

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ROMANS 8

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"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Rom. 8:1&2.

In a recent revival with Evangelist John Van Gelderen much emphasis was placed on the work of the Holy Spirit within the life of the believer. It was a blessed week, as the Lord blessed in preaching, and our responding. In Romans we find Paul venting his frustration in the struggle with sin, but when he reaches chapter 8 he is confident of victory, because of the Holy Spirit within. In the first seven chapters of the book the Holy Spirit is only mentioned once. In Romans 8 Paul mentions the Holy Spirit 16 times, and rejoices in the thrill of being indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Most Christians have heard that the Spirit convicts of sin, gives understanding with the Gospel, and dwells within the believer. It is a thrill to know since He is God, that we have God within us constantly. In Romans 8 Paul identifies eight things that the Holy Spirit within us does, as God's presence lives within a true believer. **(1). He Gives Us Life:** *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Rom. 8:2.* Death or life is a choice which all must make. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23.* *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." Rom. 3:10.* Man in the flesh is totally unable to live a life pleasing God. Rather, he falls into all kinds of immoral sins in himself, and with others. Paul spoke of the vile affections which even today are taking over millions, and being presented as natural to all mankind. The

perverted life style may be taught and excused by man, but God hates it, warning its future is Hell. *"For the wages of sin is death." Rom 6:23a.* After bringing about conviction in the sinner, the solution is *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8.* Once you accept Christ, He moves in as the Holy Spirit within you. *"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him." Rom. 6:8.* Acceptance of Christ will give you life eternal. *"But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom 6:23b.* Through the new life Christ imparts to us, we experience deliverance from the slavery of sin, and are enabled to fulfill the righteous demands of our Holy God. **(2). He Helps Us Fight Sin:** *"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." Rom. 8:5.* Believers are to *"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Rom. 6:11-13.* Life's temptations will swirl around, but with the Spirit within, you will have life and peace. No temptation will ever be so great His Spirit cannot deliver you. Learn to listen for His leading in life, and direction, and you will be a success. **(3). He Resurrects The Dead:** *"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Rom. 8:11.* Thus we can say *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." II Cor. 5:8.* We all understand we cannot physically last forever in our earthly

bodies. We know the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will give our bodies life in the resurrection. All the dead in Christ will at His call rise to glory forever, for our new heavenly eternal body. The Holy Spirit will direct us to the throne and the Saviour. "Oh death, where is thy victory?" (4). **He Gives Us Power Over Sin:** *"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."* Rom. 8:12&13. In Romans 13:1&2 Paul urged *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."* The Holy Spirit uses God's power to help us *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence and covetousness, which is idolatry."* Col. 3:5. The wonderful Holy Spirit gives us strength to put to death the disgraceful deeds of the body. No sin can enslave you as you listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit within you. Whatever sin you have lived in and walked in can be gone forever in the power of the Holy Spirit. (5). **He Leads Us:** *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* Rom. 8:14. He constantly leads through study of the word and in prayer, and the Godly instruction of our pastors. A complex world faces us all, but God knows just how to lead us through the maze of life's events. He always leads the Christian in the path of righteousness. Keep your heart set on Him, the lover of your soul, and He will lead you to the Heavenly goal. Like a loving parent, He will be with you all the way. Remember He said, *"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."* Heb. 13:5b. (6). **He Adopts Us As Heirs:** *"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear;*

but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;" Rom. 8:16. We believers are transformed from slaves of sin into children of God, by the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. We become full heirs and permanent members of God's family forever. The eternal record is sealed, and we are the sons of God forever, purchased in full by the blood of Jesus Christ. The indwelling Holy Spirit testifies to our family relationship in Heaven. (7). **He Gives Us Hope Of Resurrection:** *"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."* Rom. 8:22&23. The death and resurrection of the Son of God was the first fruits of our salvation as believers. After death we too will rise to Glory with all the eternal glories promised us In II Cor 5:8 it says *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."* Those who die in the Lord are instantly with him and He will raise their bodies in His timing. The physical death of the believer is victory, with the promise of resurrection to come, and eternity with God promised forever. (8). **He Assists Us In Prayer:** *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."* Rom. 8:26&27. How precious to know that the Holy Spirit within us assists in all our prayers. He will help us in every problem, and lead us to the best decision in every request. Certainly the eighth chapter of Romans is very instructive in teaching about the Holy Spirit.