

## Holy Spirit Series – Lesson 3

October 26, 2014

### I. Review:

Over the past several weeks we have looked at the Holy Spirit as 1) As an indescribably powerful force, 2) The Holy Spirit as a person (with a mind, will, and emotions) who has an intimate relationship with believers and not as a mysterious, impersonal force in our lives and 3) How the Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment, and how He saves us from our sin as the initiator and originator of our salvation.

Our third lesson will focus on how the Holy Spirit works in the lives of believers in three distinct areas:

1. ***The Holy Spirit Indwells Us***
2. ***The Holy Spirit Assures Us of our Salvation***
3. ***The Holy Spirit Helps Us***

### II. Scripture Context and Introduction:

#### ***Romans 8:1-8***

*1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.*

Paul begins by making this bold statement: **“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”** Paul clarifies this truth in verses 2 through 4 by explaining that ***the Holy Spirit*** has set believers free from the condemnation of sin through Christ’s fulfillment of the righteous requirement of God’s law in His death and resurrection.

Furthermore, Christ condemned sin in a way that humans could not (because we are sinful), and because of what Christ did, believers can – and will – walk according to the Holy Spirit’s leading. Then in verses 5 and 6 Paul differentiates what a non-believer sets their mind upon (what they want) with what a believer sets their mind upon (the things of the Holy Spirit). These mindsets lead to either death or life and peace.

Paul then completes this section by stating that “the mind that is set on the flesh [the mind of a non-believer] is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh [non-believers] cannot please God.” Simply put, NOTHING non-believers do can be pleasing to God.

### III. Discussion and Application: How Does the Holy Spirit Change Us (Part 2)?

With the groundwork of human sinfulness laid, Paul begins writing about the variety of ways the Holy Spirit changes us.

#### **1. The Holy Spirit Indwells Us:**

##### ***Romans 8:9-11***

*9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

Think on these five truths found within these verses as they relate to the Holy Spirit indwelling all believers:

1. YOU are in the Holy Spirit (v. 9)
2. The Holy Spirit of God dwells in YOU (v. 9)
3. Your body is dead because of sin, but the Holy Spirit has given YOU life because YOU are righteous in Christ (v. 10)
4. The same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in YOU (v. 11)
5. The Holy Spirit will raise your mortal body from the dead because the Holy Spirit dwells in YOU right now (v. 11)

#### **2. The Holy Spirit Assures us of Our Salvation:**

### **Romans 8:12-17**

*12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. 14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

Having presented the truth that the Holy Spirit indwells us, Paul logically begins explaining how the Holy Spirit assures us of our salvation as he continues on in Romans 8.

In verses 12 through 15 Paul calls us to not live according to our flesh and thus die. Rather, if we “put to death the deeds of the body” by the Holy Spirit, we will live. Paul explains that we can live through the Holy Spirit because “all who are led by the Holy Spirit are sons of God”, and that we “have received the Spirit of adoption as sons.” The Holy Spirit allows us to cry “Abba! Father!”

As we take into consideration that the Holy Spirit is the one that draws believers into salvation, He dwells within believers after salvation, and He continuously bears witness with our spirits to the Father that we are His children, our salvation is assured as “God cannot deny Himself” according to Paul in 2 Timothy 2:13.

Furthermore, Paul illuminates our assurance of being God’s children as he states that if we are God’s children, we are then heirs – “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ”!

### **3. The Holy Spirit Helps Us:**

#### **Romans 8:26-30**

*26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God. 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

The encouragement that Paul gives to believers is that he explains that the Holy Spirit’s help can come in three ways:

1. The Holy Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words (v. 26)
2. The Holy Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (v. 27)
3. The Holy Spirit is part of God’s sovereign plan of “all things working together for good” (v. 28-30)

### **IV. Small Group Discussion:**

1. *What does the fact that God purposefully places His Holy Spirit within His children teach us about God?*
2. *Why is it important that the Holy Spirit himself bears witness with us and on our behalf that we are God’s children?*
3. *How can the assurance of our salvation through the Holy Spirit provide help to us as we live out the Christian life?*
4. *How do you know the Holy Spirit desires and works to help you with weakness?*
5. *Did you previously think about the Holy Spirit praying for you? What does this mean to you and how can you use it?*
6. *How can we learn to pray for each other according to the will of God using the example of the Holy Spirit?*
7. *How do we know that the Holy Spirit is helping accomplish God’s sovereign plan in our lives?*