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2025 ANNUAL THEME: “HOPE IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULTY”
October 2025 Theme: Unleashing the Holy Spirit

BIBLE STUDY
October 15, 2025

“The Holy Spirits Activity Within Us”
Romans 8:6-17

Topics

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Scripture Reference: Romans 8:6-17 (NASB 1995)

⁶ *For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,*
⁷ *because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,*

⁸ *and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

⁹ *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*

¹⁰ *If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

¹¹ *But 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.*

¹² *So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—*

¹³ *for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

¹⁴ *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

¹⁵ *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”*

¹⁶ *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,*

¹⁷ *and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

Reflection Questions

A. How have you personally experienced the guidance or presence of the Holy Spirit in your daily life?

B. In what ways do you feel the Holy Spirit empowers you to live out your faith and serve others?

IMPORTANT EMPHASIS

Possessing the Holy Spirit is an Essential Mark of Being a Christian

Theologian Emphasis		Key Theme
Spurgeon	Urgency of spiritual reality	No Spirit = No salvation
Calvin	Union with Christ	Spirit as bond of salvation
Henry	Evidence of new life	Spirit produces holiness
Wright	Covenant identity	Spirit marks new creation people
Stott	Assurance and identity	Spirit confirms belonging to Christ

The Spirit Lives Within Us and is a Distinctive and Foundational Ministry

The permanent and universal-among-all-believers indwelling ministry of the Spirit is at the heart of the distinctiveness of the Spirit's work in this church age. Although He did live within some people in the Old Testament, that indwelling was neither permanently guaranteed nor universally experienced even by all believers. It was also the focus of our Lord's promise to His disciples concerning the ministry of the Spirit after His (Christ's) departure from earth (**John 14:17**). Also, the doctrine of the indwelling is foundational to the other ministries the Spirit performs today.

The People Who Are Indwelt With The Holy Spirit

Today the Holy Spirit lives in the beings of Christians only, and He does so in **all Christians**. This was apparently not always well known by the church, because Paul had to remind believers in the early days that this was a fact—"Do you not know..." (**1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19**), just as it is necessary to instruct believers today of its truth. Too often, some of God's people seem to think that the Spirit comes and goes and that this erratic and usually unpredictable behavior of the Spirit is often based on the individual's feelings. Nevertheless, the truth of the Spirit's indwelling does not depend on our feeling or knowing that it is true. Its certainty is proved in four ways:

1. Sinning (Carnal) Christians Possess the Holy Spirit Too
2. The Holy Spirit is a Gift
3. Absence of the Holy Spirit is Evidence of an Unsaved Condition
4. Knowledge of Universal Indwelling is by Universal Indwelling

~ Charles Caldwell Ryrie *"The Holy Spirit"*

Key Words and Terms

- Abba! Father!
- Belong
- Body
- Children of God
- Comforter
- Death
- Deeds of the body
- Empower
- Fellow heirs with Christ
- Glorified
- Guidance
- Heirs
- Helper
- Hostile toward God
- Law of God
- Life and peace
- Mind set on the flesh

- Mind set on the Spirit
- Mortal bodies
- Obligation
- Overcome
- Presence
- Raised Jesus
- Righteousness
- Sin
- Sons of God
- Spirit of adoption
- Spirit of Christ
- Spirit of God
- Spirit of slavery
- Suffer
- Teach
- Transformative
- Truth

Outline

- I. Spirit of Sanctification** (Romans 8:6-8)
 - A. Mindset Matters
 - B. Hostility vs. Holiness
- II. Spirit of Strength** (Romans 8:9-14)
 - A. Presence of the Spirit
 - B. Pathway to Life vs. Death
- III. Spirit of Sonship** (Romans 8:14-17)
 - A. Guidance and Growth
 - B. Inheritance and Identity

INTRODUCTION

The primary goal of this Bible study series is to unleash the Holy Spirit in you to further equip you for evangelizing, proclaiming, discipling, teaching, caring, and leading. This will enable you to communicate and impart the person and work of the Holy Spirit to others, helping them along their spiritual journey.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Paul's addressees in his letter to the Romans are primarily the Christian believers in Rome. Romans 8:6-17 is part of his letter where he contrasts living according to the flesh with living according to the Spirit. In this passage, Paul explains that a mindset focused on the flesh leads to death, while a mindset focused on the Spirit leads to life and peace. He emphasizes that those who belong to Christ have the Spirit of God dwelling in them, which **empowers** them to **overcome** sin and live righteously. Paul also highlights the transformative power of the Spirit, which not only gives life but also confirms believers as children of God and heirs with Christ, sharing in both his sufferings and his glory. This section underscores the assurance and identity believers have through the Spirit, encouraging them to live in accordance with their new nature.

