

The Spirit Dwells in You Romans 8.9-11

Intro

If one would ask a group of Christians from various denominations - "When did you receive the Holy Spirit?" - one may find a number of answers.

The Pentecostal Christian might respond with an emphasis on the time after their conversion when they prayed to and experienced the filling of the Spirit - a second experience of the Holy Spirit

For the conservative Baptist or Presbyterian or even many in this church they might place emphases on the moment of their conversion as the time in which they received the Holy Spirit.

Which view is correct? Well, at least broadly, both are correct for the Holy Spirit is received at conversion and in the healthy Christian life the Spirit continues to be received after conversion.

Biblically speaking we may delineate between the two by thinking of receiving the Holy Spirit in 2 ways - the indwelling of the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit

Indwelling = one-time occurrence at the moment of conversion

Filling = continuous and ongoing

For instance, consider the book of Acts. The disciples of Jesus receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit poured out in a more fulsome way than ever before on the day of Pentecost in chapter 2 yet we read that some of these disciples when facing persecution in chapter 4 pray asking God to strengthen them to continue proclaiming the Gospel with boldness and the Spirit is poured out afresh, the room is shaken and the disciples experience the power of the Spirit again - 4:31 "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness"

Ephesians 5:18 we are exhorted to be filled with the Spirit - which does not describe a onetime "filling" but an ongoing pattern of life for the Christian

It would seem perhaps in some circles - especially in charismatic circles which we would consider ourselves connected to as we believe that the gifts of the Spirit continue in our day and have not ceased - it would seem sometimes that this filling and more dramatic demonstrations of God's power receive the most attention and gets the headlines and we are grateful for God manifesting the miraculous according to his Sovereign will and we should rightly cry out to God daily for fresh filling and experiences with him.

But listen the reality that the Spirit dwells within us at conversion is a most stunning and glorious reality that should never be minimized or even subtly relegated to the background. The often quiet, seemingly ordinary activity of the Holy Spirit living in us is beyond precious.

In Romans 8 - the apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit has been teaching us that the Christian life is life in the Spirit of God - there is no other kind of Christianity.

In our text Paul highlights the indwelling of the Spirit and helps us to understand and exalt in the Spirit's work in us - the birthright of every Christian

This morning we are not after mere theological information - though we treasure the truth of God revealed to us through his Word

My prayer is that we may reacquaint ourselves or more deeply acquaint ourselves with the "ordinary" activity of the Spirit and experience him in deeper measure - and that God would provoke gratefulness for his activity in our lives and hunger and thirst for more of his activity as we ask and pray to be filled again and again with the Spirit.

Three realities in this text that help us understand the significance of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

1. You belong to God
2. You are Spiritually Alive
3. You Will Live Forever

I. You Belong to God

- A. Here's where we've come so far in chapter 8 over past weeks
 1. v. 1 no condemnation for the Christian - not condemned for our sin - none left - taken out of the realm and possibility of being condemned by God
 - a) Because the Holy Spirit has come into our lives - liberating us from the crushing, unbearable burden of being good enough for God to accept us - as the Spirit applies the victories of the risen Christ of the cross - righteousness imputed to us to make us stand without fear before God - changing the entire trajectory of our existence.
 - b) No longer live in the realm of the flesh - that realm into which all of us are born - the realm where our hearts are charmed and enraptured by what the world offers
 - (1) False promises of deliverance and peace through wealth accumulation, sexual release, power and so forth
 2. Transferred into the realm of the Spirit - life under the authority of the Spirit of God - our hearts now charmed, fascinated, enraptured and renewed by the things of the Spirit
 - a) Though we still find the echoes of the flesh reverberating in our lives - temptations to love the world - now we gladly make it our aim to please God as we rejoice that in being made right before him in Christ, we are ABLE to please him in the grace, strength he provides to us - undeserving yet justified sinners
 - (1) Unlike those who continue to live in the flesh - those who have not trusted Christ who - v. 8 cannot please God
- B. Our text verse 9 - YOU, however are not in the flesh but in the Spirit
 1. Note Paul moves from general about the Spirit in the life of the Christian in v. 1-8 to personally addressing the Roman church - and in effect he looks us directly in the eye and says YOU - you may rightly hear God addressing you personally here beloved
 2. "YOU 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"
 - a) As we have seen in chapter 8 - Paul isn't addressing different kinds of Christian - spiritual and carnal, fleshly Christians - "really spiritual or not so much" he is identifying a binary reality - 2 options - you either have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you and are therefore a Christian or you don't and you aren't

