

THE SPIRIT IN ME?!

2.2.25

Message 26

Romans 8:9–11 (CSB)

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. ¹⁰ Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

Introduction. Life in the Spirit or Life in the Flesh.

A. The first verses of Romans 8 have compared a life of law, sin, and death with life in the Spirit.

1. The Apostle has been demonstrating that all of us, Jew or Gentile, need forgiveness, righteousness, and grace.
2. The only way we can receive that is through Jesus.
3. We can't earn it, and we aren't born with it.
4. Only faith placed in Jesus saves us from a life of sin and death.

B. The first seven chapters of Romans are pretty discouraging.

1. We are lost, bound to a law that we cannot keep.
2. We are dead in our trespasses and sin and cannot save ourselves.
3. But Romans 8, introduces us to hope.

C. The Apostle Paul has made it clear that we can have abundant life by setting our mind on the Spirit.

1. If we are living according to our flesh, we are not living according to the Spirit of God.
2. If we are in the flesh, we CANNOT please God.
 - a. It is impossible.
 - b. When we live in sin, we are not pleasing God.
3. BUT, if the Spirit of God lives in us, we are no longer obligated and compelled to follow our sinful flesh!

D. What does this mean?

1. Who is the Spirit?
2. What does He do?
3. Does the Holy Spirit live in me?

Let's take a few minutes and examine some theology of the Spirit from Romans 8

1. The Godhead: Triune and One

A. One of the most important skills Christians need to develop is the skill of "observation."

1. When reading a passage, give yourself permission to slow down and pay attention.
2. Put yourself in the passenger seat instead of the driver's seat.
3. You see more when you aren't driving.

B. Observe that Spirit is mentioned SIX times in these few verses.

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. ¹⁰ Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who

raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

C. Notice that the names and descriptions are different throughout:

In the Spirit...

Spirit of God

Spirit of Christ

The Spirit

The Spirit who raised Jesus

The Spirit who lives in you.

What do we do with this?

D. First, we affirm the TRIUNE nature of God.

1. People say that "the Trinity is never mentioned in the Bible."

a. That is true, the word is never used.

b. But the concept is clear throughout.

c. From the openings of Genesis through the end of Revelation, the TRIUNE nature of God is evident.

d. A great example is Jesus' baptism, where the Spirit descends upon Jesus and a voice from heaven declares, "This is my Son whom I love."

2. Triune means that there are 3-persons of the Godhead.

a. Father

b. Son

c. Holy Ghost or Spirit (same thing).

3. All of them are eternal, meaning they were not created.

- a. All of them are equal, meaning the Spirit is not less than the Son or less than the Father.
 - b. All of them are distinct.
4. And if all of this “boggles” your mind, good.
- a. This is the greatest of mysteries.
 - b. Furthermore, the Church has wrestled with this concept since the beginning.
5. Perhaps one way to try to comprehend is evident in our lives.
- a. We all have a body.
 - b. We all have a soul (mind, will, and emotions)
 - c. We have or are spirit, which “is considered the innermost part of a person, the element that connects with God.”¹
 - d. All three of these components make us who we are, and they are distinct.
 - e. Yet, there is also absolute unity.

Second, we affirm the UNITY of God.

- 1. There are not three gods.
 - a. This is often an allegation that Islam makes about Christianity.
 - b. From their view, Christians worship three Gods.
- 2. If we aren’t careful, that ends up being the way we practice.
 - a. If you were reading Romans 8, without reading anywhere else in Scripture, you might come to the conclusion that there are 3 different spirits working here.

¹ https://biblehub.com/topical/s/spirit,_soul,_and_body.htm

b. The Spirit of Christ and the Father and then the Holy Spirit Himself.

c. But that contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture.

1 Corinthians 12:4–13 (CSB)

⁴ Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are different activities, but the same God works all of them in each person. (**NOTICE THE TRIUNE and UNITED NATURE**) ⁷ A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good: ⁸ to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, ⁹ to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of tongues, to another, interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ **One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills.**

UNITY YET DIVERSITY IN THE BODY

¹² For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink.

3. The Apostle is STRESSING the unity of the Godhead.

a. He does this by differentiating the Godhead and the united activity.

b. He wants us to see that it is indeed Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that is at work in us and in the world.

c. The Holy Spirit is not a modern-day, Pentecostal invention but God.

d. When Holy Spirit lives in us, so too does Jesus because it's the Spirit of Christ.

