

The Holy Spirit 9 – His support and help in our daily lives:-

In this, our last study before we take a break for summer, we look at the way the Holy Spirit acts as communicator and supporter in our everyday life; specially in our prayer life.

Read Romans chapter 8 especially verses 14 – 16 and 26 – 27. Notice that in this chapter we see the reality of the ‘Already’ and ‘Not Yet’ of our salvation!

‘Already’ we are in Christ. We have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us - we are sons and daughters of the Most High God. But! We live in a fallen, broken world and in it we struggle with our fallible earthly bodies!

Romans chapter 8, verses 1 – 11:-

This is the introduction to the teaching on ‘The Life in the Spirit’ in the following verses. Note that the whole of this chapter is dependent on the reader being “. . . *in Christ Jesus*”. See 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 17 and here in Romans chapter 8, verse 9. Once we are ‘in Christ’ then we have the assurance of the Holy Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. See Ephesians chapter 1, verses 13 – 14 and 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 5. The promise given through the Holy Spirit to the believer follows in verses 10 – 11 of Romans chapter 8.

Verses 12 – 17:-

If we are led by the Spirit of God we are the children of God – brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ because we are ‘in Him’ see Hebrews chapter 2, verses 11 - 13. This is why we can pray with confidence ‘Our Father’. “*All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God*” verses 14 – 17 should be an ongoing assurance for us as we meet all the difficulties and problems of human life! Never forget that if we are ‘in Christ’ we are children of the Most High God. We can call out to him in whatever difficulties we face crying “*Abba! Father!*”. Yes we are going to meet with all the usual problems of life and maybe with opposition for our lives as Christians; however in Christ our destiny is secure “*we will also be gloried with him.*” (verse 17).

Verses 18 – 25:-

The preceding verses are witnessing to the ‘Already’ part of our salvation. Now we are faced with the reality of the present time (verse 18) the ‘Not Yet’. The whole of creation is “*in bondage to decay*”. Paul says that the whole of creation (see Genesis chapter 1) is waiting and longing for resurrection. When ‘*the sons of God*’ are revealed then the whole of creation will be transformed. All things will be made new. No more death nor crying nor pain – there will be “*new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells*”. 2 Peter chapter 3, verse 13.

Verses 26 – 34:-

In the everyday situation in which we find ourselves it is the indwelling Spirit of God which helps us to pray. When we are ‘lost for words’ the Holy Spirit encourages and helps our inner being to cry out to God our Father. Paul goes even further in verse 27 - “*the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God*”. Not only do “*we have a Great High Priest . . .*” at the throne of God, we also have the Holy Spirit of God within us praying with us and for us! The Lord God is on our side! Who then can condemn or stand against us.

Verses 35 – 39:-

These verses are the conclusion of any accusation. No-one and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Along with Paul and the countless saints who have gone before us, we too should be ‘persuaded’ - not just ‘I am sure’! verse 38. The Greek word implies that Paul has looked at all the arguments and is “*persuaded that neither death, nor life, . . . nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

Our message to a suffering world!