

THE MAN IN CHRIST JESUS IS FREED FROM CONDEMNATION: THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT ROMANS 08:01–17

Introduction

This is one of the most important passages in all of Scripture. Its subject cannot be overemphasized: the power of God’s Spirit in the life of the believer. If the believer needs anything, he needs the power of God’s Spirit. Forcefully, Scripture spells out point by point what the power of the Holy Spirit is.

- I. “Now,” since Christ has come (v. 1).
- II. The Spirit gives life (vv. 2-4).
- III. The Spirit pulls the mind to spiritual things (vv. 5-8).
- IV. The Spirit dwells within the believer (v. 9).
- V. The Spirit gives life to the believer (vv. 10-11).
- VI. The Spirit gives the power to put evil deeds to death (vv. 12-13).
- VII. The Spirit leads the believer, identifying him as a son of God (v. 14).
- VIII. The Spirit adopts the believer (v. 15).
- IX. The Spirit testifies, bears witness with the believer’s spirit (vv. 16-17).

I. *Romans 08:01 Deliverance from Condemnation*

Since Christ has come (Rom. 3:21-22), a most wonderful thing has happened. The people who believe *in* Christ are not condemned.

1. “No condemnation” (ouden katakrima) means that the believer is not doomed and damned, but is freed from the penalty and condemnation of sin; he is not judged as a sinner, but is delivered from the condemnation of death and hell; he is not judged to be unrighteous, but is counted to be righteous.

Very simply stated, the person who is *in* Christ is safe and secure from condemnation now and forever. He will not be judged as a sinner; he will not face condemnation. He is beyond condemnation; he shall never be condemned for sin; he shall never be separated from the love of God which is *in* Christ Jesus our Lord (see Jn. 3:16; Rom. 8:33- 39). (But remember: the believer is to be judged for his faithfulness to Christ. He will be judged for how responsible he is — for how well he uses his “spiritual gifts” for Christ — for how diligently he serves Christ in the work of God. The judgment of the believer will take place at the great *judgment seat of Christ*.)

2. Now note the most crucial point: only the believer who is *in* Christ Jesus will not be condemned. All nonbelievers will face condemnation for sin. A genuine believer is a person who does not “live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.” Note what it means to be *in* Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 08:01 BELIEVER’S POSITION IN CHRIST

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 08:01

What do the words “in Christ” mean? What does it mean for a person to be *in* Christ?

1. In the simplest of terms, to be *in Christ* means that a person’s faith in Christ *places* him *in* Christ. Positionally, the person is placed in all that Christ is. Christ lived and died and arose, so to be *in* Christ means that a person lives, dies, and arises *in* Christ. Christ is the person’s Representative, his Agent, his Substitute, his Mediator in life and death and resurrection. The person who believes *in* Jesus Christ is *identified* with Christ: counted and considered to be “in” Christ; reckoned and credited as “in” Christ.

Spelled out in a little more detail, when a person believes *in* Christ, God *places and positions* the believer “in” Christ. The believer’s faith actually causes God to identify the believer *with Christ*, to count the believer...

- as having lived *in* Christ when Christ lived upon earth; therefore, the believer is counted sinless and righteous because Christ was sinless and righteous.
 - as having died *in* Christ; therefore, the believer never has to die (Jn. 3:16). The penalty and condemnation of his sins are already paid for in the death of Christ.
 - as having been raised “in” Christ; therefore, the believer has received the “*new life*” of Christ. Just as Christ had a new life after His resurrection, even so the believer receives the “*new life*” of Christ when he believes in Christ. (See Rom. 6:3-5. Also *Justification, Faith and Righteousness*, Rom. 4:22; notes, 5:1; 6:14-15.)
2. To be *in* Christ means that a believer walks and lives *in* Christ day by day. A true believer lives and moves and has his being *in* Christ. He is in union with Christ. To truly believe is to walk and to truly walk is to believe. A true believer...
 - lays his life — his past sins, his present behaviour, all that he is — upon Christ.
 - entrusts his present welfare and destiny — all that he is or ever will be — into the hands of Christ.

A person who truly *lays* his life upon Christ and *entrusts* all he is to Christ is a person...

- who truly believes.
- who lives and walks *in* Christ.

Now, to live and walk *in* Christ means that we do not “live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit” (Rom. 8:4). It means for “us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” (Tit. 2:12). It means that we bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). It means that we abide *in* Christ, that we become as connected and attached to Christ...

- as the members of the body are connected and attached to each other (1 Cor. 12:12-27).
- as the branch is connected and attached to the vine (Jn. 15:4-7).

This is what it means for a person to be “in” Christ. A person simply *believes* in Christ, putting all he is and has into the hands and keeping of Christ. The person honestly believes that Christ will take care of his past sins, present welfare, and future destiny. Therefore, the believer simply places and positions himself — his faith and welfare — *in* Christ; and God in turn identifies the person with Christ, with all that Christ is. God counts and considers the person to be *in* Christ. (See *Believer, Position in Christ*, Rom. 6:3-5.) □

II. *Romans 08:02–04 Law of the Spirit of Life*

The Spirit gives life. The term “the law of the *Spirit* of life” means two things. It means...

- the *law* of the Holy Spirit
- the *Spirit of life* which is in Christ Jesus

Within the universe there is a law so important that it has become the law of the Holy Spirit. It is called “*the law of the Spirit of life.*” What is meant by this law? Very simply, life is in Jesus Christ and in Him alone. Whatever life is — energy, being, spirit, love, joy, peace — it is all in Jesus Christ and nowhere else. Within Christ, within His very being is the *Spirit of life*, the very energy and being of life. This fact is important, so important that God has written it into the laws of the universe. It is titled “the law of *the Spirit of life,*” which is in Christ Jesus and in Him alone. The Spirit of life for which we long and ache is available *in* Christ Jesus.

John 1:4 *In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

John 10:10 *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

John 14:6 *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

John 5:24 *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

1 John 5:12 *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Now for the critical question. How does the Spirit give life? How does a person go about securing “the spirit of life” so that he may not die but live forever?