4. This is why we cannot manipulate the gifts and say that if I want one thing, I pray to the Father; another thing, I pray to the Son; and if I want anything else, I pray to Holy Spirit.

a. Yes, the Apostle Paul uses 6 different phrases in this description.

b. But the BIG IDEA is that if God does not live in us, through the Spirit, by accepting that Jesus died upon the cross, then we are not living for God.

Third, we affirm the Ministry of God's Spirit.

1. Most Christians don't reject the Holy Spirit.

2. We may not understand who He is or what He does, but we don't deny His existence.

a. Most of the confusion has to do with the gifts, like tongues.

b. Some doubt that the Holy Spirit still speaks today, outside of the Bible.

c. People also do a lot of crazy things and blame it on the Holy Spirit.

3. The ministry of the Spirit is vast.

a. And it is more than gifts like tongues and prophecy.

b. Notice what Paul emphasizes in verses 9-11

2. The Spirit lives and dwells.

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh, **but in the Spirit**, if indeed the **Spirit of God** lives in you. If anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to him. ¹⁰ Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but **the Spirit** gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if **the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead** lives in you, then **he who raised Christ** from the

dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through **his Spirit** who lives in you.

A. Observation: The Spirit is not an it, but a person.

1. The Apostle is not referring to a holy "It" but Holy Spirit.
2. He is a person with personality and purpose.
3. That is why we can "grieve" the Holy Spirit because He is a person.

B. At salvation, the Holy Spirit lives in us.

1. Often, we use the phrase, "asking Jesus into my heart."
2. Technically speaking, we are asking the Spirit of Jesus, the Spirit of the Father, His Holy Spirit, to live and dwell in us.
3. **Every believer has the Holy Spirit living in and with them; otherwise, they are not saved.**

C. QUESTION: Do I have to speak in tongues to be saved?

1. Answer: NO
2. Even though speaking in tongues is a gift of the Spirit and available for every believer, it is NOT required for salvation.
3. Tongues are also not a sign of salvation.
4. This doesn't mean you should dismiss speaking in tongues, but we also do not elevate the gift higher than we should.

3. Because the Holy Spirit lives in me, I must live differently.

1. One temptation for Christians is to live like nothing ever happened.
 - a. Too often we defend our behavior by phrases like:
 - b. Relationship, not religion.

c. I'm under grace, not law.

d. This is true.

2. However, relationship and grace do not give us permission to do whatever we want.

a. Example: I have a GREAT relationship with Julie and we demonstrate a lot of grace in our marriage.

b. Yet, there are also rules, musts, and "better nots" in our marriage.

c. These rules do not restrict my marriage, they protect them.

d. They do not hinder my marriage, they bless my marriage.

3. The Holy Spirit lives in me; therefore, there are attitudes and behaviors that are not appropriate.

1 Corinthians 6:12–18 (CSB)

¹²"Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³"Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will do away with both of them. However, the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴God raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Don't you know that your bodies are a part of Christ's body? So should I take a part of Christ's body and make it part of a prostitute? Absolutely not! ¹⁶Don't you know that anyone joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For Scripture says, **The two will become one flesh.** ¹⁷But anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

¹⁸Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (CSB)

¹⁹Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.

4. To the Corinthians, Paul emphasizes the reality of the Spirit's dwelling in us to another degree.

a. Because the Holy Spirit lives in us, we are called a temple of the Holy Spirit.

b. And if my body is where God lives and dwells and is worshipped, then what I do with my body is a matter of worship.

5. The Corinthian struggle was they were permitting sexual sin.

a. Some had bought into a form of Gnosticism that said what I do with my body doesn't matter.

b. So going to the temple prostitutes was no big deal.

c. But Paul makes a graphic statement: If we are all the body of Christ, and we are participating in sexual sin, then we are making a part of Christ's body ONE with that sexual sin. VS 15.

6. Because the Holy Spirit lives in us, then we must be careful what we make Him part of.

a. The Apostle Paul told the Ephesians that we can grieve or bring sorrow to Holy Spirit by the way we live.

Ephesians 4:30 (NLT)

³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30 (CSB)

³⁰ And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption.

- b. When our mind is set on the Spirit, we have to change.
 - 1. Actions and behaviors change.
 - 2. What our life produces changes.
 - 3. The incredible reality that Holy Spirit lives and dwells in us changes everything.

