

NOTES FROM PASTOR TIM'S SERMON 9th April 2023 pm

Easter Sunday – Part 3 – “The difference the spirit makes”

Scripture references from the ESV

Romans 8:9-11 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus^[d] from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

- Every Christian believer is in-dwelt by the Spirit of God.
- You **cannot** belong to Jesus Christ unless you have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you (v9 above)
- When we have the Spirit of God in us, we have the life of the Triune God in us.

This is one of the truths that sets us apart from every other religion.

God comes by his Spirit to take up residence in us.

He takes up residence in our bodies. Paul writes: **Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (1 Cor 6:19).**

Being a Christian is not just that

- We believe some facts about Jesus and pray in his name
- We follow the teaching of the Bible, come to church and sing songs

Being a Christian is about having the living God come to dwell in us by his Spirit

This brings a radical change and your life will be completely different.

In the same way that we celebrate and rejoice in the resurrection, so the change that takes place when the Spirit of God comes to dwell in us is something to celebrate and rejoice in.

The verses above involve all three members of the Trinity.

When the Spirit of God comes to dwell in us, it results in fellowship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- The Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) who dwells in us (v9)

- The Spirit of Christ is dwelling in us (v10)
- The Spirit of him (the Father) who raised Jesus from the dead (v11). It was the Father who raised Jesus and who dwells in us. (**Romans 6:4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.)

When the Spirit takes up residence in us, two changes result:

1. **New spiritual life (v10 above).** When the Spirit of God comes to dwell in us, he brings Christ, and with him comes new life in our spirit.

We have this new life in our 'dead' bodies, which still suffer the effects of sin, still give into temptation and in which we have to fight sin. However, within this dead body we have a spirit that has been made alive to God and to the world around us. The light of his glory has shone in our hearts and so

- God is gloriously real to us and Christ is precious
- The Spirit empowers and reveals Christ to our souls
- The world that God has created has a new beauty because we see it as God's world. In it we see signposts that point to the glory of the God we have come to delight in.
- Bible reading and prayer are no longer a duty, but delightful fellowship with Christ
- The sin that still remains in these bodies of death distresses us and we find ourselves confessing our failure to God but at the same time resting more and more in his grace to forgive us.

2. **We have the assurance of new resurrection life (v11 above)** Currently we have that new spiritual life in our dead bodies, but one day that will change.

We may be deeply troubled by our sin, and wonder if we will ever break free from it.

We experience the battle between:

- The indwelling sin in our bodies that are dead because of sin **and**
- The life of the Spirit that leads us to see and delight in the glory of God

v11 assures us that a day is coming when we will be set free. The freedom we anticipate and are promised will come at our resurrection.

The Spirit dwells in us now and he is given as a seal, an assurance that just as Christ was raised to life, we too shall be raised to life. At the moment, we have new life that enables us to delight in God, but that delight is accompanied by a groaning because our bodies not only suffer the effects of sin but are still subject to the power of sin.

- We suffer the effects of sin – emotional and physical pain with weakness in our bodies as our strength begins to decline, our eyesight dims and our hearing fades
- We suffer the effects of sin through sinful actions that are done against us and that we do to others
- We suffer the power of sin so that we do things that the Spirit within us does not want us to do.

We groan under the pain of suffering, and because of the fight that we undergo to keep putting sin to death. The normal Christian life is a battle but

We groan in the hope of the resurrection

The Spirit of God gives us assurance that one day we will be set free from

- The effects of sin – pain, weakness and death
- The power of sin – we will never again experience temptation or fall into sin

A day will come when the fight will be over and we will be truly at rest in resurrected bodies raised to life as the body of Jesus was. Paul tells us we are exiles at the moment (Philippians 3:20-21):

**But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.**

Are you weary and feeling battle worn in your fight against sin, or feeling worn down by the decay in your body?

- The life of the Spirit within us gives us new spiritual life now that sustains us by enabling us to see and delight in the glory of God, sweetening some of our burdens.

- The Resurrection gives us the assurance that when Jesus returns these bodies will be transformed to be set free from sin.

Christ is risen

He is risen indeed!