

THE GOSPEL OF GOD IN ROMANS

Message Ten

The Divine Spirit Mingled with Our Human Spirit— the Secret of God's Organic Salvation and the Key to the Entire Christian Life

Scripture Reading: Rom. 5:10, 17; 6:4; 7:6; 8:2, 4, 16

- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,
- Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the ¹abundance of grace and of the gift of ²righteousness will ³reign in ⁴life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 6:4 We have been ^{1a}buried therefore with Him through ²baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was ^braised from the dead through the ^{3c}glory of the Father, so also we might ⁴walk in ^dnewness of ^elife.
- Rom 7:6 But now we have been ¹discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we ²serve in ³newness of ⁴spirit and not in oldness of letter.
- Rom 8:2 For the ^{1a}law of the ²Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed ⁵me in Christ Jesus from the ⁶law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be ¹fulfilled in us, who do not ^{2a}walk according to the flesh but according to the ³spirit.
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

I. The divine Spirit of life dwelling in our human spirit, with these two mingled together as one spirit, is the secret of God's organic salvation and the key to the entire Christian life for the reality of the Body of Christ in the church life to consummate the New Jerusalem—Rom. 8:2, 4, 16; 1 Cor. 6:17:

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- Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be ¹fulfilled in us, who do not ^{2a}walk according to the flesh but according to the ³spirit.
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is ^{1a}joined to the Lord is ^{2b}one spirit.
- A. The divine Spirit of life is the Spirit of God processed and consummated to be the life-giving, compounded, and indwelling Spirit, who indwells the believers as the reality of the pneumatic, pneumatized Christ, as the consummation of the processed and consummated Triune God, and as the reality of the divine resurrection; it is through such a Spirit of life that the eternal, only wise God, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden through the ages, dispenses Himself in His processed and consummated Trinity into the believers to be their dynamic salvation as their life and everything—Rom. 16:25.
- Rom 16:25 ^aNow to Him who is able to ^{1b}establish you according to ^{2c}my gospel, that is, the ^dproclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the ^{3e}mystery, which has been kept in silence in the ⁴times of the ages
- B. The human spirit of the believers is the believers' spirit regenerated and indwelt by the divine Spirit of life and mingled with the divine Spirit of life as one spirit; it is through such a human spirit that the people chosen by God participate in the dynamic salvation of God as their living in this age and their destiny in eternity.
- C. Hence, "the Spirit...with our spirit" in verse 16 of Romans 8 (the key chapter of the book of Romans concerning the Spirit of life and the spirit of the believers) is the most crucial secret in the whole book of Romans for God to execute His dynamic salvation and for the believers to participate in it.
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

- D. We all have to know these two spirits in the divine enlightenment that we may enter, by the Spirit of life in our regenerated spirit which is mingled with the Spirit of life, into the intrinsic essence of the dynamic salvation of God in Christ, which is the Triune God processed and consummated to be our eternal inheritance for our enjoyment.

II. We are being saved in life by Christ as the life-giving Spirit—5:10:

- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,
- A. Having been reconciled to God, we are being saved in Christ's life, we reign as kings in this life, we walk in newness of life, and we serve in newness of spirit—v. 17; 6:4; 7:6.
- Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the ¹abundance of grace and of the gift of ²righteousness will ³reign in ⁴life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 6:4 We have been ^{1a}buried therefore with Him through ²baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was ^braised from the dead through the ^{3c}glory of the Father, so also we might ⁴walk in ^dnewness of ^elife.
- Rom 7:6 But now we have been ¹discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we ²serve in ³newness of ⁴spirit and not in oldness of letter.
- B. The Spirit of life is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of God is the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of Christ is Christ Himself, Christ is in us, Christ Himself is life, and our spirit is life—8:9-11; John 14:6; Col. 3:4:
- Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the ^{1a}Spirit of God ²dwells in you. Yet ³if anyone does not have the ⁴Spirit of Christ, he is not ⁵of Him.
- Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.
- Rom 8:11 And if the ¹Spirit of ²the One who raised Jesus from the dead ^{3a}dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also ^{4b}give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the ¹way and the ^{2a}reality and the ^blife; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- Col 3:4 When ¹Christ our ^{2a}life is ^bmanifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in ^cglory.
1. "Christ...in you" is the crucial point of the book of Romans—8:10.
Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.
 2. In chapter 3 of Romans Christ is on the cross, shedding His blood for our redemption; in chapter 4 He is in resurrection; in chapter 6 we are in Him; now in chapter 8 He is the Spirit in us.
- C. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!"—vv. 14-15:
1. The spirit of sonship is our regenerated human spirit, mingled with the Spirit of the Son of God.
 2. Sonship is the reality of being a son; thus, the spirit of sonship is the spirit of the reality of being a son—v. 16.
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
- D. Romans 8:23 says that we have received "the firstfruits of the Spirit," the foretaste of our full enjoyment of God; verse 26 says that the Spirit helps us by interceding; and verse 29 reveals that the Spirit conforms us to the image of the Son of God.
- Rom 8:23 And not only *so*, but we ourselves also, who have ¹the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves ²groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting ^{3a}sonship, the ^bredemption of our body.
- Rom 8:26 Moreover, ¹in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help *us* in our ²weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself ^aintercedes for *us* with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He ¹foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated to be ³conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;

