

## **The Work of The Spirit In Our Lives**

**May 18, 2022**

**Scripture: Romans 8:9-30**

**Summary: In this lesson we explore how the Holy Spirit works in our lives as laid out in Romans 8:9-30.**

**Sanctifying Work of the Spirit in our Lives**

**It was nearing the end of Jesus' life on earth. The disciples were still self-centered and timid. They had been with Him for three years in His ministry throughout Palestine. They had seen Him calm storms, drive out demons, heal lepers, and raise a dead man to life. It seemed to them that He truly was the promised Messiah—the One who take down the Roman Empire and establish Israel as the dominant kingdom on earth.**

**John 14:16-18 (NKJV)**

**“And I pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”—**

**Paul, in his letter to the Romans, he reflected on the many occasions that the Holy Spirit was there to provide comfort and aid in the fiercest storms of his life. It is this that we are going to discuss this evening.**

**Let's look at Romans 8:9-11 (NKJV)**

**9But 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. 10And 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.**

**I. The Spirit infuses us with the same power that rose Jesus from the dead**

**Consider this: The very power that enabled Jesus Christ to rise from the dead resides within us! The very dunamis that flowed within Christ is at work in us! Forget the energizer bunny—what God has placed within us will keep going and going and going. We only need to trust in Him!**

**We only need to submit ourselves to His power source.**

**If the resurrection power truly does reside within believers, then why is it that so many Christians often burnout?**

**The reason many Christians become so weak in their walks is because they have let their wells fall into disrepair by neglecting church, prayer, and Bible study. It is only in consistent Bible study and prayer that the resurrection power of the Spirit can remain a potent force in our lives.**

**II. The Spirit guides us from destruction**

**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.(NKJV)**

**Psalm 91:3**

**“Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from perilous pestilence.”**

**1 Corinthians 10**

**13. No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.**

## **Deuteronomy 30**

**15. "Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between prosperity and disaster, between life and death.**

**16. I have commanded you today to love the LORD your God and to keep his commands, laws, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and become a great nation, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.**

**In the spiritual realm, there is the song of the world and the song of the Spirit. The song of the world is indeed seductive and seeks to lure its listeners into its perilous waters.**

**Victory over the sirens of sin can only be achieved when we fix our ears on the voice of the Spirit and bind ourselves to the word of the Lord. It is only by remaining tuned into the Spirit that we avoid plunging into iniquity.**

### **III. The Spirit confirms that we are the Father's children**

**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."**

**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 joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.**

**God is a loving Father that we can boldly approach with our needs and desires. One of the best illustrations we see of God in Scripture is that of the father of the prodigal son who ran down the road to kiss and embrace his returning wayward son.**

**Much of the work of the Spirit in our lives is to confirm the love that God has for us—that we are no longer spiritual orphans.**

### **IV. The Spirit causes us to long for eternity**

**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.**

**19. 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.**

**23. 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. (NKJV)**

**As we reflected on this passage, think about the journey our founding fathers made to America. Consider the Mayflower journey. Enduring cramped, damp conditions, the pilgrims endured a sixty-six day journey over rough seas before they landed in Plymouth Harbor. The pilgrims, however, were able to endure their journey because they knew at its end lay their promised land.**

**In his writings, Paul reflects much about eternity. I especially like what he wrote to the church at Corinth:**

**2 Corinthians 5:1-5**

**Paul's Hope of Eternal Glory**

**1. For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

**2. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,**

**3. if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.**

- 4. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.**
- 5. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (NKJV)**

**When Paul speaks of tents here we cannot help but be reminded of the fact that he was a tent maker. He also had in mind, no doubt, of the roaming existence the people of Israel had before they entered the Promised Land. They lived in tents. Even their house of worship was a tent! They longed for permanent dwellings and houses of their own.**

**In this life people often place too much value on the temporal---too much value on the tent. We are only travelers on a journey to eternity. We are to value the Kingdom of God more than what we can gain from the kingdom of this world. Consider the words of Christ:**

**Matthew 6:19-21**

**Lay Up Treasures in Heaven**

**19. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;**

**20. but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

**21. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.(NKJV)**

**Part of the sanctifying work of the Spirit in our lives is to remind us not to place our joy and hopes in the things of this world, but in eternity.**

**V. The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses—Romans 8:26**

**26. 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[1] with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

**A. Ways the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses**

**1. He gives us strength**

**Psalm 73:6 My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

**There were many occasions that the Apostle Paul felt weak and the Spirit was there to comfort and strengthen him.**

**The Holy Spirit is like that in our lives. There are times when the fuel pump goes out in our spiritual lives. It is during those times that the Holy Spirit is there to apply His strength in our lives to push us to the next filling station.**

## **2. He intercedes for us**

**Another important way the Spirit helps us in our lives is that He intercedes for us. Have you ever been so emotionally numbed by a tragedy or depression that you were unable to pray? I know I have been there. It is during those times when we sit silently, unable to craft our words that the Holy Spirit is there praying the right words we need for healing. He is always there praying alongside us, praying for those areas of our life we don't even know we need lifted up.**

**I am also encouraged by the words of Hebrews 7:25—that even Christ intercedes for us:**

**Hebrews 7:24-30**

**24. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.**

**25. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**

**VI. The Spirit moves us to our destiny—to be conformed to the image of Christ.**

**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.**

**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.**

**29. 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.**

**First of all, this passage says here that the Holy Spirit is making intercession for us “according to the will of God.” The Holy Spirit is thus working in concert with the Godhead that we will be conformed to the image of Christ..**

**The problem, however, is that most people don’t choose it. Imagine this: Before the foundation of the world, God had a destiny planned for you! When Jesus died on the cross—He died for you personally so that you would be conformed to the image of Christ!**

**Many people feel that their lives are without purpose—even many Christians! Nothing could be farther from the truth!**

**God has an amazing destiny laid out for each and every one of you. It isn’t His will that you would spin your tires in the mire of weakness, but rather, that you would fully embrace His will for your life!**

**I heard the story once of an eagle whose egg was found and hatched among chickens. For a long time, the eagle walked about pecking the ground like chicken, then one day he saw another eagle soaring in the sky high above.**

**He began to flap his wings to get off the ground to no avail, much to the amusement of the other chickens who told him he could not fly. One day, however, he sprang from the top of the chicken coup, flapping his wings, and managed to lift himself into the sky. God does not desire that you would stay in the chicken coup, but rather that you would soar in the destiny that He has set aside for you!**

**You struggle with your walk with God. You feel trapped in commonplace. I want to tell you this evening that there is hope.**

**I want to tell you that the Spirit of God in you can transform you to become all that He has intended you to be.**

**We must believe that God is interceding for us now and that we need only respond to what He is telling us to do this evening.**