

Romans 8 Church-wide Study

Small Group Session 3 – *The Christian’s Power Supply*

“⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ 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 8:9-11 – ESV)

GATHERING

Last week, we talked about the power of our minds to control our lives. Today, we are going to focus on the Holy Spirit who lives in us and “gives life to our mortal bodies.” This is something we all need to take hold of – the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. So as we get started, we’re going to spend 60 seconds in silent prayer, and during that silent prayer, please ask God to reveal to you those areas of your life that you have not surrendered to Him. It’s those areas that the Holy Spirit can have the greatest impact in your life. So spend 60 seconds in prayer, and then have someone offer a word of prayer to lead us into our discussion.

OPENING PRAYER

1. Read Romans 8:9-11 (*As we mentioned last week, please encourage the people in your group to be very intentional about their reading of Romans 8 and even attempt to memorize the entire chapter. It might be helpful in the memorization process to memorize the different segments of Romans 8 we will discuss each week. Another suggestion is to encourage the members of your group to handwrite the entire chapter on a piece of paper, and while transcribing the chapter, ask God to reveal His truth as it is being written down.*)

WATCH PANEL DISCUSSION VIDEO

2. **What did you hear in the video that really spoke to you?**
3. **We talked a lot about this last week, so to recap: what is the difference between a person who is “in the flesh” and a person who is “in the Spirit”?**
4. **What do you think Paul is getting at when he declares that: “Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him”?** Spend some time with this section. There are more people than many of us realize who worry about whether they are really a Christian.
 - **What in your life makes it hardest for you to feel confident that you belong to God?**
 - **Can you boldly sing “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine, oh what a foretaste of glory divine”? Why or why not?**
5. In this week’s sermon, Jerry recounted D.L. Moody’s experience following his conversion when he said, *“I was in a new world. The next morning the sun shone brighter, and the birds sang sweeter...*

the old elms waved their branches for joy, and all nature was at peace.” It is true, however, that not everybody has that kind of a tangible, sensory experience.

- **If you have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior over your life, what did you feel as a response?** Some people consider the Holy Spirit to be an elusive Being that they simply do not understand. It is clear, though, in these verses, that Paul wants to help us understand that the Holy Spirit is DEFINITELY at work in our lives.
 - In fact, Paul uses the word *Spirit* 6 times in these 3 verses. **What has been your experience with the Holy Spirit?**
 - Write in your journal a time when you were acutely aware of the Spirit’s presence. Be specific.
 - Read Ephesians 1:13-14 & Ephesians 4:30.
 - **What does it mean for you to be sealed by the Holy Spirit?**
 - **Have you ever thought of the third part of the Trinity (Holy Spirit) as a “deposit” or a “guarantee” of your inheritance from God?**
 - Warren Wiersbe writes: “*‘Earnest money’ in business means money given as a down payment for a purchased possession. Christ has purchased our future for us, but we have not yet entered into all the blessings. God has given us His Spirit as the ‘down payment’ to assure us that we will experience total redemption and receive God’s promised blessings in glory.*”
6. Paul writes in verse 10 that “*if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*” Darren Hibbs, in his study on Romans, writes: “*Paul tells us that our bodies are still subject to death because of sin (the consequence of the First Sin in the Garden was death – Gen. 2:17), but that there is something that awaits us. The Holy Spirit will grant us life because of the righteousness of Jesus.*”
- **What does all of this say about the effect of sin in the life of believers?**
 - In Jerry’s sermon, he said that “*our remaining sinful nature is hostile to our growing spiritual life.*” **How have you seen this manifest? And how does the Holy Spirit help us in this?**
 - **How does this relate to 2 Corinthians 4:16 which says, “... so we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day”?**
7. Remember in Chapter 7 when Paul asked, “*Who will rescue me from this body of death?*” Here in Romans 8:11, Paul appears to answer his own question when he says that “*... He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit...*” (Romans 8:11)
- **Why does Paul mention Jesus’ resurrection in verse 11? (Hint: this is about the “power source”!)**
8. **WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL YOUR CLOSEST FRIEND ABOUT TODAY’S SCRIPTURE?**