

LIVE BY THE SPIRIT

The Lesson Rom 8:1-17

Introduction

In a court of law, testimony is heard from witnesses on both sides. The prosecuting attorney presents testimony attempting to show that the accused is guilty of a crime. The defense attorney likewise presents testimony attempting to prove that the accused is not guilty. In the final analysis the jury will have to decide which testimony they find more credible and true. By the way, Jesus is our defense attorney and God is the judge and Holy Spirit is the jury.

Jesus doesn't defend us on the bases of our innocence but on His shed blood on Calvary. Rom 5:9-10. The prosecution attorney, the devil has no legal claim on the believer he has no right to put you on trail again. The Judge and jury (God) has given you a full pardon of all criminal charges.

Rev. 12:10-11 teaches us the strategy of the prosecuting attorney and where the accusation made against us originate. It also teaches us how to overcome him when he try's to accuse you of not being the righteousness of God.

[1]There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit

After presenting his case our defense attorney (Jesus) have won us a full pardon. A pardon is a form of executive clemency preventing criminal prosecution or removing or extinguishing a criminal conviction.

Jesus was able to get all criminal charges dropped against us. Our case has been adjudicated and all charges have been exonerated.

That old accuser the devil is still accusing you of crimes you have already been tried for and pardon. You cannot legally try a man for the same crime twice, that's double jeopardy. Double jeopardy is being put on trial more than once for the same crime. It is forbidden under the fifth Amendment to the US Constitution.

The point is, the judgment for your sins is in your past. All sin was judged on Calvary once and for all. Hebrews 10:11-14, John 5:24.

The righteous demands of the Law have been satisfied by the redemptive work of Christ. Rom 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believe. So a believer is not under law but under grace. You are the righteousness of God right now.

[2] For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

- 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. 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. John 1:4, John 10:10, John 11:25-26
- How does the spirit give life? By freeing us from the law of sin and death. This new life is what governs the believers life from within. Gal. 1:20
- The only way to escape the power of a law is to be superceded by a greater law. The law of sin and death has been superceded by a greater law, the law of the spirit of life. This law will leads you, it will guide you, it brings to your remembrance whatsoever he has said unto you. John 14:26
- Example: law of gravity (discovered by Newton) vs. the law of

[3] For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

- The law could not make you obey it. The law would not lift a finger to help you. The law would only make demands on you to do right. 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. Rom 3:23
- Jesus gives life by doing what the law could not do. He became sin for us. Rom 5:6, Heb. 4:15
- Consequently, all flesh dies physically and can't please God. Therefore, righteousness and life cannot come by the law. Gal. 2:16
- *But* what the law could not do, the Spirit is able to do. Jesus can provide righteousness and life. (2 Cor. 5:21)
- Jesus became a sin offering for us. All sin was charged to him who did no sin neither was guile found in his mouth. 1Peter 2:22-24

[4] That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit..

- The Spirit gives life by Christ providing righteousness for us. He provides righteousness for those who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. This is a most marvelous statement, a glorious truth.
- The Spirit “fulfills righteousness in us.” He credits righteousness as being *in* us. Rom 4:1-8
- We become righteous when we believe that Jesus Christ is our righteousness, the sinless and perfect Son of God. We become righteous when we believe that Jesus Christ is our Savior, the One who died *for* us. 2Corn 5:21, Rom 4:23-25
- We become righteous when we believe in Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God fulfills 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 of God *in* us 1Peter 1:3-4, 2 Peter 1:4.
- It is critical to see this fact, for the Spirit fulfills righteousness *in us*, not by us. We do not and cannot even come close to keeping the law perfectly, but Christ did. If His righteousness cannot be credited and fulfilled *in* us, then we are hopeless and doomed.

[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. [6] For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- “As [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 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. Gal. 5:16-21
- If he keeps his mind upon the *good*, he becomes good. Gal. 5:22-25
- There is the carnal mind vs. the spiritual mind. The carnal mind is the mind of man’s flesh or body. It is the mind with which man is born with which he inherits from his parents.
- The carnal mind can focus upon the moral, upright, and cultured life. In most cases, 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.
- The 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.

