

## II. The Holy Spirit in Biblical Perspective

### *Led by the Spirit*

### “Holy Spirit: Who Is He?”

Romans 8:1–17

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We are in Romans 8 and this is God’s Word. It’s the Truth. Romans 8:1–17 says  
*[1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. [3] 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, [4] 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. [5] For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. [6] For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. [7] For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. [8] Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

*[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.*

*[12] So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. [13] For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. [14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” [16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

The grass withers, the flower fades, God’s Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

In 1999 I had the great privilege to be called to Briarwood Presbyterian Church. I came from Christ Covenant to Briarwood and I had only been here a couple of years when I received a phone call from Macon, Georgia asking me to come and do a funeral. A young man who had become a Christian at Christ Covenant in Charlotte, North Carolina moved back to his hometown in Macon and has what we’d call an untimely death but we know God’s timing is perfect. The family has requested that you come and do the service. My schedule was really tight at the time and I wasn’t sure I was going to get there and back in time for another event I had to be at. It ended up that they arranged a man to come get me on a personal plane to be able to do this.

This young man’s name was Buzz who played golf at the University of Florida. He and I became good friends. His wife and kids had been coming to church and he would appear every once in a while. We would play golf together and one day he asked if we could get together for lunch and talk about all this. I asked him to meet me at the Chateau Restaurant and I

asked him two questions. I took out a napkin and wrote down three things. Then I asked him if he understood. He said “My daddy told me every time I took out a preacher I had to pay for it.” I said “Buzz, you have a very smart daddy.” He said “So I’m going to pick up your ticket so I’m going to pay what you owe which means you are now free to leave here with no problem. So you’re telling me that God sent His Son who came into this world to go to the cross, picked up my ticket and paid my tab. If I receive Him and turn to Him then I have everlasting life.” He said what I had just said in 45 minutes in about a minute and 45 seconds. I said “That’s exactly right. So there is any reason why you shouldn’t commit your life to Christ?” He said “No, let’s do it.” I remember him taking that napkin and putting it in his Bible.

So I get to go to Macon to tell everyone where Buzz is, because of what Christ had done and how he trusted Jesus alone as His Lord and Savior. In fact, I just took Buzz’ Bible and pulled out the napkin and shared with those at his funeral what was on it and about his life. Before I went I had to find the place at the airport where I was supposed to meet this private plane. I found it and got into the plane, shook hands with the pilot, strapped myself in and I thought I don’t even know who this pilot is. This man has my life in his hands and I’m about to go up about 25,000 feet with him and I don’t even know who he is. My life was in this man’s hands. Your life is in the hands of the Holy Spirit. In fact, whether you have life or not your life is in the hands of the Holy Spirit. What will happen in your life, the shaping of your life and the direction of your life are in the hands of the Holy Spirit. Do you know who He is? Who He is will determine what He will do?

We have a real short coming in this area. If you don’t believe it go get a good hymnal. They have categories of the hymns – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Under that last category there are not many and that’s why I’m so grateful for the Getty hymn titled Holy Spirit. When you talk to people about the Holy Spirit many will call Him it. If you know Him you know He is not an it. Some will say ‘what is the Holy Spirit?’ You can say what is the Holy Spirit going to do but it’s not what is the Holy Spirit, it is who is the Holy Spirit because He is a Person. Do you know who He is?

We are in a yearlong series on being led by the Holy Spirit. Who is it that is leading us and who has our life in His hands? Who is in our lives? Who is He who dwells within us? He is with you everywhere, all the time – in front of the computer, at work, when you’re exercising, at the dinner table. Who is this Companion? If we were to talk about it I’m not sure we’d know so we’re going to try to find out as we explore what it means to be led by the Spirit and we’re also going to find out just who He is. That is what we’ll do in this study. I want to make sure we know who He is.