- b) Paul says here that if one does not have the Holy Spirit living within them, they do not belong to God - which means conversely then those who have the Spirit DO belong to God
 - (a) What a marvelous revelation and declaration of God's kindness and grace v. 9 - for we find here that he is not merely present with us in some abstract sense - he DWELLS in us by his Spirit
 - i) This dwelling speaks to his making his home within us

Illustration: One "visits" a hotel - One "dwells" in their home

- c) As we take hold of the Lord Jesus Christ with the empty hands of faith - God comes and makes his dwelling - his home in us and spreads the arms of his grace and power and holiness around our lives - enveloping our existence - declaring "YOU ARE MINE!" "YOU Belong to me!"
 - (1) We know we belong to him because we have been bought at the highest cost - the precious blood of the Jesus Christ - this indwelling of the Spirit is all just as he promised

[16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. [18] "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19] Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [20] In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. (John 14:16-20)

- 3. Note Jesus says he will send the Helper to be with us forever - "dwells with you and will be in you" - further in this promise Christ says "I will not leave you as orphans - I WILL come to you - v. 20 "I in you" - we see this trinitarian perspective in v. 9
 - a) The Spirit
 - b) The Spirit of God - Father
 - c) The Spirit of Christ
 - (1) The person of the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son and communicates the very presence of Christ into our lives - yet he is not the Son or the Father but is the SPIRIT - the glorious 3rd person of the Trinitarian Godhead - our text is used to help us build our biblical doctrine of the Trinity -
 - (2) Well worth pondering the mystery and wonder of the Godhead 3 in 1 but where our limited intellects bump up against the infinity of God the only right response is TO FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP
 - (a) Out of the fullness of the Godhead the Spirit dwells in us - communicating to us the presence of the risen Christ and the love of the Father
- C. So - as we trust in Christ - God by his Spirit comes to dwell - to live within us - sets his stamp of ownership on us - he becomes our live-in landlord
- D. Application
 - 1. Oh, there is much comfort and joy for us here - almost unimaginable grace - that we - though weak, undeserving and yes - sinful - Christ has died for us while sinners - purchasing our souls with his blood and coming to us by the Holy Spirit to dwell - to live within us - assuring us that we are God's and he will never let us go

2. Comfort for us in loneliness or doubts about God's heart toward you - YOU...YOU BELONG TO SO GOOD AND KIND A GOD - HE...HE HAS COME TO DWELL WITHIN YOU!
 - a) Let his dwelling in you bring you comfort and peace - you have the very SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLING IN YOU
3. Certainly, this orients the way we think about how we live our lives

[18] Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. [19] Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

If the Spirit of God dwells in the Christian, how careful should he be, lest anything in his thoughts or feelings would be offensive to this divine guest! (Charles Hodge, *Romans*, p. 263)

- a) The realization that we belong to God and his Spirit dwells in us is a strong deterrent in the face of temptation
 - (1) I have been bought with the blood of Christ and belong to him - I have the Spirit of God in me - how can I do this great wickedness and sin against God - sin against this divine guest? Worldliness decisions
4. Because you have the Holy Spirit dwelling within you - you can know that you belong to God

II. You Are Spiritually Alive

- A. v. 10 if Christ is in you - we have established he is for the Christian - the body is dead because of sin...hmmmm?
 1. While born again and indwelt by the Spirit - as you well know - we still live in the reality of our fallen human flesh - we continue to experience the corruption of our bodies - the decay and eventual physical death we all face
 - a) The experience of exhaustion in our busy lives
 - b) Sickness - disease - cancer - pain
 - c) We are all wasting away physically and advancing toward death - even the fittest among us - all the Jack Lalanne juicers in the world cannot conquer our enemy death