Apply: 4 Questions to Live a Life of the Spirit-E(s)

#1. Who/What am I Entertaining?

A. Picture yourself in your house, entertaining guests.

- 1. Who has permission to enter?
- 2. Do they have access to every part of your house, or certain rooms?
- 3. Some guests only need access to the living room and bathroom.
- 4. The closer they are to you and the more you trust them, the more freedom they have.

B. Are there areas of your life where you entertain sinful/worldly things but restrict the Holy Spirit?

- 1. Who have you given permission to speak into your life?
- 2. Are they good, noble, godly, and honorable?
- 3. Do they promote love, joy, and peace (Philippians 4:8 and Galatians 5)?

#2. Who/What am I Evicting?

A. There will be influences, thoughts, habits, behaviors, spirits that we gave permission to long ago that we now need to evict.

- 1. Next week, we have a guest minister who will be sharing with us about spiritual reality and warfare.

2. In the meantime, we must recognize that some of the people, things, and attitudes I have now can't go with me any further.

B. With the Holy Spirit moving in and living inside of you, there are things that cannot stay any longer.

1. There are things that, if allowed to stay, will grieve and make sorrowful the Spirit.

2. Some will leave easily.

3. Others will fight till the bitter end.

4. But, brothers and sisters, we cannot live our lives as if we can ignore the Holy Spirit.

5. Either we are entertaining Him, not just making Him comfortable but worshipping Him, in our lives OR we are evicting Him, making Him uncomfortable, unwelcomed, and unable to stay.

#3 Who/What have I been Excusing?

A. Have you ever had company over and made excuses for the condition or behavior of something?

1. Usually, it's the kids room, the laundry room, or the garage.

a. It is acceptable, especially if you didn't know company was coming.

b. I'm sure most of us have shoved things into closets, underneath the sink, or in the dishwasher to hide some messiness.

2. But sometimes, we make excuses for conditions or behaviors when we know better.

a. When you could have done better, but didn't.

b. When you could have fixed or cleaned but didn't.

c. Or even worse, you excuse what shouldn't be because you LIKE IT.

B. Again, picture the Holy Spirit at your table during a normal week or month.

1. What is happening in the house that would make Him uncomfortable?
2. Are there things you are permitting yourself or your family to do that you know grieves Him, but you are excusing?

C. Now consider that the Holy Spirit isn't merely at your table, but He lives in you.

1. Every thought is known by Him.
2. No conversation is ever hidden behind closed doors.
3. Nothing you delete on your viewing history is deleted from His eyes.
4. What is it that I'm trying to excuse that the Spirit tells me I need to evict?

#4. Who/What will I be Encouraging?

A. It isn't only what I entertain, evict, or excuse that matters.

1. But what am I encouraging?
2. Growing up, my family was pretty poor.
3. We did without a lot of extras, name-brands, and vacations.
4. But there were two things I never lacked:
 - a. Books.
 - b. Musical instruments.
5. I remember in Junior High or High School, I wanted to play baseball.

- a. But the uniforms were pretty expensive.
- b. My dad permitted me to play, but I had to buy my own uniform.
- c. The only way I had to pay for the uniforms was to sell him a muzzleloading squirrel rifle.
- d. He didn't exactly discourage me from playing baseball, but he didn't overly encourage either.
- e. But when I showed interest in playing the violin, it wasn't long that a violin was delivered to the house.
- f. He helped me buy an electric piano to travel with when I joined a band, and met Julie.
- g. My dad actually HIGHLY encouraged me to take things seriously with Julie.
- h. He encouraged me to study, prepare, lead, and minister.

6. What are you encouraging in your life and house?

- a. What we encourage can be positive and negative.
- b. Where is our effort going? What about our praise?

Close. The Spirit in Me: Question Mark or Exclamation Point.

A. Is the ministry and presence of Holy Spirit in your life a Question Mark or Exclamation point?

- 1. Is this reality something you are excited about or scared of?
- 2. Does this confuse you or empower you?

B. Every one of us who is a believer has the Spirit living in us.

- 1. We need to live that way.
- 2. Prayer point:

3. What in me needs to be entertained and encouraged?
4. What do I need to evict or stop excusing?
5. What is one area that the Spirit is speaking into in my life.