

GOD WANTS A RELATIONSHIP

Not a Performance

Romans 5, 6, 7 & 8

**“Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son...
an heir through God” (Galatians 4:7)**

Study Number Eight – The Spirit in the Relationship – Romans 8:1-11

God wants a relationship and not a performance. Because we live in such a performance-oriented society that's sometimes a difficult concept to get a hold of. We want to perform for Him rather than have Him, a totally adequate Christ, live out His life in us and through us.

We have noted together the evidence of the relationship. First of all, in chapter 5 there were 8 evidences of it, results of knowing Christ. In the latter part of chapter 5 he shared with us that great truth, that we have been taken out of Adam and placed in Jesus Christ.

In Colossians chapter 1 the apostle prays for these Colossian Christians that he never met. And as he prays for them, he prays for them in very specific areas but then he begins to praise the Father for what He's done. And the words that just jumped out of the text which are so beautiful, is when he

thanks the Father for qualifying them to be His children and for rescuing them. And then finally for transferring them.

There's a total absence of human intervention in those words. We couldn't qualify ourselves. We certainly can't rescue ourselves. We're going down in a sea of sin and death unless we take Jesus Christ as the Father's provision for life.

Having done that, we're transferred out of Adam into Jesus Christ. And it reminds us of that great section in chapter 5 that we looked at. That brought us to chapter 6 because now having been transferred out of Adam and put into Jesus Christ, what kind of relationship is it? It's such a vital union we're identified with Him.

As a result, we become very sensitive toward sin. We no longer let sin reign in our mortal bodies. We are those who are careful to present our bodies as members of righteousness for Him to use—tools of righteousness for His glory.

Then that brought us to chapter 7 where we looked together at the Law in the relationship because the first thing that we often try to do after we come into the relationship with Christ is try to perform again. We want to serve, we want to work. It's go, go, do, do, be involved. Do this and do that.

And if the Father could speak over the flurry of our activity He'd say, "Listen, that's all sound and fury signifying nothing. I want you to be still and know that I'm God."

The very first assignment that we have is not TO DO but TO BE.

The Father wants us with Him so that He can work in our lives. And as a result of working in our lives in the deepening of the relationship, we begin to be. We begin to bear fruit in other people's lives. That's a hard concept.

He told us that the Law's been done away with. He tells us that the Law, when it starts working, stirs up our old nature and it's still there. So after we become a Christian we become guilt-ridden by the fact that we fail so often.

And then in our last study we saw the apostle saying, "You know the good that I would I find I don't do. I've got a new divine nature, yes, I'm a Christian. But I'm never doing the right things. I'm always doing the wrong thing. There's something wrong." (v. 19)

And he came to a great moment of futility and exhaustion. At the end of our study he says, "Oh wretched man that I am. Who'll deliver me from the body of this death?" (v. 24)

We talked quite a bit about the fact that many Christians don't even know there's a conflict going on. They aren't even aware of the fact that the Spirit of God wants to produce a quality of righteousness in their lives so they're content for mediocrity. They're content to live soiled and defiled lives thinking that there's nothing more than living this way as Christians.

Now that brings us to Romans chapter 8. This is the marvelous chapter of victory. This is the fantastic chapter where a new person is introduced. And in this chapter, we find the secret of daily victory in our Christian life and righteousness.

Someone said we enter this chapter with no condemnation. We end it with no separation. And in between God's working all things together for good to them that love God and to those who are called according to His purpose. (ref. Romans 8:28)

We begin this study with the words of John Newton who wrote "Amazing Grace." He said:

"I am not what I ought to be, I'm not what I want to be, I'm not what I hoped to be in another world, but still I'm not what I once used to be and by the grace of God, I am what I am."
(source unknown)

As we look at these verses, the thrill of these verses is we now have the introduction of the Holy Spirit into the picture. He's only been mentioned once in the previous three chapters. Now He's mentioned over 20 times in this little time framework of Romans chapter 8.

If we were to try to outline Romans 8, he starts out talking about the SPIRIT in the relationship. Then he talks about SONSHIP and then he talks about SUFFERING in the relationship. And then he wraps it up with SECURITY.

He says this relationship is so permanent, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. It's almost like He just bursts heaven open with the doxology as he sings those final verses to tell us that this relationship is permanent. And that once the Father begins a good work, independent of performance, He loves us unconditionally. There will never be a rupture in that relationship.

