

III. The Holy Spirit in Biblical Perspective

Led by the Spirit

“The Spirit of Christ in You”

Romans 8:1–17

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January 31, 2016 – Morning sermon

We are in a five-part series in Romans 8. We will be looking at a number of texts in this study. 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.

I’m going to take you back to the years I was in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade. I’d come home at 3:15pm, have an egg salad sandwich and then do chores till 4pm. From 4pm to 5pm I would get to sit and watch my two favorite programs. One of them was the Mickey Mouse Club which you now can see on a cable station called TV Land and the other was the Adventures of Spin and Marty. Then came another one that came on at 4:30pm with its opening statement that exhilarated me and then there was always a moment in every episode that captivated me. I’ll tell you what that program and moment was for me toward the end of the study.

In this study we want to look at the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of Christ in you. Think about how Christ is in you. How can Christ be in you? Jesus came into this world, became the Son of Man, went to the cross, died for our sins, rose victoriously, ascended to heaven and He is now at the right hand of the Father enthroned in heaven. He will be there until the fullness of time until He comes again for His people. So if He is there how can He be here in

us? Why is it that the Bible makes a big deal out of this? The Bible says, the mystery has now been revealed, Christ in you the hope of glory. Christ says when He ascended to heaven that He will be with us to the end of the age.

So He promised to be with me to the end of the days and the hope of glory is Christ in me but You're at the Father interceding for me right now, so how can You be there and in me? Then you come to this Romans 8 text that has these multi-dynamic layers of the Holy Spirit, Spirit of God and then this captivating statement, 'the Spirit of Christ dwells in you.' That's a very important phrase that is used. Romans 8:1–17 is what I call the Hallelujah Chorus about the Person and work of the Holy Spirit in our life that sets up Romans 8:28–39. By the way, Paul doesn't even mention the Holy Spirit in the previous chapters except one time. Then when you get to this point he gives us this explosive statement about the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He says if you don't have the Spirit of Christ then you don't have Christ but the Spirit of God is in you so those of you who are led by the Spirit these are the sons of God.

So we are taking this entire year to figure out what it means to be led by the Spirit. In our first study we found out that whenever the Bible uses the verb led it is always from something to something on purpose. We found out in Romans 8:1–17 that the Spirit of God is leading us from five things to five things with purpose. The first one is He leads us from sin and condemnation to the Savior and salvation. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. He has set us free from the law of sin and death and its dominion, shame, fear and all that comes with it.

Secondly, He has set us free from the mind of the flesh to the mind of Christ, to think after Christ, to think Biblically, to think with a Christian mind. The Spirit of God is doing that in our life. Thirdly, He has set us free from the wages of sin which is death to the inheritance of God. We are inheritors in Christ of life and all of its benefits in Christ. Fourthly, He has set us free from the orphanage of sin to the family of God. Fifthly, He has set us free from fear to the Father. We cry out 'Abba Father' with confidence in our Father.

In the last study we looked at the Holy Spirit that is within us and we tried to get a sense of who He is. He is not distant. He is personal. He is not just a power but He is powerful. He is this personal, powerful presence that is life changing that is within us. He is a personal presence of power. He is not an it. It is not a what. It is who. We learned that 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.

Satan keeps trying to tell you that you're by yourself. He tries to isolate you. Then there is an old man within you that tells you that you can do this on your own. You say 'no' to the intimidation of Satan and say 'no' to the arrogance of the old man within you. Praise God He will never leave me alone and I will never be alone. He will never forsake me. He is with me therefore I refuse to live as if I am on my own. I live in Christ, by Christ, for Christ because of the Spirit of Christ who lives within me. In our church vows we say 'in humble reliance upon Divine grace and the power of the Holy Spirit I will endeavor.' There is always that full dependency for I will never live as if I'm on my own. I depend on Him and He is personally present through the Spirit of Christ who is within me.

So how is Christ there in me? Romans 8:9–10 says [9] *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit (because the Spirit of God dwells in you), if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ (the Holy Spirit of the Anointed One) 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. It says it three different times and three different ways in Romans 8 so why is there so much importance to it?

I want you to think about three things here—who God is (God is Spirit), Christ in you and the Spirit of Christ in you. In John 4 Jesus meets the woman at the well. She asks Him a question about worship. Jesus says to her that it's not where you worship but it's how you worship. You worship in Spirit and in truth. He says 'God is a Spirit' and they who worship must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. In our catechism we learn God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal in His being, wisdom, justice, power, goodness, holiness and truth. God the Father is a Spirit. God the Son is a Spirit. God the Holy Spirit is a Spirit. From eternity the infinite God of glory is a Spirit until about 2000 years ago.

