

Not Ashamed
(Week 20)
Romans 8:10-16
"In Christ Alone" (Part 2)

Introduction

The Eighth Chapter of *Romans* is a veritable treasure trove of all that we have been given in Christ Jesus! Paul tells us that all of these riches are both endowed and empowered by The Holy Spirit, Whom he mentions almost twenty times in this chapter. It is by The Spirit that we are baptized into Christ and receive our deliverance:

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus." **Romans 8:1**

And it is The Spirit who gives us our new nature in Christ.

"For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to The Spirit have their minds set on the things of The Spirit." **Romans 8:5**

So, as we discussed last week, The Spirit of The Living God has baptized us in Christ and Saved us, Set us free from the law of sin and death and come to live within us. But this my brothers and sisters is merely the beginning of what The Spirit wants to do in those of us who are in Christ!

As we continue on through the Eight Chapter of *Romans*, we begin to fully understand that a born again believer in Jesus will not only have a desire to stop sinning (because of his new nature), but he also has the power to overcome sin in his flesh. In short, a true Christian will not only **despise sin**, but also has been given everything that he needs to keep himself **from sin**. The lost person longs to sin and cannot help himself from sinning, because his spirit, the very thing that is meant to connect him to God, is dead.

"Now the mind-set of the flesh is death..." **Romans 8:6a**

But The Spirit has resurrected our spirits in Christ Jesus. Just as He rose from the dead, we too have been given newness of life.

"...but the mind-set of The Spirit is life and peace." **Romans 8:6b**

In **Romans 8:10-16**, Paul goes on to explain this newness of life that we are given in Christ. It empowers us to overcome the sin of our own fleshly bodies and serves to confirm in us that we have in fact been "adopted" as God's own beloved children. The indwelling of The Holy Spirit is not only our proof of salvation, but also, our assurance that we have been forever delivered from all condemnation in Christ Jesus.

This week we will take a closer look at the life of the child of God, who walks not according to the flesh, but instead, is empowered by The Spirit. It is a means by which God Himself has bestowed upon every believer to overcome the sin that so easily entangles us. For by The Spirit we have been given the power to live the kind of righteous and holy life that is pleasing and acceptable to God. So this week, as a continuation of last weeks study, we learn of two more gifts that have been bestowed upon us by The Spirit, in Christ Jesus. In Christ, we have been made Alive and have been Adopted. Please allow me to explain.

Alive In Christ (vs. 10-13)

"Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but The Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if The Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He Who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal

bodies to life through His Spirit Who lives in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by The Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **Romans 8:10-13**

Have you ever been listening to a preacher on the radio, or even in a church service, and he starts out with a statement something like: "Today we are going to talk about how to get rid of our sins and be alive in Christ." And you say to yourself, "That's awesome! This is something that I really need to work on. I can't wait to hear what he has to say." And then for the next hour or so you keep waiting for the guy to tell you how to overcome your sin, but that moment never comes. Oh, they go on and on about how we "should" get rid of sin, but most of the time, they never actually tell us how we "could".

Can I be honest here? We need a lot more "How-to" sermons in the world, and a lot less "Thou shalt" sermons (in my humble opinion). God's Word tells us how to live a Spirit filled life, and we ought to be teaching others just how to do that! Ok, I'm off my soap box now... needed to be said.

Paul tells us in **Romans Eight** that if Christ is in us, then our body is actually "dead to sin" and alive to righteousness (**vs.10**). Which tell us as believers, that we have the power to live a holy life before God. And trust me, if you have truly been born again, you **do** want that kind of life. Lost people long for sin, but saved people long for righteousness. Simple as that.

But Paul also told us in **Romans Seven** that if we try to stop sinning in our own human strength we will fail miserably. So, how do we "put to death" the sin in our bodies? By submitting to the leading of The Holy Spirit, that's how. The Spirit has the power to put a stop to any and all sin in us. He also has the power to lead us in the way that we should go. Paul tells us something here very similar to what he told the church at Ephesus.

"And if The Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He Who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit Who lives in you." **vs. 11**

So there you have it. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead... lives within you. He can enable you to stop sinning and live in righteousness. End of sermon right? Oh wait, I have explained to you what you "should do", but I still haven't told you how you "could do it". Correct? So how is it, Pastor, that I can live by The Spirit's Power? I'm so glad you asked! I want to give you a formula that leads to living life in The Spirit. It is made up of four "C's" :

Connection, Conviction, Correction, Comfort.

1. Connection

Do you realize that Jesus died so that you can pray? Think about that for a moment. According the the book of *Romans*, before Christ saved us, our spirits were dead. That means that we had absolutely no **connection** with God. If you want to see what this looks like just read the book of *Judges*. You will see a theme repeated over and over again.

"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did whatever seemed right to him." **Judges 21:25**

I like the **KJV** better here. It says that **"every man did what which was right in their own eyes"**. Can I tell you something? When Christ isn't on the throne of your life, that is exactly how you will live. You will do whatever you think is right, even when it isn't. And quite frankly, apart from God, we can't do anything right. Our very nature longs to do what is **not** right. Can I get a witness?

