

Does the Spirit of Christ Dwell in You?

Romans 8:9-11 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, 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.

❖ He Who Has an Ear – Are You Listening?

- You are responsible for your listening... for your hearing.
- If you listen... God will give you more
- If you do not listen... God will take what you have
- **Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. ² Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.**

❖ Recap

- **1) The Mind Set on the Flesh Lives According to the Flesh**
- **2) Setting Your Mind on the Flesh is Death**
- **3) The Mind Set on the Spirit Lives According to the Spirit**
- **4) Setting Your Mind on the Spirit is Life and Peace**
- **5) The Mind of the Flesh is Hostile to God**
- **6) The Mind of the Flesh Cannot Submit to God**
- **7) The Mind of the Flesh Cannot Please God**

❖ Introduction

- **Much of what we gather from these 3 verses is in regards to Assurance**
 - Am I sure I am a child of God?
 - Anyone ever ask that question? How do I know? Paul answers it here...
- **And Paul is laying it out very clearly for us.**
 - There is more to understanding it than just what Paul says.
 - **But, He says it very matter of factly...**
 - Not to say there isn't more digging to do to fully understand what He is saying
 - But Paul is very straight with us this morning as to where we stand with God
- **This is why I began by imploring you to listen... to hear what the Spirit says...**
 - Do not overlook God's Word today... Listen and Examine!
- **So... I see 7 diamonds in these 3 verses...**
 - Beautiful gems that should make you happy if you have them
 - Or... they maybe they long for them if you do not...

❖ Outline

- 1) There is No Life Without the Indwelling Spirit
- 2) Those Who are "In Christ" are IN the Spirit
- 3) The Spirit Dwells within Those Who are "In Christ"
- 4) Belonging to Christ is for Those Who have the Spirit of Christ
- 5) Rejoice: Your Body is Dead Because of Sin
- 6) Your Spirit is Alive Because of Christ
- 7) God Will Give Life to Your Mortal Bodies

❖ 1) There is No Life Without the Indwelling Spirit

- **The Spirit is the Holy Spirit of God... the Spirit of God... the Spirit of Christ...**
- **Remember the results of being in the flesh...**
 - The results were death... hostility to God... inability to submit... unable to please God
 - This is not a great place to live...
 - Remember the analogy of the soldier in the enemy army...
 - No matter how good of a soldier he was... he was not pleasing to the king was he?
- **Here in these verses... Paul does not assume the reader has the Spirit...**
 - Paul's words of assurance are very conditional...
 - He uses the Word "IF" three times in these three verses...
 - He wants to make sure the readers understands that the promise of Life is conditional
- **Sin brought death to the entire human race...**
 - On the day that sin first entered into the world... death entered...
 - **Romans 5:13 ¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—**
 - Death came to men... Body, Soul and Spirit died that day in the garden...
- **Wake up and Listen to This:**
 - All men are Born Dead... Do you hear me? Does that shock you any?
 - You were Born Dead... Everyone of you... Do you question this?
 - **Look to God's Word... (King David... a man after God's own heart said this)**
 - **Psalm 51:5 (ESV) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.**
 - **Psalm 51:5 (NIV) Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**
 - ◆ There is more I can say to prove this... Hopefully this is enough...
 - So... if you were born dead... I am asking you now...
 - **HAVE YOU BEEN MADE ALIVE?**
 - Do you remember a time in your life where God awakened your Spirit to Jesus Christ?
 - ◆ If you can not remember a time... you are still dead... still lost in your trespasses and sins!
- **So... what do you do? How do you go from death to life? And how do you know it?**
 - Well.... The Spirit of God is your **assurance**... He is how You know...
 - And it is By **Faith** we Receive the Spirit of God
 - You ask... By **Faith** in What... well the Gospel concerning Jesus Christ...
- **The Gospel You must Believe in...**
 - God made man in His image... He is Holy and righteous in all His ways..
 - And we rebelled against God Almighty... We sinned against him willingly and knowingly
 - So, God send His Son... Jesus Christ... God in the Flesh... to become a man
 - He lived a perfect life on our behalf... He was tortured and killed to pay for our sins...
 - After being placed in a grave... this same Jesus rose bodily from the grave by His own power...
 - **And He offers forgiveness of sins and eternal Life for all who Believe on Him...**
 - But let me remind you... it is more than an intellectual belief...
 - It is a continual believing that leads to discipleship...
 - Truly saved men and women are disciples of Jesus Christ...
- **Now... considering that this has happened within you...**
 - What Paul has to say... is true for you... and it is the most Glorious thing ever!!!