1. The Spirit gives life by freeing the believer from sin and death, that is, from the “law of sin and death.” The “law of sin and death” simply means the rule and reign of death. Every man dies: death rules and reigns over every man. But the Spirit of God frees a man from the rule and reign of death. This is natural and understandable; it is common sense, for it is a rule of the universe. If a person has the Spirit of life, then he naturally does not have the spirit of sin and death. He is not sinning and dying; he is living righteously and eternally. This is exactly what the Spirit of life does for the believer:

=> He frees the believer from sin and death: from the law or the energy and the power of sin and death.

=> He frees the believer to live righteously and eternally: to live in the Spirit of life or in the energy and power of life.

Stated another way, the Spirit of life frees the believer from both sin and death. The Holy Spirit frees the believer to live as Christ lived, to actually live out the life which Christ lived. The *active energy* of life, the dynamic force and being of life — all that is in Christ Jesus — is given to the believer. The believer actually lives *in* Christ Jesus. And the Spirit of life which is in Christ frees the believer from the fate (law) of sin and death. This simply means that the believer lives in a consciousness of being free. He breathes and senses a depth of life, a richness, a fullness of life that is indescribable. He lives with power — power over the pressure and strain, impediments and bondages of life — even the bondages of sin and death. He lives now and shall live forever. He senses this and knows this. Life to him is a *spirit, a breath, a consciousness* of being set free through Christ. Even when he sins and guilt sets in, there is a tug, a power (Holy Spirit) that draws him back to God. He asks forgiveness and removal of the guilt (1 Jn. 1:9), and immediately upon asking, the same power (the Holy Spirit) instils an instantaneous assurance of cleansing. The spirit of life, the consciousness of living instantaneously takes up its abode within him once again.

He feels free again, and he feels full of life in all its liberating power and freedom. He bubbles over with all the depth of the richness and fullness of life itself. He is full of the “Spirit of life.” Life itself becomes once again *a spirit, a consciousness of living*. He lives now and forever.

2 Cor 3:17 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Psa 16:11 *You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

2. The Spirit gives life by doing what the law could not do. The law could not make man righteous because man’s flesh is too weak to keep the law. No man has ever been able to keep the law of God, not to perfection or even close to perfection. All flesh has miserably failed – come far short of God’s glory and law. Consequently, all flesh dies physically and spiritually. Therefore, righteousness and life just cannot come by the law. *But* what the law could not do, the Spirit is able to do. He can provide righteousness and life.
3. The Spirit gives life by Christ’s condemning sin in the sinful man (See *Christ, Fulfills Law*, Rom. 8:3).
4. The Spirit gives life by Christ’s providing righteousness for us. He provides righteousness for all who do not follow the sinful nature, but follows the Spirit. This is a most marvellous statement, a glorious truth.
 - a. The Spirit “meets the righteous requirements of the law in us.” He credits righteousness as being *in* us. When?
 - => When we believe that Jesus Christ is our righteousness, the sinless and perfect Son of God.
 - => When we believe that Jesus Christ is our Saviour, the One who died *for* us.

When we believe in Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God fulfils righteousness in us; that is, He takes the righteousness of Jesus Christ (which is the righteousness of the law) and credits it to us. He actually places within us the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. He places the Divine nature (righteousness) of God *in* us (2 Pet. 1:4).

*It is critical to see this fact, for the Spirit fulfils righteousness in us, not by us. He alone meets the righteous requirements of the law in us. We do not and cannot even come close to keeping the law perfectly, but Christ did (See *Christ, Fulfills Law*, Rom. 8:3). If His righteousness cannot be credited and fulfilled in us, then we are hopeless and doomed.*

2 Cor 5:21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Gen 15:6 *Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

Acts 13:39 *Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.*

Rom 4:23-25 *The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness — for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

Phil 1:11 *Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.*

- b. Now note: righteousness is not fulfilled or credited *in* everyone. It is only fulfilled in those...
- who *do not* “live according to the sinful nature”
 - who *do* “live according to the Spirit “

You can tell who is righteous and who is not; you can actually see who is fulfilling righteousness and who is not. All we have to do is look and see:

=> Is a man living according to the sinful nature?

=> Is a man living according to the Spirit?

The point is this: the Spirit gives life to men, but He gives life only to those who forsake the sinful nature and live according to the Spirit. The spiritual man, the man who lives according to the Spirit, loves Christ and wants to honour Christ *in all that he does*.

Therefore, he strives to follow Christ and His example. Such love and honour of Christ pleases God to no end, for God loves His Son with a perfect love. He loves His Son so much that He will take whatever honour a man gives His Son and match it for the man.

Whatever recognition and honour a man heaps upon Christ, God matches it for the man.

=> If a man trusts Christ for righteousness, then God gives that man righteousness.

=> If a man trusts Christ for meaning, purpose and significance, then God gives the man meaning, purpose and significance.

=> If a man trusts Christ to lead him through some trial or need, then God leads him through the trial or need.

=> If a man trusts Christ for healing, then God gives the man healing.

Whatever the man sows in Christ, he reaps: God matches it. Whatever a man measures out to Christ, the same is measured back to the man: God matches it. In fact, Scripture says that God will even go beyond and do much more than we ask or think (see Eph. 3:20).

Therefore, the man who lives according to the “Spirit of life” which is in Christ Jesus is given the Spirit of life. The Holy Spirit fulfils and credits him with the righteousness of the law, with the right to live eternally.

Rom 6:4 *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

Rom 8:1 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Rom 8:13-14 *For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

Gal 5:16 *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

Eph 4:1 *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

Eph 5:2 *And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Col 2:6 *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him.*

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

1 John 2:6 *Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*

ROMANS 08:03 CHRIST, FULFILLS LAW – SIN

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man.

Romans 08:03

Christ condemned sin in the sinful man, the flesh in by three acts.

1. Christ pointed to sin and condemned it as being evil. The very fact that He never sinned points out that sin is contrary to God and to God's nature. Christ rejected sin, and by rejecting it He showed that it was evil, that it was not to be touched. He condemned it as evil and unworthy of God and man.
2. Christ secured righteousness for all men. When He came into the world, He came with the same human nature, the same flesh that all men are born with – the same human nature, the same flesh with all its desires, passions and potential for evil. However, He never sinned, not once. Therefore, He secured a perfect righteousness; and because His righteousness is perfect and ideal, it becomes the model and pattern for all men. It stands for and covers the unrighteousness of all men. His perfect righteousness overcomes sin and its penalty – it condemns sin. It is to be noted that He condemned sin “in sinful man, in his flesh;” therefore, all

flesh finds its perfection and ideal in His righteousness and perfection. All flesh finds its power to condemn sin “in Christ,” in His ideal righteousness.