There are three key texts I will use to learn being led by the Spirit – Romans 8:1–17, John 14–16 and Galatians 5:16–26. We will take time to develop these texts throughout this year. They are not the only texts. We will also take a look at baptism of the Holy Spirit, the anointing of the Spirit, being filled with the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit, blasphemy of the Spirit, grieving the Spirit, quenching the Spirit, worshipping in the Spirit and walking in the Spirit. We will look at the Scriptures that show us about each of these as well but mostly we’ll look at these three magisterial texts on the Holy Spirit.

It’s interesting that here in the book of Romans we have most arguably the most magisterial text on who the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit does and yet Paul has not made but one direct reference for eight chapters. Romans 1:4 says *[4] and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.* I believe the Holy Spirit is embedded in the next eight chapters but He is

not directly referenced until we get to Romans 8 with these blossoming out of these magnificent statements. We are looking at one particular statement throughout the year that we are led by the Spirit and our theme verse is Romans 8:14 which says *[14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

One might think Romans 8:14 is not politically correct because it doesn't say are 'sons and daughters of God' but you don't want to make it politically correct because then you'll become theologically incorrect. Whether you're a man, woman, boy, girl, rich, poor, black, white, red, or whatever, if you were a sinner saved by the grace of God then you are led by the Spirit of God and are sons of God. That is a title. All of His children have the title sons of God. Why is that important? It is because only the first born sons could inherit. So all His children have the title first born sons of God. The Son of God has come to bring many sons to glory.

In our last study on the Spirit we learned that whenever you see that verb 'lead' it is always from something to something with a purpose. We noted from this text five things that the Holy Spirit is leading us from and to. One He is leading us from sin and condemnation to the Savior and salvation. Romans 8:1 says *[1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* Secondly, He has led from the mind of flesh to the mind of Christ. Thirdly, He brings us from the wages of sin (death) to the inheritance of Christ (life). Fourthly, He brings us from the orphanage of sin to the family of God and fifthly, He brings us from fear to the Father, so that we cry out 'Abba Father.'

So who is leading us? Who is He? Romans 8:9–10 says *[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.* In this text He gives us direction, assurance and instruction by pointing out our relationship with Holy Spirit negatively and positively.

The negative statement is that anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. So we just found out that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is not a second blessing. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is the first blessing to get you to the Blessed One. So if you don't have the Spirit of God then you don't have Christ. You can't come to Christ without the Spirit of God.

Now it also has a positive to it. Do you know why you are in Christ? It is because the Spirit of God brought you there. Our theme verse for the year puts it in the positive. Romans 8:14 says *[14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.* If you are led by the Spirit then you are sons of God. So you can't be in Christ and belong to Christ without the Spirit of God but if you're in the Spirit of God you have Christ and the Spirit didn't quit when He led you from the spirit of sin and death to the Savior and salvation, for He is still leading you.

Again, in Romans 8:9 we see how the Trinity is woven into this. Romans 8:9–10 says *[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.* We see the Spirit. We see the Spirit of God which is God the Father and the Spirit of Christ which is Jesus. Here the work of the Trinity in its economy of diversity – the Spirit brings you, the Son saves you, the Father has authored your salvation – the Father authored, the Son accomplished, the Spirit applied – they are united together. So if you have the Spirit you have the Father, if you have the Spirit you have Jesus and if you have Jesus you have the Spirit and if the Father has bought you, you have the Spirit. You don't have three Persons going off doing different things and hoping it

works out at the end. From beginning to end They have Their own function/economy but They are working to accomplish that one purpose of your redemption to the glory of the Father.

I want to take you back to that private plane I flew in to get to that funeral. I had never met the man who was piloting this plane so where do you think I started? To know something about him I asked him what his name was. I said “Who are you?” I had such great joy when he answered that question for his name was ‘Jet Anderson.’ I thought really your name is Jet, so how good is that. His name kind of matched up with what we were doing.