❖ 2) Those Who are "In Christ" are IN the Spirit

- **⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit,**
- **However... you are not in the flesh...**

- Remember this is conditional... he goes on to say... “IF” in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you
 - And we remember that He dwells in us through Faith in Jesus Christ...
- So... if that is true... you are not in the flesh...
 - You are not dead any longer... no longer hostile toward God, unable to submit or please Him...
- **Rather... you are “In the Spirit” ... What does He mean here... “In”?**
 - This small little greek word sounds almost like our English word... “en”
 - It means in... or joined with... in union with... one with
 - Some define it is being in the “sway” or influence of the Spirit...
 - It is the idea of being enclosed or surrounded by something...
- **Here... we have been put “in” the influence of the Spirit of God...**
 - So... the Holy Spirit is working on us and leading us
- **Illustration:**
 - Probably the best way to describe it is the difference between being a civilian and in the military
 - You go from being under your own control to the control of an outside force...
 - Namely, the military... you are under their influence in all things...
 - Eating, sleeping, moving, being still... where you live, where and how you work...
 - Under their influence...
- **Question: Do you notice that you are under the influence of the Spirit of God?**

❖ 3) The Spirit Dwells within Those Who are “In Christ”

- ⁹if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.
- **If in fact... Paul is placing a conditional statement here for the reader...**
 - So... it would be appropriate to ask ourselves the question right here when we read it...
 - Does the Spirit in Fact dwell in me?
- **What is a fact?**
 - A Fact is the truth right? I am in fact right here right now... and my name is Avery...
 - You are sitting here in this church... that is a fact...
 - **You are all Faithful Christians... not necessarily a Fact....**
 - Some of you may not be Christians....
 - Some may not be faithful...
 - **Ask yourselves that question honestly and deeply this morning...**
 - Is it a fact that the Spirit of God dwells in me
- **Do you know what I think of as the opposite of a fact?**
 - You may think I would say... well... that would probably be... “a lie”
 - Rather, I would say... Wishful thinking!
 - Wishful thinking is not based on facts... it is not grounded on anything substantial...
 - Are you wishfully thinking you have the Spirit... or do you know in Fact He does?
- **The Good News: The Spirit of God dwells in those who are “IN Christ”**
 - This is such amazing news... God’s Spirit actually dwells in us...
 - Not only are we in the Spirit... Not only is He influencing us from outside of us...
 - Not only are we in the Spirit...
 - The Spirit of God is in us... and not just in us... but dwelling in us...
- **God dwells within the Person who is in Christ... by faith...**
- **The idea of dwelling here: What does Paul mean that God dwells in you...?**
 - Well... this word gets to the point very clearly...
 - The Spirit makes Himself at home within the believer..
 - He resides there... it is the idea of settling in...
 - The Spirit is not just here to influence you, He is making Himself comfortable...

- **Illustration:** Consider what occurs when you move into a new place to live....
 - We are all pretty familiar with this aren't we... most of us have done this...
 - And I do not think I am reaching here in this illustration...
 - I think God intends for us to take it this way
 - What do you do?.... first it has to be cleaned out right?
 - Got to get rid of stuff you do not need anymore...
 - Then you are probably going to repaint the entire house... you want a different look
 - You are also going to put in your furniture and your clothes...
 - You plan to get comfortable here in your new Home...
 - If the previous owner came back... He would not feel welcome... because it has new ownership
 - And this new owner is making the home His own

➤ **The Spirit is going to do this within you!**

- He is literally coming to live within you...
- You ask me how.... I do not know or understand how... I just know He resides within me
- I know that the Spirit is living within me, influencing my heart and my mind
- And not just outwardly... like the law would speak to me...
- But inwardly... a part of who I am now...
- He is cleaning things up within me... He let's His presence be known
- If He doesn't like something... He goes to work fixing it...
- And like most homes... they are usually a work in progress aren't they...
- We do not get everything done right away... there is always maintenance that needs to be done
- The Spirit is constantly at work dwelling within us....