John 8:46 “Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me?”

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.

Heb 7:26 Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

Heb 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

1 Pet 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1 Pet 2:22 “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

1 John 3:5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.

3. Christ allowed the law of sin and death to be enacted upon Him instead of upon the sinner. Man has sinned, so the natural consequence is corruption and death. However, Christ approached God and made two requests. First, He asked God to accept His *Ideal righteousness* for the unrighteousness of man. Second, He asked God to lay man’s sin and death upon Himself. He asked God to let Him bear the law of sin and death for man and to experience hell for man. He asked God to let Him condemn sin and death “in His body on the tree” (1 Pet. 2:24). He was the perfect, ideal Man. Therefore, He could bear all the violations of the law and all the experiences of death for *all* men. God so purposed, and God bore the awful price of having to condemn sin and death in the death of His very own Son. Sin and its power have been made powerless. Death has been conquered (1 Cor. 15:1-58, esp. vs.54-57), and he who had the power of death has been destroyed, that is, Satan. (Jn. 16:11; Heb. 2:14)

Satan is judged and condemned by the obedience of Christ upon the cross. God is perfectly pleased with Christ, for Christ did exactly what God wanted: *He obeyed God perfectly*. Therefore, God is bound to be perfectly pleased.

The point is this: what God wanted most of all was for Christ to die *for man*. Christ Himself said, “I do exactly what my father commanded me” (Jn. 14:31). It was upon the cross that Christ obeyed God in the supreme, ultimate and absolute sense.

Rom 5:6 *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*

1 Cor 15:3 *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.*

Rom 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

2 Cor 5:15 *And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

Gal 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”*

Titus 2:14 *Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

Heb 2:9 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

Heb 9:28 *So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

1 Pet 2:24 *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

1 Pet 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*

1 John 3:16 *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. □*

III. **Romans 08:05–08** *The Spirit Draws to the Spiritual*

The Spirit pulls the mind to spiritual things. This is one of the most important passages in all of Scripture, for it discusses the human mind: “he is the kind of man who is always thinking about the cost” (Prov. 23:7). Where a man keeps his mind and what he thinks about determine who he is and what he does. If a man keeps his mind and thoughts in the gutter, he becomes part of the filth in the gutter. If he keeps his mind upon the *good*,

he becomes good. If he focuses upon achievement and success, he achieves and succeeds. If his mind is filled with religious thoughts, he becomes religious. If his thoughts are focused upon God and righteousness, he becomes godly and righteous. A man becomes and does what he thinks. It is the law of the mind. Scripture says three things about the power of the Spirit and of the human mind.

1. There is the unspiritual, carnal mind vs. the spiritual mind. The unspiritual, carnal mind is the mind of man's flesh or body. The phrase "controlled by the sinful nature" (to *phronema tes sarkos*, v. 8) means the *mind of the flesh*. It is the mind with which man is born, the fleshly mind which he inherits from his parents.

The unspiritual, carnal mind also means something else, something that must be heeded. It means the mind that is given over to the sinful nature; that focuses upon the sinful nature and its worldly urges and desires; that gives its attention and pursuits over to the sinful nature; that savours tasting and partaking of the sinful nature; that is controlled by one's sinful nature.

The unspiritual, carnal mind focuses upon three areas of life, or to word it another way, there are three directions of thought the carnal mind takes:

- a. The unspiritual, carnal mind may focus upon the base, the immoral, the violent, the material and the physical. This is usually the lifestyle most people think about when an unspiritual person is mentioned. The minds of some are consumed with the lust for sex, power, money, houses, lands, furnishings, recognition, position — concerned and filled with the earthly and the worldly.
- b. The unspiritual, carnal mind may focus upon the moral, upright and cultured life. Some minds are centred upon the welfare and comfort of themselves and of their society. They want themselves and their society to be as refined and educated, as moral and upright as possible, so they focus their minds upon such *commendable* ends. And they are commendable purposes, but a person can be refined and well educated and live as independently and as separate from God as the base and immoral person. Most cultured people depend upon their *good works* and service to make them acceptable to God. Most just think that God will accept them because their lives and efforts have been focused upon building a good life and better society for all. What they fail to see is that God is interested in building a God-centred society and not a world-centred society. God wants the needs of every man to be met, but He wants it to be done from a spiritual basis, not from a human basis. He wants men led to Christ — their minds and lives focused upon God — so that they may have life, life that is both *abundant* and *eternal*. Just taking care of the physical needs of man does not meet the spiritual needs of man. It leaves a gaping hole in man's life; for the *spirit* of man determines how a man lives, either defeated or victorious, either with or apart from God (see Eph. 1:3).

- c. The unspiritual, carnal mind may also focus upon religion: upon living a religious life of benevolence and good works, of ceremony and ritual. However, note again: a person can be a strict religionist and still live separate from God. He can have his mind *set on religion* and its welfare instead of God. He can be living for religion instead of for God, carrying out the function of *institutional religion* instead of the mission of God. He can be depending upon his commitment to religion to make him acceptable to God instead of believing and trusting God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In all of this, note where the religionist's mind is — note where his thoughts are. There is little if any stress upon a *personal relationship* with God; little stress upon knowing God — really knowing, believing and understanding Him — little stress upon walking and living in Him. The stress of the unspiritual religionist is his religion and its rituals and ceremonies, its welfare and projects. Such a focus is fleshly and unspiritual. It is of the earth, attached to the physical and material *institution* which passes away and dies.

The point is this: a carnal mind does not necessarily mean that a man's thoughts are upon the base, immoral and vicious. An unspiritual, carnal mind means any mind that does not find its basis in God, any mind that is not focused upon God first. A carnal mind may focus upon a moral, upright and cultured life and still ignore, neglect and exempt God. An unspiritual mind may also focus upon religion and still exempt God. An unspiritual mind is a mind that finds its basis in this world, that focuses its thoughts upon the physical and material instead of God.