So I want you to know the name of the Holy Spirit so you can be assured of what He can do, will do and in fact His name tells you who He is and therefore what He does. In this text He is identified as Holy Spirit. The word holy is interesting. The word for holy in the Old Testament is *qadush* and in the New Testament it is *hagios*. Almost all of us when we hear the word holy we think of righteous, pure, without sin and that is right but that is actually a secondary understanding. When you go back to the root of the word *hagios* (holy) it means set apart, cut from, separate from, unique, one of a kind and wholly other. He is incomparable. The Thrice Holy God, the Third Person is Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit was promised by the Father. He is the Spirit of God the Father. So when the Spirit comes He comes to bring you to be unique, set apart and one of kind. He comes from the Father to lead you to the Father but when He comes the Father is with you and you cry out ‘Abba Father’ because the Spirit of God the Father is within you.

The text also says that He is the Spirit of Christ, specifically the Incarnate Christ. In other words, He who is in you, promised by the Father, came to you to bring you to the Father and now the Father is with you. He is the Spirit of God the Father. The Son who purchased you and sent the promise of the Father to you that Spirit who is with you is the same Spirit that was there in the womb of Mary, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, who led the Son of God into the womb from zygote to embryo to the manger. Holy Spirit led to Egypt to Nazareth, to baptism and descended upon Him in an anointing to affirm Him as the Christ – Prophet, Priest and King. Then the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness where the Second Adam withstood the temptations – He who would know no sin – was led to the Mount of transfiguration in the Shekinah glory of the Spirit that enveloped in the Old Testament, now envelopes Him on the Mount with Moses and Elijah who are with Him as witnesses. Then the Holy Spirit leads Him to Calvary and then brings Him from the tomb to triumph declaring Him to be the Son of God to glory. The Christ who is now in glory sends His Spirit to you.

Who is in you? It is the One who was with Jesus in the wilderness from the tomb, the One who was with Him when He was rejected by His own. That Spirit, the Spirit of Christ is with you. Because the Spirit of Christ is in you, Christ is in you. Now we see the fulfillment of Matthew 28 when He says “I will be with you even to the end of the age.” How is the Second Person of the Trinity with His glorified body in heaven with me here? The Spirit of the Living God who was with Him He has sent to you and when He is in you then Christ is in you, the hope of glory. He has brought you to be with that Christ.

If I say to you ‘God the Father’ or ‘God the Son’ what is your reaction? When I think of God the Father I grew up with a big daddy and that evokes all kinds of stuff to me. There is intimacy. There is confidence. There is security and provision. Then when I think of God the Son I think family, relationships, warmth and relational dynamics. When I say ‘God the Holy Spirit’ what does that evoke within you? It’s kind of cold, immaterial, impersonal, intangible and it feels distant. That is why you have to know His Name. Holy – He is unlike anyone or anything else and He dwells in you.

*Ruwach* is Spirit in the Old Testament. *Pneuma* is Spirit in the New Testament. In the Old Testament He is called Spirit (*Ruwach*) 90 times and 250 times He is *Pneuma* in the New Testament. When you think of the word *pneuma* we get pneumatic, pneumonia and it could also be translated breath, wind, and zephyr. In other words, this is the Person of powerful presence that always brings a felt reality to His presence.

Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be born of the Spirit and then takes the very word and puts it into a metaphor. The wind, Spirit, *pneuma*, blows where it wishes for you don't know where it's coming from or where it's going but you hear the sound of it. You feel it, know it, hear it and there is that effect when that breath blows. When I was East Carolina University I had a part time job in a tobacco field and in July working in that field I was always wanting to feel that wind. I couldn't make it come but when it came it was so refreshing and it was renewal. Oh the presence of the breath of God! It is the personal, powerful presence of God the Father who promised Him and God the Son with whom He was who has sent Him to you that is in you and leading you.

Here is your takeaway. As a Christian I am not alone, I am never alone and I will never be alone; therefore I will not, I must not live as if I am 'on my own.' That is the flesh. You have an enemy outside of you that is Satan who wants you to think you're alone and on your own. You tell him, 'no, I'm never alone. I have the Father in me and Christ in me because I have the Spirit of the Father and Spirit of Christ within me who is the Holy Spirit and His presence is making Himself known in His felt breath upon me.' It is renewing me and refreshing me. He is renewing me and refreshing me and His presence is at work within me. He is not just power for He is a Person who brings power and you can see the effects of it like you could when breath is exhaled upon a paper or when the wind blows and you can see the trees move and feel it upon you. I can feel His personal presence.

