**Being led by the Spirit of God**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 8:8-14**

**Wednesday Evening**

**August 7, 2024**

**Romans 8:8-14**

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

**8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

Saints, the sinful nature cannot submit to God because it is the seat of indwelling sin and is always hostile to God. Living in sin, following one’s own desires, and disregarding God boils down to hostility to him.

Every person not united to Christ is thoroughly controlled by sin’s power.

Thus, those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God because they are interested only in themselves and have cast aside the one and only power that can defeat sin.

The mind directed by the sinful nature can only be devoted to its own self-gratification, which will lead to destruction.

**Colossians 1:10-11**

10 that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Every human being has a sinful nature. But believers in Christ have access to the Holy Spirit.

In fact, Paul says, “The Spirit of God lives in you” Believers are still in the flesh, but because they are born again, they also have God’s Spirit. The question is which will be in control.

**1 John 3:21-22**

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

**9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**

Saints, in contrast to those still controlled by the sinful nature, believers are not controlled by our sinful nature when we have yielded control to the Spirit of God.

To not have the Spirit of Christ means to not be a Christian.

**John 3:5-7**

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

**Titus 3:5**

not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit…

**10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.**

Saints, Christ’s Spirit lives within our human spirits, but our fleshly bodies are still infected by sin and will die.

Sin has been defeated by Christ, but sin and death still claim their hold on our mortal bodies.

Yet in these bodies we are alive spiritually and can live by the Spirit’s guidance.

**John 17:23**

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

**Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

Saints, in addition, we are promised the physical resurrection of our bodies into eternal life.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to us.

So there is wonderful hope even for our prone-to-decay bodies.

**Acts 2:24**

whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

**12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.**

Saints, because of all that Christ has done and is going to do for us, we are under no obligation whatsoever to do what the sinful nature urges us to do.

**Romans 6:14**

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

We are to refuse the drives and desires of our still attractive but crucified sinful nature, to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions.

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The old, sinful nature may present its demands, based upon the past, but we have no obligation to cooperate.

**Philippians 3:14-16**

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

**13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

**Romans 6:22-23**

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Saints, our sinful nature shows itself through the vehicle of the body.

Therefore, we must turn from following the sinful nature and its evil deeds, the practices and habitual responses of the sinful nature.

**Galatians 2:20-21**

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

This is an action to be done, a moral decision to be made—every day we are to turn away from the desires that draw us away from God.

**1 Corinthians 2:13-16**

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

The Jews already considered themselves to be children of God because of their heritage; but Paul explains that the term has new meaning.

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

Saints, true children of God are those who are led by the Spirit of God as evidenced in their lifestyle.

**Colossians 3:16**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**2 Timothy 3:16**

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Believers not only have the Spirit; they are also led by the Spirit.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace!**