To Be Spiritual Minded

- There is the spiritual mind. It is the natural mind of man that has been *renewed by the Spirit of God*. Romans 7:21-25, 12:2, Eph. 4:22-24).
- The words “spiritually minded” mean to be possessed by the Spirit or to be controlled and dominated by the Spirit.
- It means that the man who walks after the Spirit *minds* “the things of the Spirit” day by day. .
- The Spirit of God lives within the believer working, both to will and to do God’s pleasure. Phil. 2:13, Gal. 5:22-23.
- The believer *keeps* his mind upon carrying out the ministry and mission of Christ. 2Corn 5:17-19
- 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 that his sins are forgiven and that he is now acceptable to God. He also dwells in the *peace of God* because he experiences the day by day care and guidance of God in his life knowing that God is looking after him and working all things out for his good. He knows his eternity is taken care of . The man who is spiritually minded is also at peace with all other men. John 5:24. John 16:33. Rom 5:1

[7] Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. [8] So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

- There is the reason the carnal mind dwells in death. The carnal mind dwells in death because it is at enmity with God. This is simply seen. God is holy, righteous, and pure; whereas the carnal mind is impure, immoral, and polluted. The carnal is opposed to God by its very nature.
- God acts only in morality and justice and goodness; whereas the carnal mind behaves immorally, unjustly, and selfishly. The carnal is opposed to God by its very behavior.
- God is eternal, from everlasting to everlasting; whereas the carnal mind ages, deteriorates, dies, and decays. The carnal is opposed to God by its very destiny, death.
- The bottom line the carnal mind “is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” The carnal mind cannot be subject to God’s law because it is not “like” God: not by nature, not by behavior, not by destiny. The carnal mind wants to do its own thing. The carnal man wants to indulge in food, sex, pride, power, position, money, recognition, fame, or self-righteousness. Gal. 5:16-18

[9] But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

The power of the Spirit is seen in the word dwell. The word “dwell” is the picture of a home. The Holy Spirit dwells within the believer: He makes His home, takes up residence, and lives within the believer just as we live in our homes. Gal. 2:20

- **Jesus does an inside job on believers.** 1 Cor. 3:16, 1 Cor. 6:19, 1 John 2:27, Ezekiel 36:27.

The power of the Spirit identifies the believer as being “in” Christ. This is easily seen. Whatever spirit dwells within 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.

If you were accused of being a Christians would their be enough evidence in your life to convict you?

[10] And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness[11] But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you

Christ is said to be in the believer. Col 1:27

- The Spirit gives life to the *spirit* of the believer. “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.
- The Spirit of Christ gives life to the *spirit of man* now, the very moment a person believes he receives eternal life. 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. Eph. 2:1, John 3:3

[12] Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. [13] For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

- In conclusion you do not owe the flesh anything and to obey it is spiritual suicide. Rom 6:23
- The Spirit gives the power to mortify or put to death evil deeds.
- Note two points. Believers are in debt to the Spirit, not to the flesh. The word “debtors” means to be obligated, to owe, to be bound by some duty.
- Believers are not in “debt” to the flesh. The flesh has done nothing for man, nothing of real value.
- It cannot please God (Romans 8:8). The worst advise anyone could give you is to be yourself. Why? You are your own worst enemy.
- A man is a fool to focus his life upon such a weak thing as the flesh; a fool lives 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.



[14] For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

- The Spirit leads the believer. There are several ideas in the Greek word *lead* or *led*. There is the idea of *carrying and bearing along*. The Spirit leads the believer and carries him through the trials of this life.
- 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. John 16:13; Galatians 5:18; 2 Peter 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. Ps. 23

[15] For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

- The Spirit adopts the believer. Note two very significant points.
- The Spirit delivers man from a terrible spirit—“the spirit of bondage.” Note what the bondage is: it is fear. Man is gripped by the bondage of fear which comes in the form apprehension, anxiety, tension, dread, alarm, danger, terror. Satan’s strategy is to enslaved men and hold them in bondage by fear. 2Tim 1:7
- What causes fear? Almost everything and anything can arouse fear: Here is a list of a few things ...suffering, disease, unemployment, loss of livelihood...not measuring up, failure, disapproval, blame...death, traumatic trials, loss of position, loss of spouse...falling short, punishment, 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. We are not sinners saved by grace, we are sons and daughters sayeth the Lord all mighty. 2Corn 6:17-18