Two thousand years ago God sends His Son who is a Spirit into this world to take upon Himself a true body and a true soul because by a man comes death and by a man must come the resurrection of the dead. He doesn't give up His deity but He humbles Himself by taking on humanity and now He has a body. I think most of us think of the Incarnate Christ as being eternal but that was just 2000 years ago, but it will be forever and that's why you will be able to see God someday. You will see the glorified Christ in His glorified body but until 2000 years ago God the Son was a Spirit and then He took upon Himself a body because the Father had promised a Messiah. So the Son of God is the Promised One who would come as the Messiah, the Anointed One – the Prophet who would give the Word, the Priest who would bring the sacrifice and be the Sacrifice for our sins and the King who would be the Shepherd King of our souls to bring us to glory. So the Son takes upon Himself humanity.

Then the Father fulfills a second promise and that was to send Holy Spirit upon His Incarnate Son, the Christ. Now this Spirit (Holy Spirit) who comes upon Christ will be with Christ from the womb back to the throne and then from the throne this Christ will send this Spirit who was with Him, upon us to bring us to Christ. That is why Paul is taking great pains to say the Christ so you can know something about Holy Spirit who is within you. He is the Spirit of Christ so when He is in you Christ is in you and the One that is in you was with Christ all the way to victory. Now He will come to you from that victory being sent by Christ in order to bring you to victory.

When I was at Alliance Youth Fellowship we had sword drills or Bible drills and in this study we will be doing that because of all the passages I want to show you about this. I want you to document some things in your Bible. I want to try and affirm this for you so we'll start by looking at John 1. So all three Persons are Spirit until 2000 years ago and then Son of God who is a Spirit becomes Son of Man and takes upon Himself a body. He has a human body with human weaknesses and frailties therefore the Father sends the second promise, the Holy Spirit upon Him for the victory of the Christ. The Holy Spirit comes to affirm Him, to empower Him and to be with Him and in Him. Then when the Christ rises victorious by the Spirit, He then from the throne pours forth the Spirit of Christ (Holy Spirit in Him) upon you and He does in you what Christ has purchased for you empowered by the Spirit and what He did in Christ for you to walk through what Christ has done in you as He walked with Christ to do it for you.

John 1:29–34 says [29] *The next day he (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! [30] This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' [31] I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."* [32] *And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. [33] I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with*

water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' [34] And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

Jesus comes into this world and is baptized with the Holy Spirit to empower Him to accomplish what He has been called to do in this human body. Then when Jesus rises victoriously He baptizes the sons of God that the Son of God has purchased to bring them to Himself and to glory. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus and led Jesus all through His life all the way to the cross and then back to the throne. That is what He came to do but I want you to see it in the Bible how Holy Spirit empowered Him with His personal presence, rested upon Him, was with Him, was in Him and led Him from the throne to deal with our sins on the cross and then from the tomb back to the throne. Then when He gets to the throne He sends that same Spirit who was with Him upon you whom He has purchased in the power of the Spirit.

Here are the eight benchmarks in the life of Jesus so have your Bibles ready. The first one is the Holy Spirit was with Jesus at conception. Here Mary is told she will give birth and this is her reaction. Luke 1:34–35 says [34] *And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"* [35] *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.* He is becoming the Son of Man. Remember – Spirit led, from to. From the throne He is led to the humility of the womb and the Holy Spirit is there from zygote to embryo to the birth in the manger. The Holy Spirit is upon Him as the Son of Man, the Spirit of Christ.

He is also with Him in His formation. Luke 2:52 says [52] *And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.* This verse sums up the life of Jesus in formation before He begins His public ministry. He grew in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man by the Holy Spirit for the Spirit was with Him to help Him grow in this and the Bible says so. It was prophesied that the Holy Spirit would produce this. Isaiah 11:1–3 says [1] *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.* [2] *And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.* [3] *And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear.* So how does Jesus have this? It is because the Spirit of God was upon Him in His formation where He grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and with man.

