

God's Spirit and the Power of Resurrection

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Romans 8:9-17

⁹ You, however, do not live lives determined by flesh but lives encompassed by Spirit, if in fact **God's Spirit dwells in you**. Anyone who does not have **the Messiah's Spirit** is not part of him.

¹⁰ But if **Messiah is in you**, although the body is dead in its struggle with sin, **the presence of God's Spirit is life itself** because of God's faithful righteousness. ¹¹ **If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you**, he who raised Messiah from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells within you**.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, the fact that we are physical does not mean we owe a debt to keep on living lives determined by the flesh. ¹³ For if you live a life stamped by the flesh and its little gods, you're rejecting the only true God and source of life and you will die. But if you **join with the Spirit in condemning sin itself to death** – all the destructive practices that sin has made part of the body's everyday doings – **you will live**.

¹⁴ For all who are **led** through life's wanderings **by God's Spirit** are **God's sons and daughters**. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a **Spirit who declares us to be God's children**, in whom we cry, "**Abba! Father!**"

¹⁶ **The Spirit himself is bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God**, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow **heirs with the Messiah**, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be **glorified with him**.

Romans 1:3-4

³ [God's Good News is about] his Son, who was from David's seed according to the flesh ⁴ and was marked out clearly as God's Son in power by the work of the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Messiah (anointed king) our Lord (LORD, emperor).

Romans 1:28-31

²⁸ And just as they did not think it fit to know God as God, God handed them over to their unfit mind to do what ought not to be done: ²⁹ filled with all injustice, evil, greed, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness; gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ senseless, promise-breakers, unfeeling, merciless.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I have been crucified with the Messiah. I live, but it's no longer just I, Messiah lives in me. And the life I now live in flesh, I live by the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.

Galatians 4:4-6

⁴ In the fullness of time, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as God's sons and daughters.

⁶ And because you are, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

John 14:16-19, 23

¹⁶ And I myself will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Because I live, you also will live. ... ²³ If anyone loves me, they will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

Acts 2:16-17

¹⁶ But this is what was uttered by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...."

Resurrection and Pentecost

Jesus forced weeks of waiting between his resurrection and the first public proclamation of the Good News. He did not allow his disciples to begin immediately. He was not beginning a political, social, or religious movement, though any human group has those aspects.

This was to be a new reality of God's participation in the life of humans. It began in Jesus' incarnation, consummated in his resurrection that joins physical life with the life of God in a new way. Now it was empowered by God's Holy Spirit to bring ordinary humans into a transforming, growing experience of God's life and love now, drawing them into the very life of Jesus by the power of his Spirit, embodying Jesus' life of service, love of enemies, forgiveness, healing, trust in God, deep peace ... preparing for their own resurrection.

It could not begin with human organization and campaigning. It went with the presence and message of a crucified Messiah, with God's Spirit, and devoted to his Love and Grace. The disciples did not plan but experienced Pentecost, and learned to follow the Holy Spirit.

The Human Life of Father, Son, and Spirit

In Romans 8, Paul unfolds some of the depth of what they experienced and learned. Humans live limited by flesh, self-deceived, self-centered, both sinner and enslaved, dying, dead.

What God has done in Jesus, seen in his resurrection, makes it possible for the whole life of God to come to dwell in humans, so that we're not limited by our sin-plagued, dying flesh. Rather, God's Spirit dwells in us. Paul interweaves the identities: "*God's Spirit ... Messiah's Spirit ... Messiah ... the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus ... He who raised the Messiah....*"

We seem trapped in our brokenness, with God pushed to the margins of life. But God's presence and power by the Spirit calls us to share in God's life, rejecting "life" of flesh that deceives, imprisons and kills us. Experiencing the life Jesus showed, the Kingdom of God.

Adopted into God's Life

Amazingly, we little broken humans are to be brought into the eternal life of God, with all its creativity, love, community, and delight. What we experience now is the long journey, like Israel led by the cloud through the wilderness. We experience both flesh and Spirit. We sometimes feel drawn back into slavery and fear. But the Spirit in us is our participation in God's life as God's children, in spite of our weakness. This is God's work, not just ours. That complex work of both suffering and glory is what is seen in Jesus' life, ministry, and death.

The outcome: astonishing. We little humans are part of God's family, heirs of the God of the universe, part of the Messiah's life. His self-giving, suffering love, and his Glory are ours.