It was J. I. Packer in his book *Knowing God* who said:

The work which His goodness began,
The arm of His strength will complete.
His promise is yeah and Amen,
and never was forfeited yet.
Things future, nor things that are now,
not all things below nor above
can make Him His purpose forego
Nor sever my soul from His love.
My name from the palms of His hands
eternity will not erase.
Impressed on His heart is remains,
in marks of indelible grace.
Yes, I to the end shall endure
as sure as the earnest is given,
More happy but not more secure
The glorified spirits in heaven!
(source unknown)

The problem in Romans chapter 7 was the apostle was

focusing upon himself. Now it is possible to be a Christian, to have the new divine nature living within us and to experience no victory in our life. That's what we saw in Romans chapter 7.

The apostle was making the mistake of trying to perform. Trying to make the new nature work by himself. Trying to gain victory by setting up certain standards to live by and that only aggravated the problem.

It is possible to have a new nature and no victory because we don't understand the truth of our study. Our new nature will not work even though it is resident if it is not controlled and energized by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

This in all love and kindness, when we became a Christian we were born into God's family. And just like that little baby, as soon as it's born into our family, we make an immediate check to see if it's got all of its fingers and all of its toes. And it's got two eyes and two ears and a nose and all of that—all the standard equipment. So when we became a Christian, we have everything that God was ever going to give us. All Christian growth is, is learning to appropriate what God has already given us.

When we became a Christian, we received that cruise control. The Spirit of God came to dwell within us. Now the problem is to learn how to let the Spirit of God function like He's supposed to function.

As a Christian, we can grieve the Holy Spirit by sin in our life. We can quench Him by resisting His obvious overtures in the direction that He wants to take us. And at that point there is now power for our new nature to be energized. We have quenched, we have grieved the source of spiritual victory.

And when we live in that condition as a Christian, our only call then is to our old nature and so we live like somebody in the world. And we respond in the same way. There's no love, there's no fruit, there's no joy, there's no peace, there's no thrill.

We oftentimes see people today want to make the mistake of saying, it's something we get later. No, it's not. It's the fact that He's already there but He's been grieved and quenched for so long He hasn't been able to manifest Himself in giving us any victory by energizing that new nature.

And that's what he's talking about in our study. We're moving off of SELF and PERFORMANCE in chapter 7 to the SPIRIT energizing our new divine nature, to victory and what a sweet taste it is.

Lane Adams in his book *How Come It's Taking Me So Long to Get Better?* says:

You know as a babe in Christ, I was forever plagued with the distinct impression that my salvation was going to be withdrawn for non-performance. I was quite sure that one day the Lord would simply have to say to me, "I've been very

patient with you, Lane, but today you went too far and now it's all over between us!" How much anguish I could have been saved had I known of the security of the believer right from the start. I needed to know that my security was based on what Jesus is and what He has done, rather than on what I am and what I have done, or for that matter, [what I've] left undone.

(source unknown)

The apostle is no longer focusing on what he has done, on who he is. The focus is new now. It's upon the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done, who He is. And the basis for victory and power is seen in the indwelling Spirit.

So if we want to put SELF over Romans 7 and the SPIRIT over Romans chapter 8, we aren't going to be far from comprehending the truth that is therein contained in these eleven verses.

v. 1 Therefore now there is no doom for those who are in Christ Jesus.

"Therefore now there is no doom for those who are in Christ Jesus."

He has his eyes on Jesus again. There's no "doom" for the Christian who is "in Christ Jesus."

There is a new POWER, there's a new SOURCE.

We as Christians can be living in one of three conditions similar to that described graphically in the life of Lazarus in John chapter 11.

1. We could be a person who is DEAD in trespasses and sin. This is not as a Christian, the first condition would be dead in our trespasses and sin without a relationship.
2. The second we could be ALIVE. The life of Christ dwelling within us because we've received Christ.
3. And third we could be loosed and set FREE by the fact that now the Spirit of God is energizing that new nature and we're experiencing the joy that is there.

What the apostle is teaching us here is there is no doom. Nothing to look forward to as far as judgment is concerned because we're in Christ Jesus.

Now Jesus predicted that. He says:

John 5:24

Verily, verily I say unto you, he that heareth My word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but has passed from death into life.

