

## The Spirit of God Dwells In You

Romans 8:8–11<sup>1</sup>

### For Your Gift of God the Spirit.

Romans 8, verse 1. A couple weeks back I suggested that we should all memorize this. I don't want to nag, but if you did, say it with me.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

This is bedrock Christianity—this is the foundation—this is the point, of Romans 8 and of the entire book.

<sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.

By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:3–4 ESV

So, for those who are in Christ Jesus, there can be no condemnation, for our Faithful Savior has fully paid for all our sin with His precious blood, and further, He has set us free from the tyranny of the devil.<sup>2</sup>

And really, if God had never done anything else—if there had not been even the smallest temporal blessing; if He had never provided our daily bread; if He had never healed us when we were sick; if He had never gathered us as the body of Christ so that we could worship in Spirit and in truth, and experience the fellowship of the Holy Spirit; if He had done none of those things—would that not be enough. Would it not be enough that Jesus Christ has fully paid for all our sins with His precious blood? Would it not be enough that He watches over us so that literally everything must work together for the good, and the salvation, of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose?<sup>3</sup>

But it was this very thing that caused Isaac Watts, the author of “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” to write, “Were the whole realm of nature mine, **that were a present far too small.**”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1 ESV

If we believe this—if we have accepted this gift of God with a believing heart—then it is true, both now and in eternity. If we believe this, then

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31 ESV

Furthermore, if we believe this, then

<sup>1</sup> All Scripture citations, unless otherwise noted, *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Cf. “The Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1”, ed., CRCNA (Christian Reformed Church in North America), *Ecumenical Creeds and Reformed Confessions* (Grand Rapids, MI: Faith Alive Publications, 1988), 13.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Romans 8:28; with “Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1”, *Ecumenical Creeds*, 13.

<sup>4</sup> “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”, ed. Christian Reformed Church in North America, *Psalter Hymnal* (Grand Rapids, MI: CRC Publications, 1987-88), 384.

“Love so amazing, so divine, demands [our] soul, [our] life, [our] all.” <sup>5</sup>

because not only has He given us life and set us free from the tyranny of the devil, but also, Romans 5, verse 5:

<sup>5</sup> ...God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit **who has been given to us.** Romans 5:5 ESV

### With You, and In You.

More specifically, as Jesus said in the upper room discourse,

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper... John 14:16 ESV

(another Comforter; another Advocate; one who will come along side to help)

...he [the Father] will give you another Helper to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world **cannot** receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. John 14:16–17 ESV

But,

You know him, for he dwells **with** you **and**... John 14:17 ESV

(as if that weren’t enough),

...will be **in** you. John 14:17 ESV

What an incredible promise! And it’s even better because we know that God (and Jesus Christ, the Word, **is** God!) always keeps His promises. He always has and He always will. Even so, this is true truth. This is your reality. If you belong to God by grace, through faith—if you are in Christ—then, God the Holy Spirit—the second person of the Trinity—has been

<sup>6</sup> ...poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, Titus 3:6 ESV

As we have it in our text this morning, “the Spirit of God dwells in you.” Of course, Paul states in in a conditional sort of way in verse 9.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if in fact** the Spirit of God dwells in you. Romans 8:9 ESV

but this is not meant to make us wonder. If you are a Christian, if you have believed, if you belong to Him, if you are in Christ, then this is simply true, “the Spirit of God dwells in you”. And we know this, because

**Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.** Romans 8:9 ESV

Inversely then, anyone who does belong to Christ does have the Holy Spirit. There is nothing else to experience. There is no mountain to climb. There is simply the promise of God. The Spirit of God dwells in us, and this is our assurance.

---

<sup>5</sup> “When I Survey...”, *Psalter Hymnal*, 384.

## The Assurance of Salvation.

2 Corinthians 1, verses 20 – 22:

<sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. <sup>21</sup> And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, <sup>22</sup> and who has also put his seal on us **and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.** 2 Corinthians 1:20–22 ESV

And 2 Corinthians 5, verse 5.