Rom 1:28 *Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.*

Rom 8:7 *The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

Eph 4:17 *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.*

Titus 1:15 *To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.*

2. There is the spiritual mind. It is the natural mind of man that has been *renewed by the Spirit of God* (see notes, pt. 2, Rom. 7:21-23; 7:25).

Rom 12:2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Eph 4:22-24 *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

The words “the mind controlled by the Spirit” (to phronema tou pneumatos) mean to be possessed by the Spirit or to be controlled and dominated by the Spirit. It means that the man who lives in accordance with the Spirit has his mind set on what the Spirit desires day by day.

And note: it is the Spirit of God who draws the believer’s mind to focus upon spiritual things. The Spirit of God lives within the believer. He is there to work within the believer, both to will and to do God’s pleasure; He is there to keep the mind and thoughts of the believer focused upon spiritual things.

- a. The believer *keeps* his mind upon developing spiritual character and fruit.

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

- b. The believer *keeps* his mind upon carrying out the ministry and mission of Christ.

Mat 20:28 *“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Luke 19:10 *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”*

John 20:21 *Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*

Mat 28:19-20 *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Mark 16:15 *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”*

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

2 Cor 5:20 *We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

2 Tim 2:2 *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*

1 Pet 3:15 *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

- c. The believer *keeps* his mind upon knowing, believing and understanding God.

Isa 43:10 *“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.”*

John 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

Phil 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

- d. The believer *keeps* his mind upon being conformed more and more to the image of Christ.

Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

2 Cor 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Phil 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

- e. The believer *keeps* his mind upon casting down imaginations, demolishing arguments and making *every thought* obedient to Christ.

2 Cor 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.

3. There is the fate of both minds. The unspiritual, carnal mind is strongly warned, whereas the spiritual mind is assured and comforted.
- a. The fate of the unspiritual, carnal mind is death. By death is meant spiritual death, being separated and cut off from God eternally. It means the soul is dead *now*, while the man lives on this earth; and it means that the soul remains dead (separated and cut off from God) even when the man enters the next world. The unspiritual, carnal mind...
- cannot ignore God now and expect to have thoughts of God in the next world.
 - cannot focus upon the flesh now and expect to focus upon God in the next world.
 - cannot think as it wills now and expect to think as God wills in the next world.
 - cannot have a worldly mind now and expect to have a spiritual mind in the next world.

- cannot choose the sinful nature now and expect to be saved from the sinful nature in the next world.
- cannot reject God now and expect to be accepted by God in the next world.

Very simply stated, whatever the mind chooses will continue on and on. If the mind chooses the sinful nature instead of God, then the choice is made. The mind will continue on without God from now on, forever and ever. The mind is allowed to do as it chooses. If it chooses to be separated and cut off from God so that it can dwell upon the sinful nature, then the soul *shall* have the sinful nature; it shall be separated and cut off from God. God loves man; God will not violate man's mind and force man to choose Him. The choice is man's: he may choose God, or he may choose the sinful nature and death (to be separated and cut off from God).

Prov 21:16 *A man who strays from the path of understanding comes to rest in the company of the dead.*

John 6:53 *Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."*

Rom 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2 Cor 5:14 *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.*

Eph 2:1 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.*

Eph 5:14 *For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

James 1:15 *Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

Rev 3:1 *"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.*

Rev 21:8 *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.*

- b. The fate of the spiritual mind is life and peace. It is the very opposite of death. The spiritual mind is a state of mind, a mind that is filled with life and peace, with thoughts of life and peace. The spiritual mind dwells in life; it lives all that life was intended to be and lives it eternally. The spiritual mind is full...
- of meaning, purpose and significance.
 - of assurance and confidence.
 - of joy and rejoicing.

- of knowing, believing and understanding God.
- of spiritual fruit, the fruit of love, joy and peace (Gal. 5:22-23).

The spiritual mind is also full of peace. The man who is spiritually minded is at *peace with God*: he has peace with God because he knows beyond question that his sins are forgiven and that he is now acceptable to God. He also dwells in the *peace of God*, he has the *peace of God* because he experiences the day by day care and guidance of God in his life. He actually walks through life in the peace of God, knowing that God is looking after him and working all things out for his good. He knows his eternity is taken care of, that he shall be given the glorious privilege of living eternally and serving God in some glorious responsibility. Note something else as well: the man who is spiritually minded is at peace with all other men. He loves and cares for all men, no matter who they are, just as Jesus loves and cares for them.

The spiritual mind, the mind that focuses upon the things of the spirit, knows and experiences life and peace. Life and peace are its destiny forever and ever. Such is the promise of God and the testimony of His saints who have gone on before. To be spiritually minded reaps its reward, and its reward is eternal life and peace.

John 5:24 *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

John 16:33 *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

Rom 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Psa 119:165 *Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.*

Prov 12:28 *In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.*

Isa 26:3 *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.*

4. There is the reason the unspiritual, carnal mind dwells in death. The unspiritual mind dwells in death because it is at odds with God. This is simply seen.
=> God is holy, righteous and pure; whereas the unspiritual mind is impure, immoral and polluted. The unspiritual or fleshly mind is opposed to God by its very nature.
=> God acts only in morality and justice and goodness; whereas the unspiritual, carnal mind behaves immorally, unjustly and selfishly. The unspiritual or fleshly mind is opposed to God by its very behaviour.

=> God is eternal, from everlasting to everlasting; whereas the unspiritual, carnal mind ages, deteriorates, dies and decays. The carnal or fleshly mind is opposed to God by its very destiny, death.

The unspiritual, carnal mind is opposed to God, to all that He is. It is not pure or lasting; it is sinful and full of corruption, and it dwells in death. The unspiritual or fleshly mind is bitterly opposed to all that God is. Therefore, the unspiritual mind dwells in death, and it shall dwell in death eternally.

Now note: all this is saying one simple thing: the unspiritual, carnal mind “does not submit to God’s law nor can it do so.” The unspiritual mind cannot be subject to God’s law because it is not “like” God: not by nature, not by behaviour, not by destiny. An unspiritual mind has no interest in the law of God nor in trying to live as God wishes. The unspiritual mind wants to live as it wishes and do its own thing. The unspiritual man wants to indulge his flesh, his sinful nature, whether by food, sex, pride, power, position, money, recognition, fame or self-righteousness.