For the Christian there's no concern about doom. We're not going to stand at the Great White Throne Judgement.

Through the relationship with Christ, we've been liberated from all that. We're also going to be liberated from the Day of the Lord, the time of Jacob's trouble, the great tribulation that's going to come.

We aren't going to fight in the Battle of Armageddon either, because we're a part of the Lord and that's judgment upon sin. That's doom upon a sinful world.

But it's exciting isn't it, sometimes to realize that in Jesus Christ there's nothing going to happen. There's no doom for us. In view of all that the flesh can do with us after we become Christians, there is absolutely no thought of us ever doing anything that's going to provide our doom. Once we come into a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no doom for us because we are "in Christ."

Alright, basically what he's saying as he starts out is everything's going to be alright. There's no possibility of "doom" for those who are in Jesus Christ."

The apostle has already told us that the problem he had in Romans 7 was his old nature. His old nature kept answering to the Law and committing sin.

Now in Romans 8 he's talking about a NEW NATURE that now has power to operate. How does that new nature operate with the power of the Spirit?

Some people think that the new nature operates by the power

of the Spirit on the storage principle. It's kind of like filling a car with fuel. We can fill it up and travel for a period of time and then we have to put fuel in the tank so we can keep on going. That's the storage principle.

Some Christians feel like that. They can go to a meeting or they can go to church on Sunday and they say "filler up." And they're coming to get filled up and then they go out and live the week on the storage principle and they come back and say "filler up again." And then there are these people that go to Bible classes. They have to get filled up during the week. And they come and get some more in a storage tank and then they go out and they run out of that and they come back and get some more.

That is not the principle that's being taught here. The principle that's being taught here is the principle of the streetcar. Ever seen one of these things? They rumble down the middle of the street.

And we can always tell there's a streetcar coming by all the noise and racket. But we can always see the streetcar too because of the little rod that's running up the back of it and then the little wheel at the top of it that's turning around on a cable above it.

And as the car comes to a screeching halt, we get on, and it starts out again. That little wheel on the top just keeps going. Then all of a sudden "UHHH!" it just stops like that. Everything goes dead. Well, what's happened? The conductor

gets out and he takes his little rope and he comes around to the back and he takes that wheel and he puts it back on that line up above and then he comes back in and flips on a switch and it goes rumbling down the street.

Now that's the concept of the spiritual life. We are in vital, living union with the power in the Spirit of God. When we're in fellowship with the Lord—that is we're drawing upon all that He is. We're depending upon all that He can do and we're beginning to develop into His image. That source of power continues to energize the new nature and we're experiencing victory. But the minute we grieve Him by sin or we quench Him by saying no, there has been a power failure.

He is still there! But He will not operate because by an act of our will we have chosen to respond to the old nature rather than the new and we're through. And we come to a rumbling halt—instantaneously. There is no progress spiritually. No fruit to be borne. Nothing happens at that point. We are at a standstill.

That's what he said in Hebrews 5 to those Christians. He says, they've become dull of hearing through the process of time. "There's a lot of things I'd like to tell you but I can't teach you. You're having need of going back to the first principles again simply because you have allowed this process to go on in your life. And you're not making any spiritual growth. You're not experiencing any victory. There's no progress there! And it comes by the constant contact principle.:

That's what Jesus meant in the last words He said in Acts 1:8.

Acts 1:8

You shall receive power. After that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

He was resident with them but He was going to come to dwell within them after the day of Pentecost. And the Spirit of God then came to dwell within.

“You shall receive power.” Why do we need power? To energize our new nature to victory.

And so we disregard that. The problem is a power failure in our lives the minute we answer the old nature.

We're all asking, “Why didn't the Lord just throw out that old nature and just give me the power of the Spirit to energize my new nature so everything will just go great?”

Now stop and think about that just for a minute. What'd we just ask? We just asked God to make us a little robot so that every time He came and pulled on our little string we'd say, “I love You! I love You! I love You!” And then He'd come and pull it again: “I love You! I love You! I love You!”

Isn't God excited about the fact that He can manipulate us any way He wants so that we'll say “I love you”? And aren't we

thrilled the same way?

God wants glory from the free will that chooses to express His love and to experience the power of the new nature to victory because we have that sweet taste in our life of knowing what it's like to be victorious.

