

“The Indwelling Spirit”
Romans 8:9
(Preached at Trinity, February 8, 2009)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Chapter 8** is truly an amazing chapter, so rich and full. Paul opens the chapter by stating our great assurance, “There is now no condemnation.” This confidence is based upon our justification. But as we’ve seen, you cannot separate justification from sanctification.
2. In **Verse 2** Paul begins to speak of our sanctification. He speaks of the law of the Spirit of life – there is an absolute principle holiness working in the believer.
3. In **Verse 3** Paul returns to justification – God sent forth His Son to condemn sin in the flesh. His death ended forever our condemnation.
4. In **Verse 4** Paul begins a lengthy discourse on the great transformation in the believer. We’re looking at the believer’s sanctification. Paul says the Law has been fulfilled in us – he is talking about the practical working out of Christ’s death in us. His death condemned sin forensically or legally but also practically or experientially.
5. The Christian no longer is dominated by the flesh. Rather he walks after the Spirit. **Romans 8:4** – “who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” It is through Christ, by His Spirit that we are set free from the bondage of sin.
6. In **Verses 5-8** Paul continues to address the fruit of Christ’s victory over sin. Paul describes two types of people – those who walk after the flesh and those who walk after the Spirit. In these verses Paul describes the essence of the difference. It is a matter of the mind. Christian conversion results in the transformation of our minds – how we think.
 - A. Our minds are being sanctified
 - B. With our minds we willfully seize control over our flesh.
 - C. The lost man continually sets his mind upon things of the flesh – worldly things. He has his mind fixed upon things which satisfy the flesh.
 - D. The Christian, on the other hand, has his mind fixed upon spiritual things – things of the Spirit.
Romans 8:5 – “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”
7. Paul closed out the section in **Verse 8** by making a dreadful statement: “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” There is nothing a lost man can do that is pleasing to God.

8. As we come to **Verse 9** Paul makes a contrasting statement of relief for the Christian:
Romans 8:9 – “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit”
 “But” is a comforting statement here. The lost man lives according to the flesh. He is living in death; he is at war with God, and he cannot please God.
 “But” this doesn’t describe you because you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit. The overall direction of your life is not controlled by the flesh because the Holy Spirit dwells within you.
9. But as Paul often does, makes a qualifying statement.
Romans 8:9 – “if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.”
- a. There is some disagreement in translation here. Some translations translate it, “Since the Spirit of God dwells in you.”
 The word here is **ei;per** – I believe “if” more accurately translates Paul’s meaning. He is making a conditional statement.
 - b. To make his statement even more certain he adds:
 “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”
10. Paul refers to the Holy Spirit here as the Spirit of Christ. This should not disturb us. He is also sometimes referred to as the Spirit of God. Even before the church had fully worked out the doctrine of the Trinity the Scriptures were clear in describing three distinct personages of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit comes forth from both the Father and the Son.
John 14:26 – “But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
John 15:26 – “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”
11. Paul is making some defining statements about the Holy Spirit and His importance in the life of the believer. This morning I want to examine this passage as we consider the work of the indwelling Spirit.
- I. The existence of the Holy Spirit marks the Christian’s testimony as genuine
 “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”
- A. Paul is saying here that the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to the Christian experience.
 1. Without the Holy Spirit all religion is counterfeit. It is all a delusion.
 2. The Holy Spirit is God’s mark upon us. He is God’s sign and seal.
 It is the Holy Spirit that makes our Christian profession a reality.
Galatians 4:6 – “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”
 - a. The heart is the seat of affection, the place of feeling. The Christian life is not void of feeling.
 - b. The Holy Spirit enlivens our affections toward Christ.
 The lost man finds no value in Christ. The Christian finds Him irresistible, most precious, most glorious
 - c. He makes the songs of praise sweet as we worship Christ
 He makes the Scriptures rich as we seek to know Christ more
 - d. He is more than an academic presence – My ministry has often been a battle against extremes

