am righteous. This is my inward person.
 - But also, my body is dead (disconnected from Christ) because of sin that dwells in it.
- But here is more good news! If the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in you (and we determined He is), then He can also give life to your body.
- Some people interpret this to mean that in the resurrection, when we receive our glorified bodies, that's when we get life in our bodies.
- I don't think so. Maybe I am wrong. But Paul says life in our mortal bodies. Mortal being subject to death. Everywhere Paul talks about our new bodies he calls them immortal.
- So what is he really saying? That when we walk in the spirit, and we submit to His spirit that is in us, then that will flow from our inward man to our outward man and even the deeds we now do with our bodies will be full of life and be holy.

- Before we talked about how nothing we do can make us righteous, and even “good” deeds are not good – when done apart from Christ. Now that Christ is in us we actually are capable of doing actual good.
- This is how holy living occurs. This is how 1 Peter 1:15-16 is possible
 - **1 Peter 1:15-16** but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

Romans 8:12-15 Therefore, brethren, 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 as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

- When we got saved, we came under another obligation. But this debt is not to the flesh. We have no obligation to live according to the impulses of our flesh. We are now beyond that.
- If you are still living according to the impulses of your flesh, you are heading towards death. If you are living by the power of the Holy Spirit, you will put to death the things of the flesh and you will truly live. (Paul – I die daily, Jesus – take up your cross daily).
- All who allow themselves to be led by the Spirit are children of God. In salvation, part of that is confessing Jesus as Lord. If we are not walking in the Spirit at least some, how is He ever Lord?
 - Paul didn’t say, “As many as go to church, these are the sons of God.” He didn’t say, “As many as read their Bibles, these are the sons of God.” He didn’t say, “As many as are patriotic Americans, these are the sons of God.” He didn’t say, “As many as take communion, these are the sons of God.” In this text, the test for sonship is whether or not a person is **led by the Spirit of God**.

- We did not receive a Spirit that brings us back into slavery which only leads to fear (of God's judgement), but we received a spirit of adoption which brings joy and we call out Abba! Father! (as in joy and love)
 - Under Roman adoption, the life and standing of the adopted child changed completely. The adopted son lost all rights in his old family and gained all new rights in his new family; the old life of the adopted son was completely wiped out, with all debts being canceled, all legal standings cancelled. As if a new life is made with nothing from his past counting against him any more.
 - Is our faith producing fear of God in us, or a daddy style relationship with God?
- Becoming a child of God is the reason you were created. This is your purpose in life. To find meaning in life and fulfill your destiny – be a child of God.
 - **Galatians 4:4-7** But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

- One way we are assured of our position with God is that as we walk in the Spirit, the Spirit confirms our standing with Him.
- If we are children then we are heirs – joint heirs with Christ.
 - What is a joint heir?
 - 2 types of inheritance – past and future.

- Past denotes character traits. You inherited eye color, love of chocolate, etc...
- **2 Peter 1:3-4** as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.
- To see what divine characteristics we inherited look at Christ and see what His nature was like as a human.
- The second type of inheritance is the one we receive after the testator dies.
- After Jesus died, what did we and what will we inherit? Eternal life, glorified bodies, heaven, glory, authority, reigning with Christ, etc...
- We share in His suffering. Just as Jesus died in the flesh, we die to the flesh
- Suffering is a part of the faith.
- But we share in His glory. Heaven. Eternal Life.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

- Whatever suffering we go through now, it will be nothing in light of the glory we will receive in heaven. And that glory is revealed not only to us, but in us.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.
- The suffering of dying to our flesh so pales in comparison with heaven. That is why we spend time thinking about what heaven will be like.

Romans 8:19-22 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits 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 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

- Creation itself is eagerly awaiting the revealing of the sons of God. This is because the creation was subjected to futility on account of man's sin, and will benefit from the ultimate redemption of men.
- **Isaiah 11:6-9** describes this redemption of creation in that day: *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

Romans 8:23-25 Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

- We have the firstfruits of the Spirit. We have a taste of the glory to come. We experience Heaven on Earth. That's why Jesus had in the model prayer – Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
- Awaiting the adoption – Paul said we are already adopted. But we are waiting for the full redemption – our physical bodies. Our physical body has yet to be redeemed.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:51-55** 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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?"

- And we are given hope for our future in heaven. This is tied to the adoption, the redemption of our bodies. We have faith that we have been adopted, that our Spirit is redeemed, that we are made perfect. We have hope that our bodies will one day also be made perfect.

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

- The Holy Spirit helps us where we are weak. He intercedes for us.
- We don't always know how to pray, what to pray for. But the Holy Spirit does.
- I do not see this as tongues. Cannot be uttered or too deep for words – Tongues is still words and is uttered, even if we don't know what they mean.
- I believe the Holy Spirit is actually praying for us, interceding on our behalf always according to the will of God.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

- What is the context of this verse? Suffering. Weakness. The state of creation. Being on this world. God does not cause suffering any more than He causes weakness, but He allows both because of the state of creation.

- But God uses all these things to bring about good. So no matter what we are going through, God is working in it. Even if we caused it.
- Of course, God's good is that we are to become more like Him.

Romans 8:29-30 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

- God's complete work is contained in this connection – foreknew, predestined, called, justified, glorified. This takes us from the past, through the present into the future.
- This is not a Calvinistic verse about predestination.
- Who is Paul talking to in this passage? Believers. (Romans is to the believers in Rome, also Romans 8:28 is addressing those who love God and are called according to His purpose). Paul is not addressing non-believers. We cannot try to prove a negative with this passage.
- God foreknew everyone. He knew all of us before we were conceived. He then set up a destiny for us to be born again and raised to eternal life. Jesus first, then all of us afterwards. That is everyone's predestination, but...
- He called us. Not everyone answers the call. We are given choice.
 - **1 Timothy 2:3-5** For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- Those that answered the call are justified. Made righteous. And then one day we will be glorified.
- This is all done with the intent that we would be made like Christ. Conformed into His image.