And the same way is true in our lives. God will never violate our free will before we become a Christian to force forgiveness on us. And He'll never violate our free will after we become a Christian to make us answer to our new nature by the power of the Spirit.

The thrill of that is every day we have the glorious privilege of delighting our heavenly Father, moment by moment, by our answer to the new nature and the dependence upon the power of the indwelling Spirit to energize that nature.

That's exciting to realize that every moment as it passes, we have the privilege of delighting our Father by answering our new nature rather than answering our old and falling out of fellowship with Him.

Now when we come to verse 2, that's the basic undergirding principle that goes through the whole passage. It'll help us understand the rest of the verses.

v. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus freed you from the law of sin and death.

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus freed you from the law of sin and death.”

We already learned that back in Romans chapters 5 and 6. When the “Spirit of life in Jesus Christ” came into our life it “freed you from the law of sin and death.”

Now we’ve already learned that old nature is still there. We’ve just been freed from it. We were under dictatorship to it. We had to answer it. That was the only way we could go. But now that we’ve become a Christian, we’ve been freed from that. We don’t have to answer that anymore.

The apostle has described this in many, many verses. And the way it operates and everything else. But the Spirit is the determining factor. He’s the one now who can give the victory.

“The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus,” supersedes the “law of sin and death.”

What’s that mean? Well just like we have a law of gravity. We exercise the law of gravity—what goes up has got to come down. But there is another law that supersedes that. What is it? It’s the law of aerodynamics.

Now does that nullify the law of gravity? Just step outside a plane and discover that the law of gravity takes over. It doesn’t. It’s still there.

It’s the same principle in the life of Peter. There is the law of

gravity that says when we get on the water without any support we're going to sink. Peter did it however and we have the first water skiing experience in the Bible. He just starts walking right toward the Lord.

Now what happens when he takes his eyes off the Lord? He starts to sink in the water, doesn't he? Prays the shortest prayer a man could pray. If he left any one word he'd have been finished. "Lord, save me." And he got his focus back on the Lord again. And that law superseded the other. That's exactly a picture of our Christian life.

Moment by moment we can overcome "the law of sin and death" and the law of the old nature by walking by means of the Spirit, we will not fulfill the desires of the old nature—Galatians 5:17—but we have to walk in dependence.

We have to say, "O wretched man that I am! I can't do it! There's no way in the energy of my nature and by myself will I ever know the sweet taste of victory."

It'll only come as the Spirit of God is allowed to energize that new nature to supersede "the law of sin and death" in our life and to give us victory.

Now what if we get our eyes off the Lord? What happens if we grieve or quench the Spirit? Boom! The old nature takes over. Everything comes to a standstill. That's the reason the Corinthians had such a problem. They were still little babies. The apostle said, "I had to speak to you as carnal (or fleshly)

because you're still babes in Christ. You haven't gone on to maturity."

That's the tragedy in the church of Christ today. We have people who've been Christians for 30 or 40 years but they're still wearing their diapers. They prefer the burp and the bottle and the dirty britches to becoming people who are mature in Christ and beginning to see fruit borne through their lives.

They're still saying "Gimme, gimme, gimme!" They've never learned the sheer thrill of giving themselves to others and seeing others come to know Christ as a result of a mature stance in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we want somebody to thrill our heart, somebody who sees us and who lives with us and who's close to us, begins to see progress in our life, begins to see our capacity to love more, begins to see our capacity to give to others more, to begin to express ourself, to become a person who loves and who's genuine and concerned with no thought of return. This is the thing that moved him and encouraged us.

Do people say that about our life? Are we beginning to make progress spiritually because we're aware of the fact that it is the Spirit of God who supersedes this other law, "the law of sin and death," and is beginning to produce Christlikeness in us.

v. 3 For what was impossible for the Law, because it was weak through the flesh, God, having sent His

own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

“For what was impossible for the Law, because it was weak through the flesh, God, having sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,”

How did He do that? He came and He lived a perfect life. He came fulfilling all the purpose of the Law and He came dying for sin upon the Cross.

v. 4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

“in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

What is “the requirement of the Law?” It’s an obedient heart manifested out of love.

It’s not to fulfill the “thou shalt not’s.” It’s simply a heart that is obedient, motivated by love, that fulfills the requirements of the Law.