❖ **4) Belonging to Christ is for Those Who have the Spirit of Christ**

- ⁹**Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.**

➤ **So... Paul puts it negatively here...**

- Anyone without the Spirit does not belong to Him...
- Which we will get to in a second...

➤ **But, this can be seen in the positive sense as well...**

- Meaning... if you have the Spirit... you belong to Christ...

➤ **Belong**

- The sense of the word is "to have the quality of being"
- And it is in the present tense here... and it is followed by the pronoun him
- And the idea here... is that you would have the quality of being His
- You belong to Christ... There is a sense of possession here
- That's awesome isn't it?

➤ **Now.. Let's deal with the negative... Anyone who does not have the Spirit, does not belong to Him**

- Meaning... you are not His... you have nothing to do with Him...
- He does not possess you... you do not belong to Him..
- **Illustration:**
 - How do we take care of things that belong to us... like children... or how should we?
 - We care for them don't we...
 - Or maybe we should use the analogy of a brand new car here...
 - ◆ Some of us would take care of our vehicle better than our children...
 - Shame on us...
 - Either way... you understand the idea...
 - ◆ We have an invested interest in what belongs to us... We are concerned with what we have
 - What a beautiful idea of Jesus' relationship to us...

◆ We belong to Him... we are His!

➤ **Finally... How do you know? How do you know if you have the Spirit...**

- I think Paul answers this question for us 4 verses later...
- **Romans 8:15 ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For 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!"**
- **Here is how you know... there are two things you see here...**
- **1) If you have the Spirit, you are led by the Spirit**
 - **The Spirit's role in you is to lead you to grow toward Christ-likeness**
 - **He is going to convict you of sins daily...**
 - **He is going to be leading you away from sins...**
 - ◆ He is going to make you hate your sins!!
 - ◆ And to fight against your sins...
 - **If you have no fight against your sins... no active purposeful fight**
 - ◆ There is no leading of the Spirit
 - ◆ And you are not a child of God....
 - **He is going to lead you toward God's Word**
 - **He is going to lead you to be with God's people... not out of duty**
 - ◆ But out of love
 - **He is going to lead you to do the works of God**
 - ◆ Like serving, giving of your money, telling people about Jesus
 - ◆ If you have the Spirit... He will lead you...
- **2) If you have the Spirit you cry out to God saying Abba! Father!**
 - Meaning, you cry out to God as if He is your Daddy, your Father...
 - There is a closeness to your communication with God
 - This is because the Spirit within you leads you to this sort of relationship
 - The Spirit confirms you have been adopted into the family of God...
 - So you cry out to Him in Prayer... As if He is the only one that can help you
 - He is your Father in Heaven that loves you...
 - The Spirit leads you to pray like this!

❖ **5) Rejoice: Your Body is Dead Because of Sin**

- **¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin,**

➤ **So we see... sin has brought deadness to the body...**

- We have previously looked at how this came about...

➤ **Why do I say rejoice that your body is dead?**

- Seems like this would be sad news... Well... not exactly...
- I was born that way and my body has been dead my whole life...
- Hearing this opens my eyes... let's me see... I can say... Now I know what is wrong!

➤ **Paul laments over his dead body in chapter 7**

- **Romans 7:24 ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

- Why does He lament? Because His body gets in the way of serving God more fully and freely

➤ **Illustration as to why this should cause us to rejoice... and to Hope...**

- I am not saying I am glad my body is dead because of sin...
- But... this is like say... My knee has been bothering me for two years...
- Apply your own sickness or pain here...
- And I have been unsure what in the world is the problem...
- So, let's say... I go to the doctor and He says... Oh yeah... I see what it is ...

