

The 5th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, July 2, 2023
“Life in the Spirit: The Spirit’s Renovating Work Within Us”

Romans 8:9-11

Authentic Christianity isn’t about mere _____ or being a good person; it’s not a set of beliefs or _____; it’s not even membership in a local church—as important as these things are. Authentic Christianity is all about being _____ again through the life-giving Holy Spirit.

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

(Romans 8:9-11)

I think we can summarize Paul’s teaching here in three words:

Word #1: _____.

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.” (Romans 8:9)

Paul insists here that to be a Christian requires that the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our _____. If we want to fully understand what he’s saying here we shouldn’t miss the change of personal _____.

In verses 5-8, Paul is speaking in the _____ person, and describing two basic groups of people in the world, now, having laid out his principle in the abstract, he turns to the Roman Christians to whom he’s been writing—and to us—and speaks to them much more concretely and specifically, addressing them directly, in the _____ person.

Paul is speaking here not just as a teacher of the faith, but as a pastor because he wants to give to them _____ under God of the saving grace that is theirs in Jesus.

The word ‘if’ in the middle of verse 9, is better translated as:

Paul isn’t _____ whether the Spirit of God resides in their lives so

much as he’s _____ them that He does in fact dwell within them.

Here’s the point. The way we know that we’re in _____ and not in Adam; the way we know that we’re living under the rule of the Spirit and not under the rule of the flesh, Paul says is by the _____ of the Holy Spirit, dwelling in our heart.

Paul is clear here: all Christians everywhere are _____ people.

TWO STAGE CHRISTIANITY

Not only does this kind of thinking create a _____ within Christianity of those who are “Spirit filled” and those who are “not full,” but Paul flatly rejects in Romans 8:9 any suggestion that the Christian life could ever be anything other than _____ of the Holy Spirit.

Without the Spirit of Christ there’s no _____ with Christ, there’s no new life in Christ, there’s no saving faith in Christ. There’s no _____ to live for Christ, there’s no _____! The gift of the Spirit dwelling in the heart is the _____ possession of every single Christian, without exception.

“I will ask the Father and He will give you another helper to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17)

The Holy Spirit is the _____ and _____ of every believer, and so there are no Christians in whom the Spirit of Christ does not dwell. If you don’t have the Spirit of Christ, you don’t _____ to Him.

Even though all believers have the Holy Spirit, some are more willing to _____ to the Spirit and allow the Spirit to _____ through them more than other believers are. Those who _____ more on the Spirit’s power than their own.

However, there are _____ theological and pastoral consequences to a two-stage Christianity.

- It can breed spiritual _____.
- It implies there are th super-_____ ones who’ve had this powerful experience and infilling, and then there are the _____ of us, languishing at a lower level, longing for it, but not attaining to it.

This tells us that we're not living the Christian life alone, without any _____. We may be keenly aware of our _____, but the infinite, eternal and unchangeable third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, the same Spirit who rested upon and empowered the earthly ministry of Jesus and raised Him from the dead, _____ our heart.

He won't _____ us to the liabilities of our nature. He's at work within us, for the _____ of the name of Jesus, and for our everlasting good.

Word #2: _____.

"But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness." (Romans 8:10)

This tells us something very important about the _____ Christ is in us and the manner of our _____ with Him: by the Spirit dwelling within.

There is the closest possible _____ between the Spirit and the Father and the Son within the bonds of the Trinity so that, for us to have the Spirit, is to have the Son and the Father.

"I will not leave you as orphans when the Helper comes. I will come to you." (John 14:18)

"the body is dead because of sin" simply means that sin has introduced into the realm of our bodied existence the _____ fact of death.

The principle of _____ leading to death is in every one of us.

Since Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that was forbidden to him, death has been the _____ human experience.

Another Adam has come who hasn't _____ as the first Adam did, but who _____—the Lord Jesus Christ, the righteous one. And because of His righteousness, right into the middle of the world of death that Adam's sin brought, the life of the _____ springs up into existence in our hearts, here and now ahead of time, as it were, so that we can say with the apostle Paul; "We do not _____ heart."

We remember that the Spirit who dwells in us is _____, and has given us new life, has caused us to be born again into a living _____, and day by day—even as outward bodies are _____ away—inwardly we're being _____ and renovated into the likeness of _____.

As a result, there are new _____, new priorities, new loves, new longings. There are even new _____. We long now for the _____ of God, the glory of God, the things of God, the _____ of God, the touch of God, the Word of God. However, we also regret anything we still see in our hearts that _____, offends, or grieves Him.

Authentic Christianity isn't distinguished by simple _____, good behaviour, _____ words, or works. It's not demonstrated by church _____, going on a mission trip, or serving on a committee. It's not even revealed by profound religious _____ or powerful prayer. None of these are wrong as far as they go, however, they're as often true of an _____ person as they are of a converted person.

Word #3: _____.

"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:11)

The new life that is implanted in the heart by the Spirit when we're converted will one day _____ death completely so that, the Father who raised Christ by the Spirit and has united us to Christ by the same Spirit, will one day _____ our mortal bodies from the grave by that same Spirit.

Christian hope isn't a sort of disembodied, _____ existence after death. Our final destiny is _____ resurrection—just like Jesus. One day the last enemy, _____ itself, will be destroyed when the risen Christ comes in glory, and then the bodies of believers will be raised _____ to live forever in a new creation.

This tells us that nothing can _____ the Holy Spirit at work within us—not our sin, not our misunderstandings, not our weaknesses and our weariness. The purpose of God will be _____ because the Holy Spirit is _____.

"Those whom He called, He justified; whom He justified, He also glorified." (Romans 8:30)

Despite our dark fears, we're not _____, we're not useless, we're not unable. We're not without _____ against the world, the flesh, and the devil, nor are we without strength to withstand _____.

One day, even your fragile frame, will be _____ and made strong in resurrection likeness to Christ. Until that day comes, the Holy Spirit will keep you. He'll hold you fast. He'll _____ and strengthen you. So _____ on. The race is nearly over. So keep running to the finish line. Outwardly, you may well be fading away, but inwardly you are being renewed day by day.