

JUDGES & ROMANS: RUINED TO RIGHTEOUS

Lesson 14: Righteous Living in the Spirit

Key Verse: For all who are led by the Spirit of God are [daughters] of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as [daughters], by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"~Romans 8.14-15

What you type into your search engine informs a mathematical formula, an algorithm, designed to answer your question, or provide you what you are looking for. As you click on relevant websites and links, the algorithm continues to understand more and more about what you are truly in need of, or the question you need answered. Truly, the algorithm is designed to "listen" to your frustrations as you re-type your question to inspire better results and to correct your misspellings so it can assist in helping you find what you need. In addition, its code is written to go beyond your initial search into knowing what you will need next, once your core questions/search has been resolved. This is both scary and wonderful! Likewise, the **Holy Spirit** is our "algorithm" before God, knowing what we need, (gently) correcting our misinterpretations of God's Sovereignty, and shepherding us to remember our promised peace with God. As we cry out to our **Abba Father** in fear, frustration, anger, anxiety, sinful desires, joy, and celebration, the Holy Spirit is present to ensure we experience God as our Father in the fullness of His Glory and His Holiness. More than a mathematical formula, the Holy Spirit preserves the truth of God in us, steadying our hearts and minds with His Hope of His future Glory so that we may live fully as God's beloved daughters, even in our "half-saved" status full of the tension "between present difficulty and future destiny, between the already and the not yet, between sufferings and glory."¹ Praise be to God that through Jesus we do not fear the truth of our sin as we live in this tension. Instead we celebrate His Good even in the midst of bad, with wonder and anticipatory joy!

Abba Father! Thank You for Your Spirit in us. Thank You for teaching us that the power of Your Spirit that raised Christ from death to life is the identical power in us today, defeating sin's rule and reign, transferring us from ruined to righteous.

Romans 8.1-39: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. **3** For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. **6** For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **7** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. **8** Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 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. **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 from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

12 So then, brothers [sisters], we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons [daughters] of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" **16** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. **18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also

¹ Stott, p. 237-238

3. Fill your name in the blank from Romans 8.9:

“You, _____ however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit...”

Again, Paul provides several proofs that offer His daughters great assurance of their legally secured relationship *with* God in Romans 8.14-18: adoption as His children, heirship, and intimate relationship with God as our Father. Through suffering and hope Paul then joins creation alongside us in verses 19-25 with its likewise suffering as it too waits for God’s final, absolute, and complete redemption (V 23).

4. How are we both like, and unlike, creation in our suffering and longing for redemption according to verses 22-25?

5. What has God provided for us in times when “we don’t know how or what to pray” (V 26, The Message)?

It is exceedingly remarkable to learn of God’s role in our prayer life in verse 27, “And he who searches the heart...”. Throughout scripture, God teaches us of His right and roles as the God who searches our hearts (1 Samuel 16.7; Psalm 7.9; Psalm 139; Jeremiah 17.10; Acts 15.8; 1 Thessalonians 2.4).

6. How does knowing God’s role, the role of the Holy Spirit, impact your understanding of your role in prayer? How does the knowledge of these two roles shape how you pray from now on?

Paul concludes this section of his letter with a cascade of unanswerable questions, even for a well-trained algorithm! Verses 31-39 are some of the most beloved promises and praises preached to one another and themselves. However, they also help us understand the privilege believers have since the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Messiah. Paul asks “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (V 31), and “Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect” (V 33). Yet, in Judges 10.13-14, we see the conditional nature of V 31, and the terrifying answer that God *has* used His Authority to bring a charge against His elect!

7. Which of the seven unanswerable questions is your favorite, and why (Romans 8.31-35)?

Deity: Abba Father~ (Romans 8.15) “...the Spirit prompts us in our prayer to call God ‘Father’. The preservation side by side of the Aramaic (*abba*) and Greek (*patēr*) words for ‘father’...seems to go back to Jesus’ agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, when He is recorded as having prayed ‘*Abba, Father*’ (Mark 14.36)...Jesus’ use of this colloquial and familiar term of address to God was unique.”⁶

According to Joachim Jeremais (“*The Prayers of Jesus*”), “*Abba* was an everyday word, homely family-word. No Jew would have dared to address God in this manner. Jesus did it always, in all His prayers which are handed down to us, with one single exception, the cry from the cross.”

“Furthermore, Jesus told His disciples to pray ‘Our Father’, and thus authorized them to use in their address to God the very same intimate term which He used.”⁷

Paul’s use of the Greek verb *we cry* (*krazō*) is found in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) to describe “the shouts of demons when confronted by Jesus”.⁸ Its use is strategic because in various Biblical translations it is translated as to cry out, scream, shriek, call, or cry, much in the same way as is done in corporate church worship as well as in times we are privately before the Lord. However, Paul uses it here “not in enthusiasm or ecstasy, but in childlike and joyous

⁶ Stott, pp. 226-227

⁷ Stott, p. 227, quoting Gerhard Kittel on “Abba” in *TDNT*, vol. 1, p. 6

⁸ Stott, p. 227

11. Which one of the roles of the indwelling Holy Spirit do you need to take more confidence in? Which one do you need to apply to your daily life?

Your Scripture-Soaked Prayer: Fill your name in the blanks:

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are [daughters] of God. For _____ did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but _____ [has] received the Spirit of adoption as [a daughter], by whom _____ [cries],

“Abba! Father!”~Romans 8.14-15

Lecture Outline:

Aim: Holy Spirit power makes us conquering Christians.

- I. Alive in the Spirit (Romans 8.1-13) **T1:** The Holy Spirit drives out our flesh to take up residence in us.
 - a. What evidence do you see in your life that the Holy Spirit lives IN you?
 - b. How readily do you draw on His indwelling power?
 - c. What might you be doing to quench the Holy Spirit’s power?
- II. Adopted by the Spirit (8.14-30) **T2:** The Holy Spirit adopts wretched sinners and transforms them into the likeness of Christ.
 - a. Whose child are you? How confidently do you call out to God with the words “Abba! Father!”?
 - b. How closely do you resemble Him?
- III. Amazed at the Spirit (8.31-39) **T3:** The Holy Spirit ignites our praise with His assurance of our salvation.
 - a. Which part of the Holy Spirit’s assurance of salvation do you most need to meditate upon?
 - b. Which of Paul’s questions address your deepest need or your darkest doubts?
 - c. Which truths about your salvation prompt your greatest praise? Beginning now, how will you offer your praise to Him?

Keller, Timothy, *Romans 8-16 For You* (Charlotte, NC: the good book company, 2015) pp. 7-55

Moo, Douglas J., *The Letter to the Romans: The NIV Commentary on the New Testament, 2nd Edition* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.: 2018) pp. 491-568

Stott, John R.W., *The Message of Romans* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press: 2020) pp. 208-256