Thirdly, the Spirit of God was with Him in His ordination as Prophet, Priest and King which occurred at His baptism in obedience with Numbers 8. Let's look at that moment in Mark 1. Mark 1:9–11 says [9] *In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.* [10] *And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.* [11] *And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."* A prophet and king could begin their ministry at any time but a priest could only begin at age 30 so Jesus at age 30 comes to the ordination service of being baptized as water (according to Numbers 8) is poured upon Him and sprinkling Him clean. As He steps up to come out of the water the Father in obedience to His promise pours forth the Spirit upon His Son in the ordination to His public ministry and the Spirit of God is upon Him. Now He will lead Him as Prophet, Priest and King for His three year public ministry.

See how the Holy Spirit led Him from the womb to the tomb by leading Him from the womb into formation into childhood and led Him all the way to His ordination. Then He was

poured out upon Him in affirmation of His ordination. Now where will He lead Him to? Let's look further down in Mark 1.

Mark 1:12–13 says [12] *The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.* [13] *And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.* So fourthly the Spirit is with Him in His temptation in the wilderness where the Holy Spirit drives Him out to do battle with Satan. He withstands all the temptations – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. The lust of the flesh – are you hungry, then command these stones to become bread. Man shall not live by bread alone and the Spirit bears witness to every Word of God. Then the lust of the eyes – see all the kingdoms for they can be Yours. Jesus says 'be gone Satan! For that's not yours to give.' The Spirit of God enabled Him as He withstands the lust of the flesh and eyes. Then he says 'are you the Son of God, then show Yourself and throw Yourself down from the pinnacle of the temple for He'll bear You up if You are who You say You are' which was the temptation of the boastful pride of life. Jesus says 'you shall not tempt the Lord your God.'

Do you see how the Spirit of God took the Second Adam to do battle with Satan against his temptations for His people? The first Adam was in a garden and the Second Adam was in the wilderness. The first Adam had everything. The Second Adam is fasting forty days and the Spirit of God drove Him out and empowered Him so that the Word of God was called upon and Satan had to leave Him. So now what happens when He comes out of the wilderness to start His ministry?

Now we see the next step in His life and ministry where the Spirit is with Him in His vocation or occupation. Luke 4:14 says [14] *And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.* He begins His ministry in the power of the Spirit. Then in three years the Holy Spirit leads Him from His ministry to the cross for us.

Sixthly, the Spirit is with Him in His crucifixion. Do you see how the Spirit upon the Christ is leading Him, upon Him, with Him, in Him through every part of His life? Hebrews 9:13–14 says [13] *For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, [14] how much more will the blood of Christ (at the cross), who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.* The Holy Spirit led Him from His ministry to the cross. From the cross Jesus goes to the tomb but He is not going to stay there because the Holy Spirit is not through yet. The Holy Spirit will bring Him up out of that tomb.

Seventhly, the Spirit is with Him in His resurrection. Romans 1:1–4 says [1] *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, [2] which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, [3] concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh [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.* In other words, who was it who brought Jesus from the tomb? It was the same One who led Him to the cross and brought Him forth out of the tomb.

One of my favorite texts on the resurrection is the Gospel of John. In John it says that the stone was thrown away from the tomb. People have always thought it was rolled out but it was thrown out. It didn't just roll down the trough but it was thrown out. I don't know how far away it was from the tomb but who had the power to do that? The Spirit of God blew that stone away and Christ comes forth for you can go in and bear witness that the tomb is empty. The

Spirit of God brought Him forth but the Spirit is not through yet for He is going to take Him all the way back to the throne.

So the last one is, the Spirit of God is with Him in His ascension. We see this in John 16:7 which says *[7] Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away (back to the throne), for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him (Holy Spirit, Spirit of Christ, the Helper) to you.* The Holy Spirit who was with Him from the womb into childhood, into His ordination, into the temptation to His vocation, to the crucifixion, to His resurrection and ushering Him back to the throne, now Jesus at the throne sends that same Spirit who was with Him now to you. The Spirit of Christ is upon you. The same Spirit that came upon Jesus has come upon you, who affirmed Him and who is affirming you as the sons of God.

The Spirit who was with Him at His conception is now with you when you're born again. The same Spirit who formed Jesus is the same Spirit who is forming you to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. The same Spirit who has affirmed Jesus as the Christ is poured out upon you and has sealed you as the son of God. He bears witness so that you cry out 'Abba Father!' The same Spirit who led Jesus into the battle now leads you into the battle. The same Spirit who leads Jesus from the tomb leads you from the tomb of sin to be born again and from the tomb of this world to be brought to the Savior. The same Spirit who brings Jesus back to the throne will bring you to be a joint heir with Jesus Christ.