The fate of the unspiritual, carnal mind is clearly stated, a fate that is strongly warned.

Rom 8:8 *Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.*

1 Tim 5:6 *But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.*

Heb 9:28 *So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

Mat 25:41 *Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’*

However, the glorious truth is this. The Spirit of God can transform the mind of man. The Spirit of God can pull the mind to spiritual things (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:22-24. notes, pt. 2, Rom. 7:21-23; 7:25).

Thought 1. Most sinful minds are influenced heavily by their environment and those around them. If their friends are materialistic or immoral, they focus upon the same. If their environment offers films and literature, they fill their minds with such, whether X-rated or educational and philosophic. Few unspiritual minds ever break away from their environment and friends. Only the Spirit of God can penetrate the human mind and set it free from the sinful nature and its fleshly, carnal passions.

IV. Romans 08:09 Indwelling Presence: Power of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit dwells within the believer, putting the Spirit of Christ within him. There is so much in these two verses that cannot be outlined beside the verses. There just is not enough space.

1. The power of the Spirit is seen in the word “lives” (oikeo). The word “lives” is the picture of a home (oikos). The Holy Spirit lives in the believer: He makes His home, takes up residence, and lives in the believer just as we live in our homes.
2. The power of the Spirit creates the glorious truth of the *indwelling presence* of God within the believer and of the believer within God.

=> The believer is said to be “controlled by the [Holy] Spirit” (v. 9).

=> The Spirit of *God* is said to “live” in the believer (v. 9).

=> The believer is said to have “the Spirit of Christ” (v. 9).

=> Christ is said to be in the believer (v. 10).

John 14:16-17 *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

John 14:20, 23 *“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”... Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”*

Rom 8:9 *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

1 Cor 3:16 *Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?*

1 Cor 6:19 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.*

2 Tim 1:14 *Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*

1 John 2:27 *As for you, the anointing [Holy Spirit] you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit – just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

Ezek 36:27 *And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

Note how the divinity of Christ is being proclaimed. The “Spirit of Christ” is said to live in the believer the same as the “Spirit of God.” Both are said to be equally within the believer. (See Gal. 4:6; Phil. 1:10; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Pet. 1:11.)

3. The power of the Spirit removes the believer from being controlled by the sinful nature and places him within *Himself*, within the Spirit of God. Very simply...

- the believer is no longer *positioned* “in” the sinful nature: not in God’s eyes and not in God’s accounting. The believer no longer lives “in” the sinful nature: he no longer makes his home in the sinful nature nor lives in the sinful nature. He is no longer at home, that is, no longer comfortable with the things of the sinful nature.
 - the believer is *positioned* “in” the Spirit of God. God sees and counts the believer as being placed and positioned in His Spirit; therefore, the believer lives “in” the Holy Spirit. He makes his home in the Spirit, and he takes up his residence and lives “in” the Spirit. He is at home and comfortable only with the things of the Spirit.
4. The power of the Spirit identifies the believer as being “in” Christ. This is easily seen. Whatever spirit lives in a man, it is *that spirit* to whom man belongs. If he has the spirit of selfishness within, he belongs to the spirit of selfishness and is known as being selfish. If he has the spirit of complaining, he belongs to the spirit of complaining and is known as being a complainer. If he has the spirit of evil, he belongs to evil and is known as an evil person. If he has the spirit of caring, he belongs to the spirit of caring, and he is known as a caring person. If he has the Spirit of Christ, he belongs to Christ and is known as a follower of Christ.

John 14:18 *“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Gal 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Eph 3:17 *So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love.*

Col 1:27 *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

1 John 3:24 *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

Rev 3:20 *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

A person is *spirited*, driven to live according to the spirit that is within him. The Holy Spirit has the power to drive the believer to live as Christ lived. We can look at the spirit of a person and tell if he has the Spirit of Christ. If he does, then he bears the fruit of Christ’s Spirit. The Spirit and His fruit are seen in the life of the believer. The true believer *proves* that he is “in” Christ, that he is placed and positioned “in” Christ by the life which he lives.

V. *Romans 08: 10–11 Holy Spirit and Resurrection of Believers*

The Spirit gives life to the believer. The idea of the Greek makes this verse clear: “If Christ be in you, *although* the body is to die because of sin, the spirit shall live because of righteousness.” Very simply stated, the body of man does die, but his spirit can live forever if Christ is “in” him. Note two points.

1. The Spirit of Christ gives life to the *spirit of man* now, the very moment a person believes. Man’s body is to die because of sin: the body is corruptible, aging, deteriorating, decaying and dying. It is in a process of dying — in such a rapid movement toward death — that it can actually be said to be *dead*. The body is dying; therefore, its death is inevitable. However, it is in the midst of death that the Spirit of Christ enters. He enters and converts the spirit of man from death to life. How?
 - a. The spirit of man lives because of the righteousness and death of Jesus Christ (See “*In Christ*”, Rom. 8:1; see Rom. 4:22; 5:1).

Rom 10:9-10 *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

2 Cor 5:21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

1 Pet 2:24 *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

- b. The spirit of man lives by living a righteous and godly life (See Rom. 6:14-15; 6:17-18; 6:19-20).

Mat 7:21 *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”*

Rom 6:17-18 *But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.*

Rom 8:1 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

2. The Spirit of Christ quickens, gives life to the mortal body *in the future*, in the great day of redemption. Note two things.
 - a. The words “give life” (zoopoiesei) mean to make alive, to quicken, to cause to live, to renew and remake life.
 - b. The “mortal body” shall be quickened, given life and made alive.

=> The mortal body is the same body that died. The person is the very same person.

=> The mortal body is given a totally new life; its elements are recreated and remade into a perfect and eternal body. The new body is to be given the power and energy of eternal elements, eternal molecules and atoms or whatever the most minute elements are. All will be arranged so that the mortal body becomes an immortal body.

John 6:40 *“For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”*

Acts 24:15 *And I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.*

1 Cor 15:42-44 *So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.*

1 Cor 15:50-53 *I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.*

2 Cor 4:14 *Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.*

1 Th 4:16 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*

1 Pet 1:3-4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.*

c. There are two great assurances of the believer’s resurrection.

=> The assurance of Jesus’ resurrection (See *Resurrection, of Believers*, Rom. 8:11. Also 1 Cor. 15:12-19; 15:20-23.)