E. All the above items are included in the one phrase *saved in His life*; to be saved in His life is to be saved in Christ Himself as the life-giving Spirit—5:10; 1 Cor. 15:45b.

Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,

1 Cor 15:45b ...the last Adam *became* a ^clife-giving Spirit.

III. Romans reveals that the Spirit of life is doing a fourfold work within us:

A. The Spirit of life is the liberating Spirit:

1. When we walk in the Spirit of life, we are freed from the law of sin and of death—Rom. 8:2.

Rom 8:2 For the ^{1a}law of the ²Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed ⁵me in Christ Jesus from the ⁶law of sin and of death.

2. It is not knowledge that liberates us but the Spirit of life Himself; therefore, we need to pray ourselves into the liberating Spirit to live, move, and have our being in this Spirit, who is mingled with our spirit—v. 4.

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be ¹fulfilled in us, who do not ^{2a}walk according to the flesh but according to the ³spirit.

B. The Spirit of life is the delivering Spirit:

1. Because we are bound, we need liberation, but because we are fallen, we need deliverance.

2. If we are in the Spirit of life, we will have a deep conviction that we need deliverance from our attitude, motives, thinking, loving, hating, decisions, temper, disposition, and many other items—5:10.

Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,

C. The Spirit of life is the sanctifying Spirit:

1. To be sanctified is to be saturated through transformation with all that God is—6:19, 22; 12:2.

Rom 6:19 I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness ¹unto lawlessness, so now ^apresent your members as slaves to righteousness unto ^{2b}sanctification.

Rom 6:22 But now, having been ^afreed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto ^{1b}sanctification, and the end, ^ceternal ²life.

Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.

2. Sanctification equals transformation in Romans 12:2, which says, "Be transformed by the renewing of the mind."

Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.

D. The Spirit of life is the glorifying Spirit:

1. Eventually, the Spirit of life will glorify us for the full corporate expression of the Triune God in our entire tripartite being—8:30.

Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also ^{1a}justified; and those whom He justified, these He also ^{2b}glorified.

2. He is leading many sons into glory by His divine sanctification to make us His glorious church—Heb. 2:10-12; Eph. 5:26-27.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting ^afor ¹Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading ^{2b}many sons into ^{3c}glory, to make the ^{4d}Author of their ^esalvation ^{5f}perfect through sufferings.

- Heb 2:11 For both ¹He who ^asanctifies and those who are being ^bsanctified are all ²of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them ^cbrothers,
- Heb 2:12 Saying, "I will ¹declare Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the ²church ³I will sing hymns of praise to You."
- Eph 5:26 That He might ^{1a}sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the ^{2b}washing of the ³water in the ^{4c}word,
- Eph 5:27 That He might ^{1a}present the ^{2b}church to Himself ³glorious, not having ⁴spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be ^{5c}holy and ^dwithout blemish.

IV. Romans reveals that the Spirit of the Son of God for our sonship is carrying out a fivefold work within us:

- A. The Spirit of the Son of God is the witnessing Spirit, witnessing with our spirit that we are the children of God—Rom. 8:16.
 Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
- B. The Spirit of the Son of God is the leading Spirit; if we live under this leading, we will walk and behave in a way that proves we are God's sons—v. 14.
 Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.
- C. The Spirit of the Son of God is the interceding Spirit; there is Someone within us who is always praying for us and for others—vv. 26-27.
 Rom 8:26 Moreover, ¹in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help *us* in our ²weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself ^aintercedes for *us* with groanings which cannot be uttered.
 Rom 8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the ¹mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints ²according to God.
- D. The Spirit of the Son of God is the conforming Spirit, doing a work to conform us to the image of Christ as the firstborn Son of God—v. 29.
 Rom 8:29 Because those whom He ¹foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated to be ³conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;
- E. The Spirit of the Son of God is the building Spirit:
1. All the sons of God are the members of Christ, and all these members are built up and coordinated together by the Spirit—12:4-5; Eph. 4:3-4.
 Rom 12:4 For just as in ^aone body we have ^bmany members, and all the members do not have the ^csame ¹function,
 Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body ¹in Christ, and individually ^{2a}members one of another.
 Eph 4:3 Being diligent to ¹keep the ^{2a}oneness of the Spirit in the uniting ^{3b}bond of ^cpeace:
 Eph 4:4 ¹One ^aBody and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one ^{2b}hope of your ^ccalling;
 2. The mutual membership and organic relatedness in the Body for the proper church life is the ultimate work of the Spirit of life and the Spirit of the Son of God for our sonship.