- B. There are many terms given as we seek to describe this indwelling of the Spirit
1. There is the baptism of the Holy Spirit in which the believer is engrafted into the Body of Christ – a one time non-repeatable act
 2. There is the sealing of the Holy Spirit – also a one time act in which the believer is set apart as belonging to Christ.
2 Corinthians 1:21 – “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; ²² Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”
 3. Then there is the filling of the Holy Spirit
 - a. This speaks of the Holy Spirit’s influence in our lives
He sets our minds above this world. We see Christ as King. He gives us great boldness and confidence.
Acts 4:8 – “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,”
Acts 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,
 - b. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit – equipped and led by the Spirit
Luke 4:1 – “And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,”
 - c. Barnabas - **Acts 11:24** – “For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.”
 - d. The early deacons were men dominated by the Holy Spirit
Acts 6:3 – “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”
 4. The person who is indwelt by the Spirit should desire to be full of the Holy Spirit. We are commanded to be filled.
Ephesians 5:18 – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”
- C. The key mark of being indwelt by the Holy Spirit is holiness. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to walk in holiness. It is to have a spiritual mind
Romans 8:5 – “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”
1. The key mark of the Holy Spirit is holiness. It is being conformed more and more to Christ. Christianity is wanting Jesus more than anything else.
 2. It is possible to partake of the Holy Spirit, to taste of spiritual things without receiving them.
Paul speaks of this in **Hebrews 6**
Hebrews 6:4-6 – “For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.”

2. Jesus said on the day of judgment there would be many who did works of the Spirit without being Christians.
Matthew 7:21 – “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”
 3. The key mark of the Holy Spirit is holiness – “ye that work iniquity”
 4. Jesus told a parable of 10 Virgins – turn to **Matthew 25:1-12**
 - a. Only five were taken to be with the Bridegroom. The other five were left behind because they were wanting of oil.
 - b. This is a parable of the necessity of the Holy Spirit
 - c. All 10 had been invited to the wedding banquet
All 10 belonged to what we might call the visible church
All 10 professed to belong to the bridegroom and were waiting for His coming
 - d. Five were left outside the door weeping and crying
- C. The true believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling within him with outward evidence of holiness.
1. By Holy Spirit we are talking about the third person of the godhead – a person, not a force, a power, an energy
 2. By indwelling we simply mean that God is continually within the believer shaping and directing his life

II. The Holy Spirit marks and defines our character

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit”

A. He defines us

1. The Holy Spirit enables us to profess Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:3 – “. . . no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”
2. The Holy Spirit is the great convincer of sin. He is the power that leads us to Christ and then conforms us to the image of Christ.
3. No one can obey Christ except by the Holy Spirit
Romans 8:9 – “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you”
4. No one can serve Christ except by the Holy Spirit
Our gifts com from Him ---
1 Corinthians 12:11 – “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”
5. No one can persevere in Christ or give a defense of the faith except by the Holy Spirit
NAS **2 Timothy 1:14** – “Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”

6. No one can love Christ except by the Holy Spirit
Romans 5:5 – “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”
- B. Paul is saying here in **verse 9** that the Holy Spirit is the Agent of Sanctification – He is making us holy
Romans 8:9 – “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.”
 1. Paul speaks of this in **Titus 3**
Titus 3:5-6 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour”
 - a. In this verse Paul speaks of the “washing” of regeneration. The emphasis is upon being cleansed from the wickedness of sin. The Holy Spirit sets our hearts upon holiness
 - b. Paul also speaks of God’s work through His Spirit as a renewal. Renewal is an ongoing process. Our hearts and minds are being progressively renewed in righteousness and holiness
Ephesians 4:22-24 – “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”
 - c. The Holy Spirit changes our way of thinking.
 He convicts us of sin – He shuts us in from the rages of darkness and death
 2. In **Gal 5:22** Paul speaks of the “fruit of the Spirit” –
 Fruit describes productivity – The indwelling of the Holy Spirit results in measurable change. There is an infinite difference between the man who walks after the flesh and the one who walks after the Spirit. It’s a new way of life. It is a Spirit filled, Spirit led life. It is newness of life.

Conclusion:

1. Paul is saying here that this amazing work of the Holy Spirit only takes place in the life of the Christian and it takes place in every Christian.
2. Paul is setting forth some absolute axioms:
 - A. If you do not have the Holy Spirit you do not belong to Christ
 - B. If you do belong to Christ you have the Spirit of Christ
 - C. If you have the Spirit of Christ you will not be controlled by the flesh but by the Spirit.
3. This is a matter of examination by each of us.
 Christianity makes a difference in our life. We do not live according to the flesh because the Holy Spirit dwells within us.
 Does He dwell within you?
4. The purpose of **Romans 8** is not to instill doubt but confidence and assurance. We can see the fruit. We can feel His presence. We are being controlled by His influence of grace. We were dominated by the flesh but now we are dominated by the Holy Spirit.