=> The assurance of the Holy Spirit, of Him who lives in the believer. The very same Spirit who raised up Christ shall raise up the believer (2 Cor. 4:14). He is the power and energy of life, and He dwells within the believer. Therefore, He shall raise up the believer (see, *Spirit of Life*, Rom. 8:2-4).

Rom 1:4 *And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

2 Cor 4:14 *Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.*

ROMANS 08:11

RESURRECTION OF BELIEVERS AND THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

*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 through his Spirit, who lives in you. **Romans 08:11***

The resurrection of Jesus Christ assures the believer that he too shall be raised from the dead.

1. The resurrection of Christ proves that *God is*: that He does exist and care for the earth. There is no power on earth that can raise a man from the dead. Only a Supreme, Eternal Power and Person can do that. Only God can give life to dead matter and to the dust of the earth. The very fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead proves that God exists and cares for this earth.
2. The resurrection of Christ proves that Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be, the Son of God Himself. It proves that Jesus Christ was sent to earth to secure the Ideal righteousness for man and to die and to arise from the dead for man (see, *Justification*, Rom. 5:1).

Rom 1:4 *And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Eph 1:20 *Which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.*

3. The resurrection of Christ proves that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. It proves that Christ is the very One whom God sent to earth to save men from death and to give them life (See *Baptism*, Rom. 6:3-5).

Rom 4:25 *He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

Rom 10:9 *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

1 Cor 15:2-4 *By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received*

I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

4. The resurrection of Christ proves that He is “the Spirit of life.” It proves that Christ is the very Energy and Force of life, the very Power and Being of life, and that He can give the same “Spirit of life” to men. He can raise men from the dead, even as He arose from the dead (See Rom. 8:2-4. Also see 1 Cor. 15:12-19; 15:20-23).

Rom 8:11 *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 through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

1 Th 4:14 *We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.*

1 Pet 1:3-4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.*

1 Pet 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. □*

VI. Romans 08:12–13 Holy Spirit Gives Power

The Spirit gives the power to put evil deeds to death. Note two points.

1. Believers are in debt to the Spirit, not to the sinful nature, not to the flesh. The word “obligation” (opheiletes) means to be obligated, to owe, to be bound by some duty.
 - a. Believers are not “obligated” to the sinful nature. The sinful nature has done nothing for man, nothing of real value. Note what the sinful nature has done for man.
 - => It is sinful nature, contaminated by sin (v. 3).
 - => It is unspiritual or fleshly minded (v. 5).
 - => It causes man to die (vv. 6, 13).
 - => It is the opposite of life and peace (v. 6).
 - => It has a mind that is at odds with God (v. 7).
 - => It cannot please God (v. 8).

A man owes the sinful nature nothing. He is not in debt or obligated to the sinful nature, for the sinful nature brings nothing but misery and suffering to man.

Thought 1. A man is a fool to focus his life upon such a weak thing as the sinful nature; a fool to live as though he is in debt and obligated to something that *caves in*...

- to sickness and disease so often.
- to sin and shame so often.
- to death much too quickly.

Rom 7:18 *I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.*

Rom 8:6 *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

Rom 8:8 *Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.*

Rom 8:13 *For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

Gal 5:17 *For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.*

Gal 6:8 *The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

1 John 2:15-16 *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world.*

- b. Believers are obligated to the Spirit. It is the Spirit who has done so much for man, the Spirit to whom we are so indebted. The Spirit of God...
- is the “Spirit of life” (v. 2).
 - fulfils righteousness “in” us (v. 4).
 - gives us life and peace (v. 6).
 - lives and dwells in us, removing us from the sinful nature and identifying us as being “in” Christ (v. 9).
 - gives life to our spirits now and assures us that He will give life to our mortal bodies in the great day of redemption (vv. 10-11).
 - has freed us from sin and death (v. 2).
 - pulls our minds to spiritual things (v. 5).

It is the Spirit who has done so much for us; it is the Spirit to whom we are in debt and “obligated.”

2. Believers determine their own fate. The point is clearly seen: if a man lives after the sinful nature, he shall die because the flesh dies. The flesh is doomed; it dies, and there has never been an exception. Therefore, if a man chooses to live after the flesh, that is, to follow after the flesh, then in following the flesh he experiences what the

flesh experiences. If the flesh stumbles and falls, the man stumbles and falls, for he is following after the sinful nature of the flesh. If the flesh kills itself, then the man dies with the flesh, for he is following the flesh. Scripture clearly teaches this.

Rom 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Rom 8:6 *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

Rom 8:13 *For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

James 1:15 *Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

Ezek 18:20 *The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him.*

However, if a man puts to death the misdeeds of his body, he shall live. Note four facts.

- a. “The misdeeds of the body” mean the evil deeds, the evil lusts and passions, the desires and urges that lead to sin and shame, destruction and death.
 - b. The Greek word *thanatoute* means to “put to death.” The idea is that of denying, subjecting, subduing, deadening, destroying the strength of.
 - c. The power to put to death the evil misdeeds of the body comes “through the Spirit.” However, note this: we deny the evil deeds, and then the Spirit gives the strength to *deaden* and to *subdue* their strength. We are involved just as the Spirit is involved. He cannot destroy the strength of sin unless we exercise our will and work to destroy it ourselves, and we cannot will and work at it apart from Him. Both we and the Spirit have to be involved, each doing his part if we wish the evil misdeeds of the body to be put to death. To repeat the point above: we exercise our will to deny the evil misdeeds, and then the Spirit immediately steps in to *deaden* the pull and strength of the evil misdeed. If we do not want the evil misdeeds of our body destroyed, if we want to continue living in the sins of the sinful nature, if we want nothing to do with the Spirit – then the Spirit can do nothing for us. God loves us too much to force us; He will not override our choice. But if we honestly will to follow the Spirit and honestly desire to destroy the evil misdeeds of our body, the Spirit will step in and give the power to do so. He will break the power of sin: He will deaden and subdue the strength of it.
- ⇒ Our part is to *will* to follow the Spirit: to put to death the evil misdeeds and begin to deny them. (See *Cross and Discipleship*, Lk. 9:23.)

=> The Spirit's part is to deaden and subdue and eventually to destroy the strength of evil misdeeds.