For instance, it’s very interesting in Galatians 5, when he’s talking about the fruit of the Spirit. As the Spirit begins to produce this fruit in our life it says, “against such things as

these there is no law.”

When the Spirit is producing these things, there’s nothing against what the Spirit’s going to produce in our life. And out of the relationship the requirements of the Law are fulfilled because there’s nothing against what the Spirit will produce.

Sensitive to the Spirit’s leadership in our lives, “the requirements of the Law be fulfilled.”

We are “walking not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

v. 5 For those who are according to the flesh are setting their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, on the things of the Spirit.

“For those who are according to the flesh are setting their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, on the things of the Spirit.”

There’s this constant struggle going on—the flesh and the spirit.

v. 6 For the way of thinking of the flesh is death, but the way of thinking of the Spirit is life and peace;

“For the way of thinking of the flesh is death,”—we’ve already looked at that—“but the way of thinking of the Spirit is life

and peace;”

How is “The way of the thinking of the Spirit life”?

Well John 3:16 says: “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have”—WHAT?—“everlasting life.”

First John 5 says: “He that hath the Son hath life...” (ref. 1 John 5:11, 12)

John 10:10 says: “I hath come that they might have life and they might have it more abundantly.”

What about peace?

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.” (ref. Isaiah 26:3)

We notice that the very first result of the relationship is peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ in Romans 5:1.

Isaiah 32:17: “The work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of it quietness and assurance forever.”

When we come into the relationship with Him there are two things that result, He says. There’s LIFE—life here and now, life eternal. And then there’s PEACE.

v. 7 because the way of thinking of the flesh is hostile toward God; for it is not subjecting itself to the Law of God, for it is not even able to do so;

“because the way of thinking of the flesh is hostile toward God; for it is not subjecting itself to the Law of God,”—that is the law of the new nature—“for it is not even able to do so;”

First Corinthians 2:14 says: “the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God. They’re foolishness unto him. Neither can he know them because they’re spiritually discerned.”

The flesh lives above authority. The flesh will never respond in submission to a command. We’ve already learned that. It only aggravates the problem. And when we say, “Thou shalt not,” the flesh says, “I will too.”

It has always lived above authority, always desirous of selfish gratification.

v. 8 and those who are in the flesh are not able to please God.

“and those who are in the flesh are not able to please God.”

That is just about as clear as we can get it isn’t it?

Living in the flesh, we are not able to please God. Victory’s not in the energy of the flesh. The only way to victory is by the

power of the Spirit energizing our new nature to fruit and to righteousness.

v. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God is dwelling in you. But if anyone is not having the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God is dwelling in you. But if anyone is not having the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”

He makes it very clear that one of the evidences of the relationship is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. And later on, in the next study in this series, he says, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.”

The picture here is a picture of a house, or the picture of a temple. And the Spirit comes to dwell in that house. He comes to live in that temple. And it is His purpose as He expresses His desires in energizing the new nature is to make it a holy place, is to make it a place of righteousness. And as He begins His work, we become aware of that fact.

v. 10 Now if Christ is in you, on the one hand the body is dead because of sin, but on the other hand the Spirit is alive because of righteousness.

“Now if Christ is in you, on the one hand the body is dead

because of sin,”—we’re all going to die physically. We know that. Our bodies are decaying and falling apart and eventually we’re all going to answer the grave unless the Lord Jesus comes to take us to Himself.

“but on the other hand the Spirit is alive because of righteousness.”

He lives within. We have the glorious anticipation of the fact that we’re going to go be with Him. We’re “alive because of righteousness.”

v. 11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead is dwelling in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who is dwelling in you.

“And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead is dwelling in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who is dwelling in you.”

He’s talking about some neat things here. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and we are going to be too, even if we experience this physical death.

First Thessalonians 4 says, “The Lord shall descent from heaven with a shout. And with the voice of the archangel, the trumpet of God, the dead in Christ are going to rise first and

we which are alive and remain are going to be caught up together with Him to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord.” (ref. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

It’s a neat day coming.

First Corinthians 15 describes what is happening, “in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, when the trumpet shall sound.” (ref. 1 Corinthians 15:52) This mortal will put on immortality. This change will take place just that quick. We’ll be snatched up in the presence of the Lord.

Now what he’s been teaching us in these eleven verses is the fact that there is life and peace. There is victory in our lives as Christians when we come to the awareness in the relationship that He has provided what we need for victory.