We also have an old man in us that keeps saying 'don't worry you can handle this. You can do this on your own.' You need to remember that Satan I'm not on my own for Holy Spirit is in me therefore the Father and the Son are at work within me. None of us are where we want to be but praise God I'm not where I was. I'm not doing what I ought to be doing but praise God I'm not doing all that I used to be doing. I'm not sinless but praise God I sin less and I didn't do it on my own that was Holy Spirit with His Word and by His grace that is at work within me. My life is in His hands. My life is being shaped by His hands. My life is secured by His hand and His presence. He is the promise of the Father. He was sent by the Son and He dwells within me therefore the Father and the Son are at work within me.

I have a lifesaving Companion. I have a life giving Companion for He brought me from death unto life. I have a life transforming Companion for He took me from the dominion of sin to the dominion of grace and He is growing me in His grace. I have a life witnessing Companion for He is constantly bearing witness with me. I am a son of God and I belong to God. The God of glory is my Father and the God of glory and majesty in Jesus is my Savior and Redeemer. In a broken world when I am getting bruised up He is bearing witness saying 'call out son, Abba Father!' I have a lifelong Companion for He will never leave me nor forsake me. He is a Companion and I can grieve Him, quench Him, ignore Him or embrace Him. It is not brace it but embrace Him.

When He is in me, the One who promised Him, then by Him He also is in me, the Father. The One who sent Him is in me. Christ is in me. Because the One who is in me is holy, one of a kind, unique, He is at work to get rid of my idols so that I am uniquely owned by Jesus, that I who am possessed by Him will make the Lord my God my possession. I am Yours and

You are mine so that I am set apart to pursue holiness because Holy Spirit is in me. I know Him who led me from sin to the Savior, from death to life, who is leading me from fear to the triumph of Christ in my Father and who will lead me all the way to glory. I know He will never leave me nor forsake me.

There may not be many hymns about the Spirit but I thank God for them that we can sing of Him and to Him who is in us – powerfully present, refreshing, blowing upon us, moving us from ourselves to our Savior. We can sing the hymn *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* which says;

*Sweet Holy Spirit... sweet heavenly dove...  
Stay right here with us  
Filling us with Your love*

*And for these blessings  
We lift our hearts in praise  
Without a doubt we know  
That we'll have been revived  
When we shall leave this place!*

Good news is that He never leaves His place for He is in you to be with you. I am not alone. Without Him I can do nothing but I can do all things through Him for Christ. I am not on my own. He is with me all the way until I will be with my Savior, no longer by faith but face to face. Come on the journey if you haven't. The Son of God has loved you. The Spirit of God will lead you. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You that the hymn *Guide me Great Jehovah* has been fulfilled in that precious work of the Holy Spirit. If there is someone reading this that has been led by Holy Spirit to hear of this Jesus whom the Holy Spirit led the Son of God to the redeeming work of the cross and then from the tomb in triumph, Holy Spirit lead that one today to Jesus from the tomb of sin to the triumph of salvation. Father, for all of us who know You as Lord and Savior, help us know who is our Companion, who has our life in His hands, who gives us life in the name of Christ who is our life, who shapes our life and who will take us and never leave us throughout our life. Holy Spirit we welcome You. Holy Spirit make us Your dwelling place for Jesus' sake, Amen.

### Power Point

- From sin and condemnation to the Savior and salvation
- From the Mind set on the flesh to the Mind set on the Spirit
- From the Wages of sin to the Inheritance of Christ
- From the Orphanage of sin to the Family of God
- From fear to the Father

### MEETING THE THIRD PERSON OF THE TRIUNE GOD

#### LIFE TAKEAWAY

As a Christian I am not alone, I am never alone and I will never be alone; therefore I will not, I must not live as if I am "own my own."