

Romans 8:1-27

As we study the Epistle to the Romans one is impressed with the fact that primarily the Work of Christ is viewed in Chapters 1 – 7. The Person of the Holy Spirit appears quite absent. Possibly the only mention is in Chapter 5: 5by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.

Since the gospel is the subject of this letter we will not be surprised to learn that the Holy Spirit is mentioned some 27 times. There are 19 occurrences of the Spirit in this chapter.

If we as believers understand the truth of Chapter 6 – we have died to sin, and further understand the truth of Chapter 7 – we have died to the law, the question will be asked, how can the believer live out these truths in day to day life ? Paul answers this in Chapter 8, by the Holy Spirit indwelling us.

1) Possession of the Spirit : 8: 9

In the Upper Room ministry the Lord Jesus promised the disciples that He would send another Comforter. John 14:16 He dwelleth *with* you and shall be *in* you. (Read John 13 – 17 for the most comprehensive teaching on the Holy Spirit)

Ephesians 1: 13 Upon believing ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

It is not possible to belong to Christ if the Spirit of Christ does not dwell within.

2) Leading of the Spirit: 8: 14

There are two direct references to the Leading of the Spirit in the bible, here and Galatians 5:18

In neither of these two places does it refer to intelligent participation in the assembly gatherings.

It should be evident if each of us were led by the Spirit during the week this will reflect in our participation when we gather collectively. Maturity in spiritual matters will be manifested by a life subject to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Closely linked with this expression is the Adoption of the Spirit. This is the placing of all believers as mature adult sons with all the privileges and responsibilities as sons.

Note two references to this expression in the life of the Lord Jesus. Matt. 4: 1, Luke 4: 1

3) Witness of the Spirit: 8: 16

There is a wonderful three – fold witness to us by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Firstly: the undeniable assurance that we are born of God and we are His children

Secondly: because of this we constituted heirs of God.

Thirdly: we have conferred upon us the unique title of joint heirs with Christ.

As sons we can say, Abba Father: A word of confidence, trust, communion and obedience.

4) First fruits of the Spirit: 8: 23

Note in 8: 18 – 23 the Apostle is looking beyond present difficulties and distress, looking now to glory

He speaks in Vs. 23 of the Redemption of the body.

While we are already the sons of God, the world does not recognize us as such, we await that day of manifestation.

How do we know all things promised to us as believers will come to pass ? We have the first fruits of the Spirit.

5) Help of the Spirit: 8: 26

As quickly as Paul takes us on to Glory, we are almost as quickly brought back to earth.

What is a very present need of the believer ? Many times we do not know how to pray.

Word helpeth is used by Martha in Luke 10: 40 , Bid her therefore that she help me, called to one's side to assist.

6) Intercession of the Spirit: 8: 26

To intercede for one is to plead on their behalf. How many of us often feel absolutely helpless in the matter of prayer ?

When we do not know what to pray, we have the Intercession of the Holy Spirit.

Philip's translation says: The Holy spirit with us is actually praying for us in agonizing longings which never find words.

7) Mind of the Spirit: 8: 27

Paul now states three reasons why the prayers of the Holy Spirit are effective.

Firstly: God knows and searches our hearts.

Secondly: God knows the Spirit's mind.

Thirdly: Holy Spirit prays according to the Will of God.