Now note: the conquest of evil misdeeds is not an immediate, once-for-all thing. It is a continuous struggle as long as we live in the sinful nature. This is actually brought out in the tense of the verb "live." The tense is a continuous and habitual action. We must *continue* to follow the Spirit and *continue* to put to death the evil misdeeds of the body. It is a day by day experience just as living is a day by day experience. We are to *live* by developing the habit of living in the Spirit and conquering the evil misdeeds of the body. The believer *cannot destroy* his sinful nature while on earth, but he *can break* the strength of evil misdeeds in his sinful nature. He can destroy evil misdeeds in his body.

- d. The person who puts the evil misdeeds of his body to death shall live. A man dies because of evil, and he lives because of righteousness. If he destroys the evil misdeeds and follows the Spirit of righteousness, he will not die. He will live.

Mat 5:29 *"If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."*

Rom 6:6 *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.*

Rom 8:13 *For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

Rom 13:14 *Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

Gal 5:16 *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

Gal 5:24 *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

Col 3:5 *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

1 Pet 2:11 *Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.*

1 Pet 4:2 *As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.*

VII. Romans 08:14 Holy Spirit Leads the Believer

The Spirit leads the believer, identifying him as a son of God. There are several ideas in the Greek word *lead* or *led* (ago).

- => There is the idea of *carrying and bearing along*. The Spirit leads the believer and carries him through the trials of this life. He bears the believer up, carrying him over the corruption's of this world.
- => There is the idea of *leading and guiding along*. The Spirit leads and guides the believer along the way of righteousness and truth. He guides the believer by moving in advance and going ahead of him. He blazes the path, making sure the believer knows where to walk (see Jn. 16:13; see Gal. 5:18; 2 Pet. 1:21).
- => There is the idea of *directing on a course and of bringing along to an end*. The Spirit directs the believer here to go and how to get there, and He actually brings the believer to his destined end. The Spirit actually becomes involved in the life of the believer, directing him to live righteously and conforming him to the image of Christ. He actually brings the believer to his destined end, that is, to heaven, to live eternally in the presence of God Himself.

This is one of the great powers of the Holy Spirit, the power to lead the believer and to become involved in his life.

Now note a crucial point. The evidence or proof that a person is a son of God is just this: Is the person led by the Spirit of God?

- => Is the person being carried through the trials of life victoriously, acknowledging God and rejoicing in His strength and eternal security?
- => Is the person being led along the way of righteousness and truth?
- => Is the person being directed and brought along on the course to heaven, to spend eternity with God?

Very simply, is the person living for God and talking about the things of God? The person who is truly led by the Spirit is wrapped up in the things of God, for he is a son of God. He rejoices in his Father and seeks to please His Father in all that he does.

John 16:13 *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

1 Cor 2:13-14 *This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Psa 48:14 *For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.*

1 John 2:27 *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit — just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

Psa 73:24 *You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.*

Isa 30:21 *Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”*

VIII. Romans 08:15 Adoption, Sonship

The Spirit adopts the believer. Note two very significant points.

- a. The Spirit delivers man from a terrible spirit — “a spirit that makes you a slave....to fear.” Note what the slavery is: it is fear. Man is gripped by the bondage of fear, usually experiencing some apprehension, anxiety, tension, dread, alarm, danger, terror. Man is usually sensing some subjection, some enslavement to some form of fear. The one spirit with which all men are familiar is the *spirit of fear*. Men are enslaved and held in bondage by fear. What causes fear? Almost everything and anything can arouse fear: a list could go on and on. A few of the more prominent things are...

- suffering
- death
- disease
- traumatic trials
- unemployment
- loss of position
- loss of livelihood
- loss of spouse
- not measuring up
- falling short
- failure
- punishment
- disapproval
- condemnation
- rejection

The point is this: the Holy Spirit delivers the believer from the bondage of fear. How? By adoption, by actually adopting the believer as a son of God.

John 1:12 *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

Rom 8:15 *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”*

2 Cor 6:17-18 *“Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty.*

Gal 4:4-6 *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”*

Deu 14:2 *For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession.*

Isa 63:16 But you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

- b. The Spirit gives access into God's presence. The believer has access to God because he has been adopted as a son of God. Note: the Spirit is called "the Spirit of sonship" or perhaps better worded, *the spirit of adoption*. Adoption is such a significant work of the Holy Spirit that it is called "the Spirit of sonship." The believer actually receives the "Spirit of sonship" and the sense — the consciousness, the awareness, the knowledge — that he is a son of God. The believer is a son of God with all the privileges of sonship, especially the privilege of access — of entering God's presence anytime and anyplace. It is this wonderful privilege that enables the believer to break the bondage of fear and to conquer the spirit of fear.

No matter what faces the believer, the believer is able...

- to enter the presence of God.
- to lay his fear before God.
- to cry out, "Father, Father — help me!"
- to know that God will help him, for God loves him as His adopted son.

John 10:9 "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."

Rom 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Eph 2:18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Eph 3:12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Heb 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Heb 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus.

1 Pet 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

Every genuine believer knows what it is to fear in this life, and he knows what it is to experience God's deliverance through the fear. He knows what it is to have the "Spirit

of adoption” surge through his being, giving assurance and confidence that God is in control and looking after him. He knows what it is to be a true son of God, a son whom God loves so much that He will move the world in order to meet the need of His dear child. God’s love for His adopted child is as great as God’s sovereign power. God will do anything for the believer who is His adopted son. (One of the great powers of the Spirit is the power of sonship. See *Sonship, Adoption*, Gal. 4:5-6).

Rom 8:28 *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.*

IX. Romans 08:16–17 Spirit that Testifies

Another power of the Spirit is the power to testify, bear witness with our spirit. He bears witness to four glorious truths.

1. The Holy Spirit testifies that we are the children of God. Very simply stated, the Holy Spirit quickens; makes alive our hearts with the perfect knowledge and the complete confidence that we are children of God.

Note how clearly Scripture proclaims this glorious truth, the truth which every believer longs for the world to know.

- a. The Spirit pours out the love of God in our hearts. He spreads the knowledge that God loves us and spreads it all through our being.

Rom 5:5 *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

- b. The Spirit is the deposit or the guarantee that we are children of God.