- And then he gives me some name to what my ailment is...
- And now I know... I have been living with it for years... but now it has a name... now I understand
- So I am glad to finally know... And maybe He says... here is how you fix it...
- So then I am even happier because I also know the remedy for my pain...

➤ **Rejoice that your body is dead because of sin...**

- Now you understand why your body fights you to keep you from following Jesus...
- But, there is a remedy... and that is the Spirit of Christ...
- And He will help you overcome the deadness of your body that revolts against God
- And He will help you follow God even now... And more fully one day when you see Jesus
- **Notice:**

❖ **6) Your Spirit is Alive Because of Christ**

- ¹⁰the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

➤ **Although the Body is dead... our Spirit is life...**

- God has made our Spirit come alive... so now... although our body is dead... and this explains a lot
- Our Spirit is not dead... it is alive

➤ **Why is our spirit alive?**

- **Paul says... it is because of righteousness...**
 - In the case of our bodies... they are dead because of sin... sin we were born with
 - Sin that we continued in...
- **But, our spirit is alive... not because of our righteousness...**
 - Rather... because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ...
 - Because Jesus was and is righteous...
 - Our Spirit has been made alive...
- **The righteous nature of Jesus has been given to us... therefore resulting in life for our spirit!**
 - John 11:25 ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

❖ **7) God Will Give Life to Your Mortal Bodies**

- 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.

➤ **We have Already seen that our body is Dead because of Sin...**

- And I wrestled with this verse this week...
- **Is Paul speaking of the future, or now... do we receive life to our mortal bodies now?**
 - No... I do not think so
- **It is clear that Paul is speaking of a future life giving event...**
 - It is clear from the text...
 - ◆ Our bodies are dead because of sin... and they will most certainly one day die...
 - **This is not to say God has not already given us life... He has...**
 - ◆ **He has given us His life giving Spirit that has made our Spirit come to Life**
 - It was dead previously... But our bodies are dead and dying because of sin
 - So... in that sense we are made Alive... and will never die...
 - And that is what is important anyway...
- **But notice... our mortal bodies are important... and God will give life to them...**
 - And the Spirit of God within us has been a promise that He will...NOTICE:

➤ **God Will Give You Life "IF"**

- **If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you**

- If God is dwelling in you... you can be assured He is going to give life to your mortal body
- **God Will Give You Life... "Through"**
 - **will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.**
 - God will give us this life through His Spirit that dwells in you...
 - So... I know without a doubt... because I have the Spirit of God in me...
 - That my body will be made alive after it dies... or made alive when Jesus returns...
 - **And this will be done through the Spirit...**
 - And this gives me confidence... since He has done it already
- **We Are Certain God Will Give Us Life**
 - **If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you**
 - **he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead**
 - **Paul makes a point to say this twice... This is why I am confident He is referring to future life**
 - The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead... He says this twice
 - **So, Paul's confidence is in the fact that Spirit of God has raised Jesus from the dead**
 - And if He did this for Jesus... we can be assured He will do this for us
- **We were not made to die!!!!**
 - This is why it is so painful when a loved one passes away...
 - Or when we see a person breaking down physically... it is so hard for us
 - It is not natural... It was not the way God created us...
- **All Praise be to God... He provided Life for Us...**
 - Therefore although we are saddened by death
 - And we hate it, and it hurts...
 - It is not the end... We are not left without Hope...
 - **Remember at the beginning I implored you to listen... I do so again...**
 - This is not fantasy land that I am talking about... this is not superstition...
 - There is a future life after death... and we know it... deep within our bones
 - We know there is more to this life... God offers a promise of future life
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17** ¹³ **But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.** ¹⁴ **For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.** ¹⁵ **For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.** ¹⁶ **For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.** ¹⁷ **Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.** ¹⁸ **Therefore encourage one another with these words.**
 - **This will happen one day for all those who have the Spirit of God...**
 - Will you take part in this Resurrection?
 - **There is such great joy to look forward to... Hope to see God, and those who have died before you**
 - But also... this is cause for reflection... will I take part?

❖ Invitation

- Rejoice if you know God
- Follow Him today if you never have