<sup>5</sup> He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit **as a guarantee.** 2 Corinthians 5:5 ESV

And I could go on. 1 John 4, verse 13:

<sup>13</sup> By this **we know** that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 1 John 4:13 ESV

And 1 John 3, verse 24:

<sup>24</sup> Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And **by this we know** that he abides in us, by the Spirit **whom he has given us.** 1 John 3:24 ESV

To summarize again, the Spirit of God dwells in us, and this is our assurance. Believe the promise of God. Believe the testimony of God Himself, for

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ... Romans 8:16–17 ESV

because

<sup>2</sup> ...now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, **we shall be like him**, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2 NIV846

The Spirit who dwells within us is our assurance.

## The Assurance of Sanctification.

The Spirit who dwells within us is also our life. And this is good beyond all our ability to understand. Because the flesh is death. Romans 8, verse 6:

<sup>6</sup> ...to set the mind on the flesh is death... Romans 8:6 ESV

And verse 7:

<sup>7</sup> ...the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it **cannot.** Romans 8:7 ESV

And verse 8, where we began with our reading this morning,

<sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh **cannot** please God. Romans 8:8 ESV

But,

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you... Romans 8:9 ESV

And,

<sup>10</sup> ...if Christ is in you... Romans 8:10 ESV

(and He is, if you have come to God by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone), then,

...although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. Romans 8:10 ESV

the righteousness of Christ imputed—credited to our account—and the righteousness of Christ worked out in our lives as the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We touched on this last week, so I won't stop here long, but Paul exhorts us in Galatians, chapter 5:

<sup>16</sup> ...walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16 ESV

And why? Because contrary to the works of the flesh,

<sup>22</sup> ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And... Galatians 5:22–24 ESV

in fact,

...those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:22–24 ESV

For

<sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:8 ESV

And those who are in the Spirit desire nothing more. So, the Spirit of God who dwells within us is our assurance, and the Spirit of God is our life. Furthermore, the Spirit is our hope.

### **The Assurance of Hope.**

Remember back in chapter 5? It began with that other great summary statement.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1–5 ESV

But more than that.

<sup>2</sup> Through him... Romans 5:2 ESV

(through Christ)

...we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:2 ESV

And not because salvation through faith in Christ guarantees that we will have a happy, healthy prosperous life. It doesn't. Rather, "we rejoice in hope of the glory of God", and

<sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice **in our sufferings**... Romans 5:1-5 ESV

as well,

...knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts **through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us**. Romans 5:1-5 ESV

So, the Holy Spirit who has been given to us is also the guarantee of the hope that we have for the glory of God. I have brought this in because it speaks to the last point in our text this morning.

### **The Assurance of Life.**

We've seen that Paul wrote,

<sup>10</sup> ...if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. Romans 8:10-11 ESV

And that speaks to us in this life. Christ is our righteousness. As He wrote in 1 Corinthians, chapter 1:

<sup>30</sup> ...because of [God]... 1 Corinthians 1:30 ESV

(because of His grace, and the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit)

...you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us **wisdom** from God,,, 1 Corinthians 1:30 ESV

and

...righteousness **and** sanctification **and** redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 ESV

Christ is all those things to those who trust in Him alone. But beyond this life, too, Romans 8, verse 11.

<sup>11</sup> 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. Romans 8:10-11 ESV

Because,

<sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. 1 Corinthians 15:19 ESV

In other words, our faith speaks to us in the here and now and of the here and now. In Christ, we are

<sup>17</sup> ...a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

But a faith that speaks only of this life is no faith at all. A gospel that addresses sin, but not the great consequence of sin, death, is no gospel at all. But we have been given the Spirit—the Spirit of God dwells in us—as a seal, a guarantee, of our salvation and our sanctification and our hope and our life. He is also

<sup>14</sup> ...the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:14 ESV

That is, He is the guarantee of that inheritance

<sup>4</sup> ...that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power... 1 Peter 1:4–5 ESV

(by the power of the Holy Spirit)

...are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:4–5 ESV

(that is, at the resurrection of the body when we enter fully in the life that God has prepared for those who trust in Him). And we believe this—we know this—because

<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,

and if you are a Christian, if you are saved, if you are in Christ, then He does. And if He does, then

...he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:10–11 ESV

Trust in this. Rest in this. Stake your life on this. It is the Word of God, and His Word never fails. It is the promise of God, guaranteed by the Holy Spirit of God who dwells within us. So, as we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Romans 8:14 ESV