Exploring the Text

I. Spirit of Sanctification (Romans 8:6-8)

⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

A. Mindset Matters (8:6)

The mind can be controlled by either the sinful nature, leading to spiritual and physical death, or by the Holy Spirit, bringing life and peace with God. A mind under the Spirit's control is directed toward truth (**John 14:17**), seeks to please the Spirit (**Galatians 6:8**), memorizes Christ's words (**John 14:26**), is sensitive to sin (**John 16:7-11**), and follows the Spirit's guidance (**Galatians 5:16-22**). This control starts with commitment and submission to Christ.

B. Hostility vs. Holiness

⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

The sinful nature is inherently hostile to God and cannot submit to Him. It leads individuals to live for their own desires, ignoring God. Without unity with Christ, people are controlled by sin and cannot please God, as they focus on self-gratification, ultimately leading to destruction.

Check for Understanding

1. What is the difference between those who live according to their sinful nature and those who live according to the Spirit? (8:5-8)

Exploring the Text

II. Spirit of Strength (Romans 8:9-14)

A. Presence of the Spirit

⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But 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.

In contrast to those still controlled by the sinful nature, believers are not controlled by our **sinful nature** when we have yielded control to **the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:16-17)**. To not have the Spirit of Christ means to not be a Christian. Christ's Spirit lives within our human spirits, but our fleshly bodies are still infected by sin and will die. Sin has been defeated by Christ, but sin and death still claim their hold on our mortal bodies. Yet in these bodies we are alive spiritually and can live by the Spirit's guidance. In addition, we are promised the physical resurrection of our bodies into eternal life. The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to us. So there is wonderful hope even for our prone-to-decay bodies. **(1 Corinthians 15:42-44; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5)**

B. Pathway to Life vs. Death

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Because of all that Christ has done and is going to do for us, we are under no obligation whatsoever to do what the sinful nature urges us to do. We are to refuse the drives and desires of our still attractive but crucified sinful nature, to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions. The old, sinful nature may present its demands, based upon the past, but we have no obligation to cooperate. **(Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-17; Titus 2:11-12)**

Check for Understanding

2. How can a person know if he or she is controlled by the sinful nature or by the Spirit? (8:9)

3. What promise is given to people living in the Spirit? (8:11)

Exploring the Text

III. Spirit of Sonship (Romans 8:14-17)

A. Guidance and Growth

¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again,

but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

This slavery to fear most likely refers to life under the law, obedience that was concerned for scrupulous exactness with a constant fear of failure. Paul implies that believers are **not to be like slaves** who cower in fear before their master. Instead, we are **adopted** children who can call God our **Father**. We can know this is true because the **Holy Spirit** within tells us it is so.

The Holy Spirit adopts us as God's children and assures us of our status in God's family. This transforms our obedience from slavery to a loving relationship with God as both Master and Father. Believers receive inward confirmation of faith through the Spirit, and our desire to approach God as Father is evidence of the Spirit's presence.

B. Inheritance and Identity

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Paul redefines the concept of being "children of God" beyond Jewish heritage. True children are those led by the Spirit, as shown in their lives. Believers, both Jews and Gentiles, are heirs to God's Kingdom, not just the Promised Land, sharing in God's treasures through faith in Christ.

We are God's children only because of Christ's suffering on our behalf. As believers, therefore, **if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering**. We will enjoy our future inheritance if our relationship with Christ is genuine enough so that we will face suffering for his sake.

Check for Understanding

4. What kind of obligation do Christians have? (8:12-14)

5. What are the benefits of being a child of God? (8:15-17)

Life Application Questions

- How can you actively cultivate a mindset focused on the Spirit in your daily routine to experience more life and peace?
- In what practical ways can you demonstrate your identity as a child of God in your interactions with others, especially during challenging situations?

Resources:

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker, LOGOS Bible Software
Moody Handbook of Theology (p. 50). Enns, Paul P. Moody Publishers.
Ryrie, Charles C. 1997. *The Holy Spirit*. Moody Publishers. Chicago, IL.
Ryrie, Charles C. 1972. *A Survey of Bible Doctrine*. Chicago: Moody Press.
Spurgeon, Charles Haddon “*Exposition of Romans 8:9*”