The focus of chapter 7 has been the apostle by himself trying to energize his new nature to victory by adding the Law to it. And that didn’t work. When he comes to chapter 8, he comes to a moment of total abandonment to his own abilities and he turns it over and he allows now the indwelling Holy Spirit, who was there all the time, to begin to energize that new nature.

And so, the apostle could say, “I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live. Yet not I but Christ is living in me. And the life which I am now living in the flesh, I’m living by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (ref. Galatians 2:20)

The apostle knows the thrill of seeing victory and righteousness and holiness and fruit being borne through his life. Not because he's performing it, but because the Spirit of God is now providing the base for victory in his life.

Alright, what have we been saying? We're saying we don't have to fear doom anymore because we're not performing. We're in a relationship with all the equipment necessary. And the Holy Spirit energizes that nature to victory.

Now how much victory are we experiencing in our life? See it's in like measure to our relationship to the indwelling Holy Spirit. If there is grief of the Spirit by sin in our life, everything's come to a screeching halt. And we'll make no progress until we deal with the problem. It's just that simple.

And if we're resisting Him because He's trying to lead us in a definite direction and we don't want to go and He's trying to show us something but we aren't listening.

First Thessalonians 5 says we are quenching the Spirit. Are we putting out the fire of the Spirit in our life?

Now that doesn't mean we don't have a relationship. Don't get that wrong. We are talking now about spiritual truth. We are Christians. We have a relationship with Christ but there is no progress in that relationship of victory as long as one of those two things are true.

The KEY between Romans 7 and Romans 8 is Paul has finally learned what it means to walk by means of the Spirit. And he will not fulfill the desires of the flesh as long as he takes a dependent stance, knowing that the power of sin is greater than he is and that he cannot by himself perform legalistic requirements to get there.

Now that's the simple truth of these verses.

Do we know we are going to be with the Lord one day? Do we know that no matter what happens we're certain of the relationship so we'd be there?

So maybe we can't say the words and maybe we can't put it all together. But the power of our life will bear fruit as we're faithful to live.

Here are our lessons from the passage:

Lesson #1: What a joy that there is no doom or condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Lesson #2: We have been completely forgiven of sin.

Lesson #3: Though our lives now fall far short of what they should be, the matter of sin will not break the relationship.

Lesson #4: The Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed us from the law of sin and death.

Father, thank You for the new Christians who've come to know You through the Bible studies. For those who've expressed faith in You. We pray Your sweet encouragement. We pray that they would sense the evidence of Your Spirit at work and they become deeply sensitive to His work in their lives so they can be fully cooperative with what You're trying to do. Now Lord wherever You find us, we pray that Your Spirit will take and minister to us the truth of the study and the sharing that we've done together. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Not a Performance

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an heir through God” (Galatians 4:7)**

Study Number Eight – The Spirit in the Relationship – Romans 8:1-11

NOTES

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v. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus freed you from the law of sin and death.

v. 3 For what was impossible for the Law, because it was weak through the flesh, God, having sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

v. 4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

v. 5 For those who are according to the flesh are setting their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, on the things of the Spirit.

v. 6 For the way of thinking of the flesh is death, but the way of thinking of the Spirit is life and peace;

v. 7 because the way of thinking of the flesh is hostile toward God; for it is not subjecting itself to the Law of God, for it is not even able to do so;

v. 8 and those who are in the flesh are not able to please God.

v. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God is dwelling in you. But if anyone is not having the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

NOTES

v. 10 Now if Christ is in you, on the one hand the body is dead because of sin, but on the other hand the Spirit is alive because of righteousness.

v. 11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead is dwelling in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who is dwelling in you.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Romans 8:1-11 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Where is the victory, according to verse 1?

3. How are we freed, according to verse 2?

4. How are we to be walking, according to verse 4?

5. Contrast the flesh and the Spirit in verse 6.

6. What is the attitude of the flesh toward God according to verse 7?

7. What does Paul say about the flesh according to verse 8?

8. What does the absence of the Spirit prove in verse 9?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: What a joy that there is no doom or condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

LESSON #2: We have been completely forgiven of sin.

LESSON #3: Though our lives now fall far short of what they should be, the matter of sin will not break the relationship

LESSON #4: The Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed us from the law of sin and death.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
