

NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

— A Study of Romans —

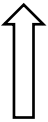
Lesson Fifteen

Romans 8:9-17

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
Romans 8:14*

Day 1

Pray:



Father, thank you for your Holy Spirit living in me. Please use your Spirit to teach me and help me understand the depth of your grace and mercy to me in Jesus and then work in me to make me more like him.

Read: Romans 8:9-17. Read it again in another translation such as NLT.

Observe:

- Write key words and themes, repeated words, or phrases. Circle on your Scripture pages any transition words (therefore, but, because, if/then etc.)
- Are there any commands to be obeyed, or truths to be trusted?
- What questions do you have about the text?

Day 2- Romans 8:9-11

1. What is the true mark of a genuine Christian according to verse 9?

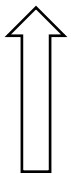
For Discussion:

How can we know if we have the Spirit of Christ?

Picture and Ponder

"Authentic Christianity is the life of God in the soul of [a human being]."¹

2. Three times in verses 9-11 we see that the Spirit of God dwells in the believer. Let's ponder on that for a minute. To dwell is to reside, inhabit, remain, to be fixed and operative in one's soul. What are your thoughts about this; how does it impact your heart to know that God's Spirit dwells in you?



God, you came and you rescued me. You cleansed me and brought me near. And then you gave me your very Spirit to live inside me. I thank you and praise you, God! What a miracle! Help me to be more and more aware of this powerful gift and tune in to your presence and voice.

Digging Deeper

In the following verse in John, how does Jesus describe God's gift of the indwelling Spirit?

What words does this picture call to your mind?

Jesus answered him, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him'. John 14:23

3. What do you learn about our physical bodies from verses 10-11?

Digging Deeper:

How do the following verses help explain verses 10 and 11?

!

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16

⁵⁰ What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.⁵⁴ Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 (NLT)

For Discussion:

How should we think about our bodies in light of the fact that we will one day have immortal bodies? What are some wrong ways the world thinks about our bodies?

4. What do you learn about the power of the Spirit from verse 11?

a. What does that mean for your life today?

Day 3- Romans 8:12-13

1. Verse 12 says that we *are* debtors, but we are not debtors to the flesh. Verse 12 also begins with the words *so then*, connecting it to the previous verses. Look back to verses 10 and 11. What are we indebted to, and what kind of motivation does that give us?



Instead of seeing ourselves as the debtors that Paul says we are, we often see ourselves as entitled. We think we are owed certain things in this life from the people around us and when we don't get what we think we deserve, we usually end up sinning—this is us paying what our flesh demands. Acting on that feeling of entitlement is being a debtor to the flesh. Paul is telling us we are not debtors to the flesh; we are debtors to the Spirit.

◆ How does an attitude that you are owed certain things lead you to sin?

◆ What does remembering that you deserved nothing from Jesus, yet he gave you everything, do to your feelings of entitlement?

- ◆ The old hymn, *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* expresses well the motivation that comes from being indebted to the grace of God. Use the words of this song to remind you of your indebtedness and lead you to prayer.

*Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand 'ring from the face of God;
He, to save my soul from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.*

*Oh to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace Lord, like a fetter (bond)
Bind my wandering heart to thee.*

*Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart Lord, take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.*

2. What is the only way for a Christian to deal with indwelling sin according to verse 13?



"The very word translated as "put to death" (Greek word *thanatoute*) is violent and total."² It means to kill, destroy, render extinct, by death to be liberated from the bond of anything. It is ruthless, full-hearted resistance to sinful practice."³

- ◆ Is this the attitude you have toward sin in your life? How would you describe your attitude toward sin in your life?

- ◆ What does it look like, practically speaking, to put sin to death?



Lord, please help me to see my sin as an offense against you and to not tolerate it in my life but to be ruthless in killing it. Thank you, God, that you provide abundant life, freedom and peace when I turn from my sin to you.

3. What does it mean to put sin to death *by the Spirit* (v.13)?

Picture and Ponder

"The privilege of the children of God is to have the indwelling Spirit to fight and subdue indwelling sin." ⁴

For Discussion:

Sometimes we try to use law or fear to deter ourselves from sinning, but Romans has taught us that those are not adequate to kill sin. What are some gospel truths that empower you to fight sin?

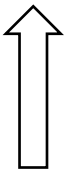
Day 4- Romans 8:14-15

Picture and Ponder

Throughout this passage, Christians are three times called "sons" (huiioi) of God (v 14, 15, 19) and three times called "children" (teknon) of God (v 16, 17, 21). In our day, only gender-neutral language ("children") is considered appropriate, and referring to men and women with a masculine pronoun ("sons") is considered insensitive. Some people studying this passage may express this as a concern. But we should not try to correct Scripture. It is true that in Rome "sonship" was a status of privilege and power given only to males. Yet Paul now has the temerity to apply this to us—to all believers!

This shows that God does not distinguish in giving honor. All Christians, male and female, are now his heirs. It was a subversive thing for Paul to take a masculine-only institution and show that, in Christ, the institution of “empowering-through-adoption” is used on females as well as males without distinction. Christian women should not resent being called “sons” any more than Christian men should resent being called part of the bride of Christ (Revelation 21:2). Christians are all sons and all the bride—God is even-handed in his use of metaphors! And each metaphor tells us something about our relationship with Christ.”⁵

1. In verse 14, to be *led by the Spirit of God*, is not talking about the guidance and direction we ask the Holy Spirit for as we make decisions in life (although the Spirit does lead us in this way). The kind of leading Paul is talking about is in context with verse 13. How do you think being led by the Spirit (v.14) and putting sin to death by the Spirit (v.13) are connected?



