

The Spirit in Me!? Part 2

Message 27

3.2.25

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.

RECAP:

A. First of all, thank you for the love and support while we were away the past two Sundays.

1. After Julie's mother passed away, I thought it best for us to be present with her family.
2. I never took time away when my mom passed in December of 2023, so this felt like something we needed.
3. Thank you to everyone who worked, cleaned, led worship, preached, and kept everything running while we were away.

B. Before we were away, we began an examination of the Holy Spirit in Romans 8:9-11.

1. The Spirit is mentioned more in Romans 8 than in any other chapter in the Bible.
2. Yet, our understanding of who He is and what He does is sadly lacking among the body of Christ.

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

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1. One of the first ministries of the Holy Spirit is His living and dwelling in us.

A. At salvation, the Spirit takes up residence in our lives.

1. That's because God is the God that dwells.
2. He dwelt with Israel through her Wilderness wanderings, He dwelt with them in the confines of the Tabernacle and then later in the Temple.
3. And after Jesus ascended into heaven, He sent the Spirit so that the Spirit now lives in every believer.

B. Ephesians teaches us that the Spirit is given as an earnest deposit, a down payment, and an official seal upon every believer.

1. There are gifts of the Spirit that often come later.
2. But every believer has the Spirit of God living in them.
3. This Spirit can be called the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God, or simply the Spirit.
4. There is only One Spirit.

C. If you want more details of this ministry of the Spirit, checkout my last message in the Roman series on YouTube or on our website.

1. This morning, we want to pay attention to the life-giving ministry of Holy Spirit.

2. Notice, again, what Paul told the Roman believers.

2. The Spirit gives life. 8:10

¹⁰ Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life (WHY?) 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. Because the Spirit lives in us, and because He is a living person, He brings with Him abundant life.

1. We must keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is a person.
2. He is Spirit, yes, but not an It.

B. Wherever we see the Spirit of God in Scripture, we see Him bringing life and order.

1. In Genesis, it was the Spirit who hovered over the waters of chaos, and breathed into humanity, making us a living being.
2. In Ezekiel's vision, the dry bones are not alive until the wind, the Spirit, entered them.

3. 2 Corinthians 3:6 (CSB)

⁶He has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

4. John 3:5–6 (CSB)

⁵Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.

5. John 6:63 (CSB)

⁶³ The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn't help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

C. Eternal life begins when Holy Spirit enters your life.

1. When He is alive in your life, you will produce the fruit and works of the Spirit.
2. That's why Paul said the fruit, the evidence of a life in the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
3. If God is living in you, through the Spirit, then your life will produce ever-increasing amounts of this fruit.

D. One measurement to evaluate if you are walking in the Spirit is by evaluating the people around you.

1. Are they thriving, or are they dying?
2. Are they growing in righteousness, justice, love, and mercy?
3. Are they becoming more ordered, more loving, and joyful, and peaceful, and patient, and kind, and good (God's version not yours), more faithful (this applies to every arena, not just religious), more gentle, and more disciplined?)
4. My life and the lives of those closest to me are indicators of my walk with the Lord.
 - a. Are the people in my life thriving in the Spirit?
 - b. Are they dying to self, dying to their flesh, and producing ever increasing amounts of holiness and righteousness?
 - c. Or are they growing in chaos, disorder, hatred, anger, and sin?

E. If I'm in Christ and Christ is in me, then the right things are growing in me and the wrong things are dying.

John 15:1-8 (CSB)

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. ⁶**If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers.** They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

3. The Spirit gives life in death.

A. No illustration is perfect, but consider that in the natural realm, a baby in the mother's womb needs the mother to be alive.

1. If the mother dies, the baby soon follows if it remains in the body of death.
2. The baby feeds off the mother.
3. What the mother eats, the baby eats.

B. In Paul's argument, there are some similarities and differences.

1. In Paul's argument, the body must be dead to sin for the Spirit to live.
2. If we are alive to sin, then the Spirit is not alive to us.
3. That's because the Spirit eats what I eat.
4. **Question:** When I feed myself upon the sins of the flesh, wickedness, hatred, anger, or any such thing, what is that doing to the Spirit of God in us?

C. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that if we claim to be in Christ, yet we are committing sexual sin, then we are attaching Christ to the prostitute.

1. Surely, this truth applies elsewhere!
2. If I'm a believer, and I watch porn, is the Spirit in me watching it too?
3. If I'm engaged in gossip, jealousy, and envy, is the Spirit in me being forced to participate too?

D. This is why the flesh must die, and we must stop excusing our sin.

1. Verses 12-13 will tell us that "we are not obligated to the flesh"

a. We don't have to live in sin.

1. We don't have to sin every day.
2. We are not doomed for a moral failure or a scandal.
3. Yes, we are human but has not Jesus died for us to walk in newness of life!

b. In fact, all of Scripture teaches that we cannot live in sin and walk in salvation at the same time.

c. Because, as verse 13 says, "if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die."

2. The only antidote is to put the flesh to death by the Spirit.

a. **Because the Spirit of Jesus, the Spirit of all holiness and righteousness, lives in us, we cannot subject him to this junk.**

b. We cannot keep on grieving the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

c. How much grief will He take before he leaves?

d. How much sin is permissible in a believer's life before they are no longer a believer?

3. The good news, at least it should be good news, is that if the body is dead to sin and the works of the flesh, then "indeed the Spirit of God lives in you."

4. The Spirit gives life because of righteousness. Vs. 10b

A. Whose righteousness?

1. The answer must be God's righteousness, which has been a primary topic in Romans.

2. Romans 1:17 (CSB)

¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: **The righteous will live by faith.**

Romans 3:25–26 (CSB)

²⁵God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. ²⁶God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.

Titus 3:5 (CSB)

⁵he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

B. The only possibility we have for righteousness is Jesus.

1. We don't make ourselves righteous, we receive it and then walk in it.

2. But we must choose to walk in righteousness.

3. We choose what we do, what we think about, and what we believe.

4. We choose to either let the flesh live and the Spirit die, or the Spirit live and the flesh die.

5. We choose!

6. That is clearly signified by "If".

5. If...

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.

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, 13 because **if you live** according to the flesh, you are going to die. But **if by the Spirit** you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

A. Paul doesn't assume.

1. Assumption would have said, "You are in the Spirit."

2. Instead, he said, "You are in the Spirit if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you."

3. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ...

4. If Christ is in you...

B. This word is conditional, divisive, and exclusive.

1. The Spirit lives in you if you are not in the flesh.

2. These are contrasting conditions.

3. **You cannot be living in the flesh if you are living in the Spirit.**

C. This isn't speaking of perfection because no one is perfect.

1. However, it clearly marks a line:

2. You cannot be a “worldly” follower of Jesus.
3. On the other hand, you can be a cultural Christian without being a follower of Jesus.
4. The question: Are you in the Spirit or in the flesh?

Apply: Are you dead yet?

A. Many of us are allowing things to live in us that need to die.

1. Some of us are living in a way that is grieving the Spirit of God.
2. Some of us are following spirits or being influenced by spirits that are far from holy, righteous, or good.

B. This morning I want to lead us all in a time of prayer:

1. Prayers of revelation (show us what needs to live and what needs to die).
2. Prayers of confession (Lord, I’m sorry for sinning against you and your Spirit, forgive me and change my life)
3. Prayers of empowerment (Lord, I cannot do this by myself nor do I want to. Help me and empower me to live for you.)