The moment we enter into this world and being to live, we also begin to die. Your first breath is one of the last you will ever take! ...the principle of decay, leading to death, is in every one of us. (Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

- B. Though we rejoice that God can and does work the miraculous in healing our bodies at times - I know not a Christian in this world who will withstand the reality that we have may have 70 years or by reason of strength 80 yet the end remains the same - death at work in our bodies

Illustration: so-called Prosperity Gospel - reprehensible heresy that the Gospel means that you should always be healthy and whole in this life if you just have enough faith - let you in on a little secret - they all will die

1. v. 10 Our bodies are wasting away but at the core of our Christian existence is bright, unwavering life in the Holy Spirit - the Spirit IS life within us
 - a) The Spirit is life because of righteousness?

- (1) Because the righteousness we need to stand before a Holy God has been procured by Christ and imputed through the Spirit - condemnation removed, wrath averted, dead souls raised - the life of God is at work in us through the indwelling of the Spirit - THE LIFE OF GOD IN THE SOUL OF MAN - ENERGIZING US TO PERSEVERE - TO PRESS ON - TO WAR AGAINST SIN - TO TRUST GOD IN EVERY SEASON - The Spirit is life dwelling in us!

Illustration: Consider the plight of one Colin Curtis of London, England. According to a 2016 article on the news site Daily Mail. Com - Mr. Curtis moved out of his home in Newbury Park in the late 90s after inheriting another property from his aunt. What Colin Curtis did not know until much later is that another man named Keith Best, without invitation, quietly began renovating Mr. Curtis three-bedroom home in 1997 eventually taking up residence there as a "squatter." Amazingly Mr. Best applied to take official ownership of the property in 2012 and in 2014 the British court declare Mr. Best the new owner under a "squatters' rights" law - all of this reportedly unbeknownst to the actual owner of this house until he was approached by the Daily Mail for comment,

Here's something you may not know - if you own a property there is provision in the law in some states that allow someone to move into your home unbeknownst to you and after satisfying certain requirements, they may take your home from you!

- living in the property for an extended period of time, improving the property - fixing it up - paying property taxes, and so forth. Watch your property my friends.

The Holy Spirit taking up residence in our lives is a very different reality - not an uninvited intruder - a welcome resident. He comes into the decaying and ruined mess of our lives - makes his home in us and breathes life into what was lost. Begins the work of renovation and improvement in our lives. Beautifying our lives. Making his mark over every inch of our lives. The body is dead because of sin - the Spirit is LIFE!

C. Application

1. Take heart - in this life we experience suffering, pain, death - beloved - THERE IS LIFE IN YOU! Life that cannot and will not be extinguished - the Spirit of life dwells in you!
 - a) While the outer self is wasting away - the inner self is being renewed day by day - while you may not get an answer to the "why" question in your suffering and pain - God says to you - I am with you - I am in you - I am the life you need

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

- b) You are alive in the Spirit - courage and hope in every battle with sin - draw deeply from the wells of life that is yours in the Spirit

People indwelt by the Holy Spirit still have problems, they still sin, they still make mistakes and have to offer apologies. They still suffer and weep and get sick and die, like everyone else. But if God has given you his Spirit you find within yourself a deepening spiritual mentality. You find that your former hostility to God is melting into tenderness toward God. Once you were defensive, now you are surrendered. Once you thought God would ruin your life, now you know that God is your only

happiness. You are now alive to God. You still struggle. You still waver. You still sin. But God is marking you as his own. (Ray Ortlund Jr., *Supernatural Living for Natural People*, p. 49)

2. You like those home renovation shows of which there appears to be no end - let me suggest as you see new life breathed into home wrecks that you make a connection to the Spirit at work in you - redeem our entertainments with thanksgiving