2 Cor 1:22 *Set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

2 Cor 5:5 *Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

- c. The Spirit is the seal or the guarantee that we are children of God.

Eph 1:13 *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.*

Eph 4:30 *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

2. The Holy Spirit testifies that we are the heirs of God. If God is truly our Father, then we inherit what He possesses.
 - a. We are heirs of eternal life.

Titus 3:7 So that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

- b. We are heirs of salvation.

Heb 1:14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

- c. We are heirs of the promises made to Abraham, that is, the promises to inherit the world and to become the citizens of a great nation of people. The heirs of God shall inherit a great kingdom, that is, the new heavens and earth.

Rom 4:13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

Eph 3:6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Eph 5:5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Heb 11:9-10 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Heb 11:13-16 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

2 Pet 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

- d. We are heirs of glory.

Rom 8:17 *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.*

Eph 1:18 *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.*

Col 1:12 *Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.*

- e. We are heirs of righteousness.

Heb 11:7 *By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

- f. We are heirs of the grace of life.

1 Pet 3:7 *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*

The point is that the Holy Spirit is the One who seals the truth to our hearts. He is “a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance” (Eph. 1:14). There is much more that we inherit as children of God (See Lk. 16:10-12; See *Inheritance*, Rom. 8:17).

3. The Holy Spirit testifies that we are joint-heirs or “co-heirs” with Christ. However, this does not mean that we will receive an equal amount or quantity with Christ. (See *Inheritance*, Rom. 8:17.)
4. The Holy Spirit testifies that we are conquerors over suffering. All men suffer: as long as a man lives in a sinful and corrupt world, he will suffer and he will be unable to escape suffering. Sin and corruption take their toll upon his body and spirit and pull him ever onward toward the grave. However, this is not the suffering being spoken about in this passage. There is a suffering that is distinct to the true Christian believer, a suffering that can be called *godly persecution*. *Godly persecution* means more than being persecuted for some great cause or purpose. Many men in the world suffer persecution by some of their fellow citizens because of their dedication to some great purpose. However, not all men within the world oppose them. It is this that makes *godly persecution* different and distinctive. Every person in the world who is not godly opposes the *genuine* Christian believer. The world and its citizens oppose the believer by their very nature. The believer stands for and proclaims righteousness and self-denial, the sacrifice of all one is and has. The world opposes such a life and message, and they desire to stamp it out (see *Persecuted*, Mt. 5:10-12).

It is suffering for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness that is the point of the Scripture. If we suffer with Christ in the great cause of God and His righteousness, then we will be glorified with Him eternally.

The point is clearly seen. The person who is a true follower of Christ proclaims and stands for Christ; therefore, he suffers the persecution of the world even as Christ did. And because he does suffer with Christ, he will share in the glory of Christ as well.

Mat 5:11 *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”*

Mat 10:22 *“All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”*

Mat 19:29 *“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.”*

Rom 8:36 *As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

2 Cor 1:7 *And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.*

2 Cor 4:11 *For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.*

2 Tim 2:12 *If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.*

Phil 1:29 *For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.*

Phil 3:10 *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.*

1 Pet 2:20 *But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.*

1 Pet 3:14 *But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.”*

1 Pet 4:16 *However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.*

1 Pet 5:10 *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ■*

ROMANS 08:17 INHERITANCE

*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. **Romans 08:17***

The believer is a co-heir or joint-heir with Christ. This is an astounding truth and promise. We shall inherit all that God has and all that Christ is and has. We will be given the privilege of sharing in all things with the Son of God Himself.

However note this: to be a joint-heir with Christ does not mean that believers will receive an equal amount of the inheritance with Christ. Rather, it means that believers are fellow-heirs with Christ; that is, believers will share in the inheritance of Christ; they will *share* Christ's inheritance with Him.

Being a fellow-heir with Christ means at least three glorious things: it means that we will share in the *nature, position* and *responsibility* of Christ. The following chart shows this with a quick glance.

FELLOW HEIRS BY NATURE

Christ is the Son of God, the very being and energy of life and perfection. Therefore, we share in the inheritance of His nature. We receive...

- adoption as a son or daughter of God (Gal. 4:4-7; 1 Jn. 3:1).
- a sinless and blameless nature (Phil. 2:15).
- eternal life (Mt. 19:29; Jn. 1:4; 3:16; 10:10; 17:2-3; 1 Tim. 6:19).
- lasting possessions (Heb. 10:34).
- a glorious body (1 Cor. 15:42-44; Phil. 3:21).
- eternal glory and honour and peace (Rom. 2:10).
- eternal rest and peace (Heb. 4:9; Rev. 14:13).
- a crown that will last forever, an incorruptible body (1 Cor. 9:25; 1 Pet. 1:3-4; 15:42).
- a righteous being (2 Tim. 4:8).

FELLOW HEIRS BY POSITION

Christ is the exalted Lord, the Sovereign Majesty of the universe, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Therefore, we share in the inheritance of His position. We receive...

- the position of an exalted being (Rev. 7:9-12).
- a citizenship in the Kingdom of God (Mt. 25:34; Jas. 2:5).
- enormous treasures in heaven (Mt. 19:21; Lk. 12:33).
- unsearchable riches (Ep. 3:8).

- The right to surround the throne of God (Rev. 7:9-13; 20:4).
- The position of a king (Rev. 1:5; 5:10).
- The position of a priest (Rev. 1:5; 5:10; 20:6).
- The position of glory (1 Pet. 5:4).

FELLOW HEIRS BY RESPONSIBILITY

Christ is the Sovereign Majesty of the Universe, the One who is ordained to rule and oversee all. Therefore, we share in the inheritance of His responsibility. We receive...

- rulership over many things (Mt. 25:23).
- the right to rule and hold authority (Mt. 19:28; Lk. 12:42-44; 22:28-29; 1 Cor. 6:2-3).
- eternal responsibility and joy (Mt. 25:21, 23).
- rule and authority over cities (Lk. 19:17, 19).
- thrones and the privilege of reigning forever (Rev. 20:4; 22:5).

These passages will give some idea of what Scripture teaches when it speaks of the believer being a *fellow-heir* with Christ. There are a large number of Scripture that could be added to these. As Paul declares:

1 Cor 2:9 *However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."*

Rom 11:33-36 *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. □*