

## **Romans 8:14-16 – Evidence of the Being Alive!**

Rienecker, Steele, TSK, HebrewLexicon, JFB, Handfuls, Gaebelin, Vincent, Trapp, Robertson, Family, Calvin, Poole, PNT, Newell, Henry, Geneva, Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus: **In biology they say there are 7 characteristics of living things.** Any man who demonstrates these characteristics is determined to be alive!

**But what about in spiritual biology? How do you know if someone were spiritually alive.**

This is the work for today.

Our headings are:

**The Declaration of being alive**

**The Details of being alive**

Our goals are: **That you will let the Holy Spirit work in you and nourish you so you will prove you are alive, you will grow in grace and you will bring glory to God and good to your neighbor.**

### **The Declaration of being alive**

14 For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God**, these are **sons of God**.

#### **1. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**

What does it mean to be led by the Spirit of God? **To be led by the Spirit of God means you will reject works which bring you under the curse and condemnation of God, and pursue God's standard of righteousness.**

Galatians 5:16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. **18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.** 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Note the picture of being led! This is as sheep are led. They are not led by force, but by guidance and encouragements. They are not under the control of another...

**Moreover, as Christians are being led away from lusts, they will then bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit! Galatians 5:22ff.**

Because they are nourished, they will grow.

They are alive! Romans 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.*

**2. The fact that Christians are led by the Spirit of God is consistent Old Testament language; this doctrine did not come out of thin air.**

Ezekiel 36:25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.  
26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.  
27 **"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.**

Psalms 143:10 Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; **Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.**

These Roman Christians were no longer slaves, but **sons of God**, and they were led.

They were not driven as beasts by the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son** into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 **Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

Heirs are survivors – living people.

**3. This means there was a godly fraternity - brotherliness, among Christians that could never be destroyed.**

Being part of a family is fun, isn't it? It has its struggles. But even when there is fighting with each other, **they stand together against the common enemy.**

More, together they **worship the one true God**. Dead people have no family.

**5. Lessons:**

**a. No Spirit, no life! So when your Charismatic friends ask you if you believe in the Holy Spirit, tell them every true Christian does!**

When they ask if you speak in tongues, say: "He has told me everything I need about what to believe and how to live, and that he has even told me about my future!"

John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, **but whatever He hears He will speak;** and He will **tell you things to come.**

**b. Mortify the flesh and show you are of the Spirit of God!** Fight! Fight to kill your selfish desires. Dead people don't fight. Living people do.

**c. Those who are not led by the Holy Spirit of God are not God's children.**

**It is common to say all men are God's children, and in a way it is right.** All men were created by God.

**But it is also wrong, because all men are not God's children in the same way.**

Some are God's children only by creation and they sold themselves to the Devil, **but others are God's children by creation and by re-creation by the Holy Spirit.**

### **The Details of being alive**

15 For you did **not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear,** but you **received the Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, "**Abba, Father.**" 16 The **Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit** that we are **children** of God,

**1. No fear! Christians are not afraid because they have been freed from bondage by the resurrection of Jesus; they are no longer in terror of what a tyrant master could do to them.**

Having experienced God's love, the Roman Christians' fear disappeared. **Perfect love casts out fear!**

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; **but perfect love casts out fear,** because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Weak Christians don't remember how much they are loved!

**Were they going through tough times physically and mentally? Absolutely!**

But they were spiritually redeemed when their greatest enemy was killed. Their present enemies would be destroyed in God's time.

## **2. Christians are adopted as God's children; no one adopts dead children.**

**a. What does adopted mean?** Look at the meaning of the word “adopted.” This means to have “a new family with relations, new rights, privileges, and responsibilities.”

**It is a legal term.**

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 **having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Christians have a new Father... **The Aramaic word for father is “abba.”**

It is used in a close family unit and for prayer.

Jesus himself used this address when he prayed.

Mark 14:36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

**b. The word “crying” was chosen to show you are children.** Don't children communicate by crying?

**c. This adoption never ends; it is eternal.**

**d. This adoption is for Jews and Gentiles**, this is why **this word “abba” from Aramaic** is joined with the Greek.

Isaiah 19:18 In that day **five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan** and swear by the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction.

## **3. Christians are assured they are God's children.**

**The Holy Spirit's assurance of the believer shows more that bringing him into a new family; it shows support for the new believer also.**

1John 5: 10 He who believes in the Son of God **has the witness in himself**; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because

he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.  
**Why does Apostle Paul mention that the Holy Spirit assures man of his salvation?**

This is based on Old Testament laws which required that by the mouth of 2 witnesses something was established as true.

So the person who experience it **and** the Spirit who testifies to it confirm salvation.

**More, this is not just a word spoken, as the good news that came to Mary, Hannah, or Rebekah.**

This was not even a personal whisper in the ear. Rather this was spoken much deeper, not even like when you “feel hungry.” This is a deeper feeling – an awareness that only the Holy Spirit can bring.

1 John 3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by **this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**

#### **4. Lessons:**

##### **a. Do not live in fear.**

The worst man or the Devil could do is to kill you...and then only with the permission of the one who controls all things.

Don't live in bondage to guilt and shame.

Don't live in bondage to bad habits. You've been made alive.

Don't live like you're dead.

##### **b. Don't only look to God as your Lord, even though he is! Look to God as your Father!**

The Lord rescued you and make you his child!

That is a closer relationship and you should use that more when you go to him in prayer.

When Jesus prayed, he said: "Father," "My Father," and "O righteous Father."

Apostle Paul echoed the same idea. 1 Corinthians 8:6 *yet for us there is one God,*

***the Father, of whom are all things**, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.*

***c. Live like you have the greatest, richest, and most loving Father in the world, because you do!***

Don't let troubles overwhelm you!

Don't let the world see a depressed man or woman.

Ask you father for help.

***d. When you live like God is your Father, you will draw the world to him!***

This is one of the most common things people see in Christians.

They see how you deal with hardships.

They see how you love your wife.

They see how you discipline your children (and yet your children don't hate you).

This makes them ask the question: How is this possible?

You get to tell them.

***e. It is easy to doubt your salvation when you struggle with sin regularly.***

***But the Holy Spirit does not rely upon your exterior obedience to assure you of your salvation.***

He assures you of salvation because you have salvation! Listen to his voice.

***r. Some people fool themselves – even making themselves believe they are Christians.*** How sad!

For the Christian, the Holy Spirit makes that clear to your hearts.

Those who lie to themselves are like a duck whose head has been cut off. ***There is a lot of action, but for all practical purposes, the duck is dead!***

### ***Conclusion:***

God declared through Apostle Paul that man is alive – alive spiritually.

Man was made alive by the Spirit of God applying Christ's work to his heart.

God removes fear of the future, adopts the new Christian as his own, and assures him by his Holy Spirit that he is saved.

Beloved in the Lord

**1. Let the Holy Spirit work in you by the Word and Sacraments to nourish you, so will grow and mature!**

No other person can make you alive or make you grow!

**2. Let fruits of the Spirit come from your living soul so good will come to man and joy to the Lord.**

**3. Let others come to the one who gives life by telling them of his greatness and his goodness on the cross.**

Finally, if you are not a Christian, you are as good as dead!

Is that harsh? Yes. But it is the truth.

Yet you can have life if you ask God to forgive your sins because Jesus died on the cross for sinners.