Well the good news is... Christ died so that your spirit could be connected with The Spirit of The Living God. So, instead of doing what is right in your own eyes, you have been

enabled to do what is right in The Eyes of The LORD. You have been connected to God through Jesus Christ. So what does that mean exactly? It means that you have no excuse not to pray! That channel has been reopened, and you can seek God's guidance in everything that you do. It is the very reason that Jesus came to die in the first place. So how is your prayer life? If you expect to be led by The Spirit, my friends, then you had better spend some serious time in communion with Him. We do that by **praying and studying** The Word of God. Our new nature longs to do things God's way, but the old one still wants to do what is right "in our own eyes". Staying connected is the only way that we can possibly live according to God's commands.

2. Conviction

If you have The Holy Spirit inside you, then HE will **convict** you when you sin. If you are only sorry when you get caught, then you more than likely do not have The Spirit within you! He will let you know that you were wrong LONG before anyone else knows anything about it! Jesus tells us in John 16 that one of the prime responsibilities of The Holy Spirit is to convict the world of sin.

"When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment." **John 16:8**

So how does that work? As you study the Word of God, as you stay connected with Christ in prayer, The Spirit shows you when you do not measure up to God's standard. He convicts you of the sin in your life. He encourages you to repent and do things God's way, in order that you may live a life that is **pleasing to God**. And believe me, if you have The Spirit living inside you, you will want this more than anything.

3. Correction

One of the most amazing things that I have learned about scripture is that it not only tells us what is the wrong thing to do, but it also shows us the right thing to do. The Spirit uses The Word to **correct** us. Let me give you an example: You are having your daily quiet time with God in prayer and *Bible* study. You are **connected**, as it were. As you are reading in your *Bible*, just like you do each day, you come across a passage of scripture that you have never noticed before.

"The wicked person borrows and does not repay, but the righteous one is gracious and giving." **Psalms 37:21**

When you read that, something resounds within you like a thunder strike. You remember a time, when you borrowed some money or some thing from another person, and you never paid them back. You thought it was long forgotten. You might have even been pleased with yourself that you had gotten away with it. But now, you are connected to Christ, and His Spirit has **convicted** you of that old sin. So what do you do now? Well, what does the scripture say? It says that the **"righteous are gracious and giving"**, which simply means that the child of God longs to give. Why? Because when we look at all that we have been given in Christ, we see all the debts that He has forgiven us. So what do you do? You immediately begin to find a way to pay back what you have taken. You long to be gracious, because of your new nature in Christ, and the grace you have received. Now, you have officially received **correction** from The Holy Spirit! And that is exactly how we **"put to death the deeds of the body and live"** (**Romans 8:13**).

4. **Comfort**

This is my favorite part... **Comfort**. Were you aware that The Holy Spirit is also known as "The Comforter"? Well, He is (**John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7**. To name a few). And do you know what The Spirit does when we stay connected to Him and heed His conviction and correction? He comforts us! He gives us the peace that comes with knowing that we are right with God. **Psalm 1** speaks of the comfort there is in knowing we are living according to God's will.

"How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in The LORD'S instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

Psalm 1:1-3

The Hebrew word translated "*happy*" in verse one carries with it the idea of being made straight. It is talking about the peace that comes from knowing that your course has been aligned with God's. There is peace and comfort in knowing that we are "straight" with God, that we are in His will and doing things His way. That is true comfort my friends!

So there you have it, Connection, Conviction, Correction and Comfort. This is what it means to be delivered from death unto life, to be "Alive in Christ". Our sinful flesh can have no mastery over us if we will simply allow ourselves to be led by The Spirit of God!

Adopted In Christ (vs. 14-16)

"For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received The Spirit of Adoption, by Whom we cry out 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children,...."

Romans 8:14-16

This is the very proof that we are God's own children, if we are being led by His Spirit! Those who do not have the heart's desire to be aligned with God, do not know God. It is as simple as that. But if we have been "adopted" into the family, then we no longer have to fear the condemnation for our sin, it has been removed from us forever:

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus." **Romans 8:1**

We don't have to be afraid anymore. We are in Him, and He is in us! We can cry out with all sincerity "Abba, Father!" Abba is an Aramaic word that is best translated "*papa*", or even "*daddy*". By the power of The Holy Spirit, we have received our adoption as God's own children. He is not a distant "Father", Who is disappointed in us. He is our Papa, Who delights in us. For you see, He delights in His Son, and we have been baptized INTO HIS SON! The Spirit has made us **one** with Christ. If you belong to Him this morning, then you are just as much a son or daughter of The Father as He is. The bond is inseparable. Of course, we do not deserve to be even mentioned in the same breath with Christ, but in Him, we have received this marvelous grace and can call on The Name of The LORD as our very own Father. Let me circle back around and say... Jesus died so that you could be Connected, receive Conviction and Correction and be Comforted! And by The Spirit, we are ever being reminded of our place in the family.

"The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

vs.16

And **THAT**, my brothers and sisters,... is as good as it gets!

So let all of **HIS** children say... TRUTH!!!