Father, help me to follow where your Spirit is leading to show me sins in my life that need to be rooted out and destroyed for life and peace. Help me to trust in you and your goodness to me and the power of your Spirit to put these sins to death.

2. Look back to verse 9 and compare it with verse 14. What is true of all Christians?
3. Verse 15 tells us that we have not received a spirit of slavery, but the Spirit of adoption. Describe the difference between being a slave and being a son.

Scholar's Note: "Abba" was an Aramaic term which is best translated "Daddy"—a term of the greatest intimacy."⁶

For Discussion

You've heard it said that all people are God's children. Here Paul is teaching that only those who have the Spirit are God's children. How would you explain these two statements?

Digging Deeper

Why did God adopt us according to the following verses?

⁵ *He predestined and lovingly planned for us to be adopted to Himself as [His own] children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the kind intention and good pleasure of His will—* ⁶ *to the praise of His glorious grace and favor, which He so freely bestowed on us in the Beloved [His Son, Jesus Christ].* Ephesians 1:5-6 (AMP)



Jesus is the only natural child of the Father, being the exact imprint of the Father's nature. We were children of darkness, *having no hope and without God in the world* (Eph. 2:12), but God, the Father, in his great love, sent his only Son to bring us near—so near that the Spirit of Adoption makes us family with Jesus our brother and God our Father.

- ◆ Do you feel able to cry out to God as your abba/daddy? What does this do for your heart? If you don't feel this freedom, why do you think that is? Do you relate to God with a spirit of slavery?

- ◆ Meditate on Jesus' prayer that he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane right before he was crucified. How does the family love and intimacy in this prayer impact you? What privileges and responsibilities do you see?

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
John 17:20-24

Day 5- Romans 8:16-17

1. What is one role the Spirit plays in our hearts according to verse 16?
 - a. Look back to 5:5. What might this testimony of the Spirit be?

Picture and Ponder

"But the Holy Spirit of adoption, the Spirit of acceptance and overflowing love, enables us to perceive God as our dear heavenly Father. And Paul's point is that the Spirit gives us this new tenderness toward God to make us confident of our salvation... He wants you to feel loved, because assurance is the relational atmosphere in which holiness can thrive."⁷

2. Look at verse 17 in the NLT. What is our inheritance as God's children?

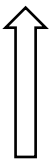
3. In the ESV it says we are *fellow heirs with Christ*. What is astonishing about this?
- a. In what other ways do we have solidarity with Jesus according to verse 17?

For Discussion:

What does it look like today in our lives to suffer with Jesus or share Jesus' sufferings? Think about loving sacrificially and obeying unreservedly.

Picture and Ponder

All people suffer. It is the universal consequence of sin, directly or indirectly. But God's children do not just suffer; they suffer with Christ by following him even when it is hard.⁸



Lord help me to bring glory to you in the suffering and trials that you allow into my life. And forgive me for wanting to share in the inheritance but trying to avoid the suffering that love and obedience bring.

Digging Deeper

What was the purpose of suffering even in Jesus' sinless life according to the following verses?

For it was fitting that he, [God] for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation [Jesus] perfect through suffering. Hebrews 2:10

Although [Jesus] was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Hebrews 5:8

Glorified- Our final and complete likeness to Christ, which brings God glory and brings us unspeakable joy.



When God redeemed us out of darkness and captivity, he didn't treat us as the spoils of war to be used, or as unwelcome stepchildren to be tolerated. When God intervened to save us, he went all the way, making us beloved and welcomed children, loving us as he loves his perfect Son and making us heirs of his glorious riches! Not only that, but, amazingly, he promises that we will be glorified with Jesus!

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are...² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:1a-2

- ◆ Genuine followers of Jesus are willing to suffer with Jesus for the joy set before them—we know that we will one day be glorified with Jesus! According to the verses in 1 John we will be like Jesus! We will be like Jesus in character and in body. We know a lot about Jesus' perfect, sinless character; what are some things you know about Jesus' glorified, resurrection body from the gospels?

- ◆ Spend some time contemplating this truth and responding to God in prayer.

One Thing:

What is one thing from this week's study that God has impressed on your heart, or convicted you about; is there something new that you learned or is there a verse you want to ponder and meditate on?

Praise God for this and thank him for the work he is doing in your life. Ask him to help you remember this and live it out for his glory.

¹ Ortlund, Ray. *Supernatural Living for Natural People*. Christian Focus Publications. Kindle Edition.

² Keller, Timothy. *Romans 8-16 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series Book 2)* (p. 20). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

³ Keller, Timothy. *Romans 8-16 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series Book 2)* (p. 20). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

⁴ Stott John R.W. *The Message of Romans*. P. 225 Intersity Press USA

⁵ Keller, Timothy. *Romans 8-16 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series Book 2)* (p. 25). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

⁶ Keller, Timothy. *Romans 8-16 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series Book 2)* (p. 28). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

⁷ Ortlund, Ray. *Supernatural Living for Natural People* . Christian Focus Publications. Kindle Edition.

⁸ Ortlund, Ray. *Supernatural Living for Natural People* . Christian Focus Publications. Kindle Edition.

Copyright © Holli Worthington 2023 This document may be reproduced for learning purposes only, not for profit.