[16] The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

- Adam's spirit was disconnected from God after the fall. God said, the day you eat of the tree of good and evil he would die. What die in the garden was Adam's ability to commune with God. He no longer could discern the mind of God. Eph. 2:1
- We were dead in our trespasses and sin, unable to respond to the Spirit of God. When we were born again we were reconnected and can once again commune with God through the Spirit. The Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. 1Corn. 6:16-17. He bears witness to four glorious truths.
- The Holy Spirit bears witness that we are the children of God. Very simply stated, the Holy Spirit *quickens* our hearts with the perfect knowledge and the complete confidence that we are the children of God.
- The Spirit is sheds abroad in our hearts. He spreads the knowledge that God loves us and spreads it all through our being. Romans 5:1-5
- The Spirit is the earnest or the guarantee that we are children of God. 2Cor. 1:22, 2Cor. 5:5.
- The Spirit is the seal or the guarantee that we are children of God. Eph. 1:13, Eph. 4:30

[17] And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together

- We are heirs of eternal life (Titus 3:7), Matthew 19:29
- The Holy Spirit bears witness that we are joint-heirs with Christ.
- 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. James 2:5, Matt. 25:34-40, Romans 4:13
- The Holy Spirit bears witness 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. 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. Matt. 5:10-12
- All suffering is not good. 1 Peter 2:20
- What kind of an attitude should we have about suffering. Rom 8:18, Phil 3:8-10, 1 Peter 4:16, 1 Peter 5:10, Phil. 1:29, 1 Peter 3:14

- 6. *Witchcraft* (pharmakeia PWS: 4364): sorcery; the use of drugs or of evil spirits to gain control over the lives of others or over one's own life. In the present context it would include all forms of seeking the control of one's fate including astrology, palm reading, seances, fortune telling, crystals, and other forms of witchcraft.
- 17. *Revellings* (koōmoi PWS: 3299): carousing; uncontrolled license, indulgence, and pleasure; taking part in wild parties or in drinking parties; lying around indulging in feeding the lusts of the flesh; orgies.
- 1. *Adultery* (moicheia PWS: 63): sexual unfaithfulness to husband or wife. It is also looking on a woman or a man to lust after her or him. Looking at and lusting after the opposite sex whether in person, magazines, books, on beaches or anywhere else is adultery. Imagining and lusting within the heart is the very same as committing the act.
- *Lasciviousness* (aselgeia): filthiness, indecency, shamelessness. A chief characteristic of the behavior is open and shameless indecency. It means unrestrained evil thoughts and behavior. It is giving in to brutish and lustful desires, a readiness for any pleasure. It is a man who knows no restraint, a man who has sinned so much that he no longer cares what people say or think. It is something far more distasteful than just doing wrong. The man who misbehaves usually tries to hide his wrong, but a lascivious man does not care who knows about his exploits or shame. He wants; therefore, he seeks to take and gratify. Decency and opinion do not matter. Initially when he began to sin, he did as all men do: he misbehaved in secret. But eventually, the sin got the best of him—to the point that he no longer cared who saw or knew. He became the subject of a master—the master of habit, of the thing itself. Men become the slaves of such things as unbridled lust, wantonness, licentiousness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence (Mark 7:22), wanton manners, filthy words, indecent body movements, immoral handling of males and females (Romans 13:13), public display of affection, carnality, gluttony, and sexual immorality (1 Peter 4:3; 2 Peter 2:2, 18). (Cp. 2 Cor. 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephes. 4:19; 2 Peter 5. *Idolatry* (eidoōlolatrias): the worship of idols, whether mental or made by man's hands; the worship of some idea of what God is like, of an image of God within a person's mind; the giving of one's primary devotion (time and energy) to something other than God. (See note, *Sin*, pt.2—§1 Cor. 6:9 for detailed discussion.) *Emulations* (zeōlos PWS: 1253): jealousy, wanting and desiring to have what someone else has. It may be material things, recognition, honor, or position. 12. *Seditious* (dichostasiai PWS: 3402): division, rebellion, standing against others, splitting off from others. 13. *Heresies* (haireseis PWS: 1939): rejecting the fundamental beliefs of God, Christ, the Scriptures, and the church; believing and holding to some teaching other than the truth. 16. *Drunkenness* (methai): taking drink or drugs to affect one's senses for lust or pleasure; becoming tipsy or intoxicated; partaking of drugs; seeking to loosen moral restraint for bodily pleasure.