Here is the takeaway. The Spirit of God sent by the Father to lead Christ has been sent by Christ to lead you from sin and self to grace and glory. I want to look at one more passage in Acts 2 where the Holy Spirit has been poured out and this is what Peter says. Acts 2:32–33 says *[32] This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. [33] Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.* This Spirit who was with Him throughout all of His ministry and now this ascended Jesus takes this same Spirit and baptizes you with that Spirit. So the Spirit of Christ is upon you and therefore Christ is in you.

Now I want to conclude by giving you my favorite program that came on Monday through Friday at 4:30 pm. Some of you are too young to know this so you have to wait about every five to six year for a movie about this. I was able to see a 30 minute program everyday growing up. Here is how the program would start; 'Kellogg's the greatest name in cereal now presents the Adventures of Superman. Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall buildings at a single bound! Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Superman! Yes, it's Superman in a never-ending battle for truth, justice and the American way.' My other favorite moment in that program was when the crisis hit and Clark Kent would first rip off his glasses. There would always be an empty telephone booth or empty janitor's closet or empty office and he would walk in wearing the clothes of Clark Kent but came out wearing tights and a cape because he was Superman.

Do you know where Romans 8 is leading us? It will lead us to the end of the chapter and it will tell us that we are 'upernikaw' which is translated 'more than conquerors.' The word 'uper' is what we get the word *super* from and 'nikaw' is what we get the word *Nike* from which costs you money but actually it's a gift. You are more than a conqueror through Him who loved you and has given His Spirit to you. He takes you from death unto life. He takes you into the battle. Yes we go into the closet of conversion with the garments of sin, shame and fear and come out with the riches and the garments of Christ that clothes us. There is no condemnation to

us. We come out still with an old man in us but we have the new man that is at work within us. It is the power of Christ who has set us free.

From sin's penalty we have been eradicated. Sin's power has been emancipated. When we falter that same Spirit will be right there to pick us up. He will be right there to carry us from victory to victory and glory to glory. Yes, we need to be broken but God's objective is not brokenness. God's objective is that God breaks us in order to bring us to be 'upernikaws' in Christ and Christ in you by the Spirit of Christ that is within you. So you stand firm because greater is He that is within you than he who is in the world. You stand innocent because He bears witness that your sins are forgiven. You stand forgiven because He has eradicated all charges. If God be for us who can be against us?

Romans 8:33–39 says [33] *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.* [34] *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.* [35] *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?* [36] *As it is written,*

*“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

[37] *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* [38] *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The Spirit of Christ bears witness of this for 'I am yours and you are Mine and I will never leave you nor forsake you.' Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be in Your Word together. Dear friend you have heard of Holy Spirit taking Jesus to the cross to pay for your sins and Holy Spirit coming to bring you to Him so as He is calling you now would you come to Him if you've never come to Him? Holy Spirit is leading you to Christ with His purchased victory and the journey of growing in grace with the same Spirit who was with Jesus to save you is now with you to bring you to the Savior. Say "I'm a sinner. Sweet Holy Spirit, thank You for bringing me to Jesus. Jesus I come to You." If you're in Christ it is because the Spirit of Christ brought you to Him and that is the same Spirit that was with Christ. Because He is with you Christ is with you and He will bring you to be with Christ, no longer by faith but by sight – from being conceived to born again, in your formation by grace. Oh praise His Name and His patience with us. Not only is He with you there but He has ordained you as the sons of God. He leads you into the battle. We are in the battle against sin and to win sinners to Christ with truth and love. We lead people to The Way, to Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Praise God! His Spirit is upon you, on you, resting in you, striving for you and securing you to the day of glory by His grace. Jesus thank You, make Your people know all of the joys of the victorious Christ for I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Power Point

- From sin and condemnation to Savior and salvation
- From Mind of the flesh to Mind of the Christ

- From Wages of sin to the Inheritance of Christ
- From the Orphanage of Sin to the Family of God
- From Fear to the Father

“THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST DWELLS IN YOU”

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.”

GOD IS SPIRIT

THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST IN YOU

CHRIST IN YOU

- I. Conception – Luke 1:31–35
- II. Formation – Luke 2:52 – Isaiah 11:1–3
- III. Ordination – Mark 1:9–11
- IV. Temptation – Mark 1:12–13
- V. Vocation – Luke 4:14
- VI. Crucifixion – Hebrews 9:14
- VII. Resurrection – Romans 1:4
- VIII. Ascension – John 16:7

LIFE TAKEAWAY

The Spirit of God sent by the Father to lead Christ has been sent by Christ to lead you from sin and self to grace and glory.