D. Because you have been indwelt by the Spirit - you belong to God, you are spiritually alive, and:

III. You Will Live Forever

- A. The life you have now in the Spirit is only the down payment, the foretaste of the life that is coming
- B. V. 10 "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"
 1. The Spirit of Christ yet not Christ for he raised Christ from the dead - mysteries of the Trinity
 2. Was Jesus raised from the dead to never die again in the power of the Holy Spirit? Just so, you who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit will also be raised from the dead to live forever
 - a) Our bodies experience death because of the corruption of sin that remains but that death is not the final word - RESURRECTION IS COMING! Just as certain as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead in glory and to everlasting life
 - (1) Lest we have a dualistic view of our souls and our bodies - you know - soul, spirit is good - physical bodies bad and to be shed in eternity - HE WILL GIVE LIFE TO YOUR MORTAL BODIES!
 - (a) The consummation of the salvation procured by the risen Christ of Calvary is eternal Shalom - integration of our souls and bodies - integration our deepest inner selves with the physical body God has given us - yet purged from sin, corruption and decay - GLORIFIED!
 3. Our future is not disembodied, ethereal existence - no our future is bodily, physical resurrection! Even those at this moment who are away from the body and with Christ - oh even they - though experiencing glories untold - they are waiting with anticipation for that which is coming - a new heavens and new earth at the return of Jesus Christ
 4. Living forever in the kingdom of God - alive and glorified
 - a) Meaningful work
 - b) Uncorrupted relationships
 - c) Reigning with him - in a world unstained by death and suffering
 - (1) Cancer - NO
 - (2) Anxiety - NO
 - (3) Sin and temptation - NO
 - (4) Suffering - NO
 - (5) Loss - NO
 - (6) Tears - NO
 - (a) AND THE LORD HIMSELF - THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF AS THE LIGHT - NO NEED OF SUN - EVERYWHERE EXPERIENCING AND KNOWING HIS EVERLASTING PRESENCE

(b) Revelation 22 after the revelation of new heavens and new earth of which Jesus says “surely I am coming soon” - ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD CRY AMEN! COME, LORD JESUS!

i) The Spirit who dwells with us now is the seal and guarantee of eternal life that is coming - we have life spiritual life now and he will consummate that life in the redemption and renewal of all things as we are raised to life!

C. Application

1. Because we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we have strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
2. CALL TO UNBELIEVERS - COME TO CHRIST AND BE FORGIVEN AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE
3. Begs the question - How will you live today in light of the long tomorrow?
 - a) Our certain hope of eternal life should produce in us a degree of risk-taking and sacrifice for the glory of God
 - (1) May God raise us up afresh as instruments of blessing - may we stop sitting on the sideline and reach out to a world that doesn't know Jesus
 - (2) Oh, that God would move in the hearts of some in this church to take hold of future glory and lay it all down for his name - even for the nations
 - (a) Oh, that God would raise up men and women who live for a world that has not yet come and will go to INDIA, NEPAL, AFRICA - TO THE NATIONS UNDER THE TERRIBLE THRALL OF ISLAM WHO DO NOT KNOW JESUS AND PROCLAIM HIM AND YES MAYBE EVEN DIE
 - i) TO BE RAISED IN GLORY - NO ULTIMATE LOSS ONLY GAIN
 - ii) MAY GOD BY HIS SPIRIT DO THIS KIND OF WORK IN US AND THROUGHOUT THIS CHURCH

Close

BEHOLD WHAT GOD HAS WROUGHT IN US AND FOR US IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING IN US

We belong to God
We are spiritually alive
We will live forever

See how good and mighty he is. This is ours and will never be taken from us. The Spirit will hold us fast until the end when we receive the inheritance.

See something more of the Spirit's work - build a desire for his activity - ask for fillings - expect God's eager response to our requests.

He has proven his mighty heart toward us. Let us press upward and inward into the privileges of the Holy Spirit so that God would receive the glory that is his due and the world would know there is a God in heaven who is building his kingdom in the hearts of ordinary men and women who long for his coming in the day of Christ Jesus.

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