V. The key point of the entire Christian life is that Christ as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit lives in our spirit, and as the Spirit He mingles Himself with our spirit to make these two spirits one—1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17:

- 1 Cor 15:45b ...the last Adam *became* a ^clife-giving Spirit.
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is ^{1a}joined to the Lord is ^{2b}one spirit.
- A. In our mingled spirit there is no problem, so there is no need of solutions; whatever we need is in our spirit—Phil. 1:19; 4:23.
 Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to ^{1a}salvation through ²your ^bpetition and *the* ³bountiful ^csupply of the ^{4d}Spirit of Jesus Christ,
 Phil 4:23 The ^{1a}grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your ^{2b}spirit.

- B. We need to forget about our weaknesses, our shortcomings, our failures, and everything of the self and set our mind on the spirit, that is, remain in the spirit by always paying attention to our spirit, using our spirit, and caring for our spirit—Rom. 8:6.
 Rom 8:6 For ¹the mind set on the flesh is ²death, but ³the mind set on the spirit is ^alife and ^bpeace.
- C. We need to be burning in spirit by praying in order to spend more and more time in the presence of the Lord; when we are genuinely burning in spirit, we are beside ourselves and are fools because of Christ—Matt. 6:6; 2 Cor. 5:13; 1 Cor. 4:10.
 Matt 6:6 But you, when you pray, enter into your ¹private room, and ^ashut your door and pray to your Father who is in ^bsecret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.
 2 Cor 5:13 For whether we were ^{1a}beside ourselves, *it was* to God; or whether we are ^{2b}sober-minded, *it is* ^cfor you.
 1 Cor 4:10 We are ^{1a}fools because of Christ, but you are ^bprudent in Christ; we are ^{2c}weak, but you are strong; you are ³glorious, but we are ^ddishonored.
- D. Even though our surroundings and circumstances may be miserable, we ourselves must be joyful in spirit, living in the reality of the kingdom of God—Rom. 14:17; cf. Dan. 3:19-20, 25; Acts 16:23-25; Eph. 4:1.
 Rom 14:17 For the ^{1a}kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but ^{2b}righteousness and ^cpeace and ^djoy in the Holy Spirit.
 Dan 3:19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury and the countenance of his face was changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. He responded and commanded that the furnace be made seven times hotter than it was usually heated.
 Dan 3:20 And he commanded certain mighty men who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and throw them into the blazing furnace of fire.
 Dan 3:25 He answered and said, Look, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not harmed. And the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.
 Acts 16:23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they threw *them* into ^aprison, charging the jailer to keep them securely,
 Acts 16:24 Who, having received such a charge, threw them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the ^{1a}stocks.
 Acts 16:25 And about ^amidnight Paul and Silas, while praying, sang hymns of praise to God; and the prisoners were listening to them.
 Eph 4:1 ¹I beseech you therefore, I, the ^{2a}prisoner ^bin the Lord, to ^{3c}walk worthily of the ^dcalling with which you were ^ecalled,
- E. When we are burning and joyful in spirit, we enjoy God, reign as kings in life, walk in newness of life, and serve in newness of spirit—Rom. 5:10-11, 17; 6:4; 7:6.
 Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,
 Rom 5:11 And not only so, but also ¹boasting in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the ^areconciliation.
 Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the ¹abundance of grace and of the gift of ²righteousness will ³reign in ⁴life through the One, Jesus Christ.
 Rom 6:4 We have been ^{1a}buried therefore with Him through ²baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was ^braised from the dead through the ^{3c}glory of the Father, so also we might ⁴walk in ^dnewness of ^elife.
 Rom 7:6 But now we have been ¹discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we ²serve in ³newness of ⁴spirit and not in oldness of letter.
- F. When we turn to our spirit, remain in our spirit, and walk and live according to our spirit, we are the real sons of God and the living members of Christ, who are organically related to one another and built up together as a living Body to express Christ as a reality in the church life to consummate the New Jerusalem.