

THE BOOK OF ROMANS



9. Living by the Spirit

Introduction

Have you found that there is sometimes a struggle going on inside you? Even the Apostle Paul, who we would say was one of the greatest men of God, experienced this conflict. However he discovered the secret to overcoming and living in victory and he shares that with us in Romans 8.

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-17

1. Living in the Power of the Spirit

- ☉ Why do you think Paul says, 'therefore, there is now no condemnation' at the beginning of chapter 8? Look back at chapter 7:19 and 21.

(In chapter 7 it says that we have all failed to keep the law and even though we know what to do, we do not always do it. We are all condemned and deserve judgment because we have broken God's law. However now we are free from that condemnation because of what Jesus has done for us.)

- ☉ Although we know this truth, the enemy can make us feel condemned. What is the difference between condemnation and conviction? How can we overcome that feeling of condemnation?

(Condemnation comes from the enemy or from our own hearts. Conviction however, is a work of the Holy Spirit to point out sin in our lives, so that we will repent and receive forgiveness. If we have truly repented of sin but still feel condemned, then we need to rebuke the evil one and stand on God's promises.)

- ☉ The reason we are no longer under condemnation and judgment is because we have been set free by the law of the Spirit. See Romans 8:1-2. What does this mean?

(When we repent and receive Christ we are no longer condemned. We are free from the punishment of the law. We now have a 'new law' living within us, which is the power of the Holy Spirit. He enables us to live in victory.)

2. Choosing which Nature we will Follow

- ☉ Compare the two natures in verses 5 to 11. What is the old sinful nature like? v5-8 What is the new nature like? v5-6, 10-11

- ☉ If a person keeps following the old nature what does it show about his real attitude to God? v7-8 However in contrast what does it say about a person who seeks to yield to the Holy Spirit? v14-17

(The person who follows his old nature is hostile to God, not submissive to him and does not please God. In contrast the person who yields to the Spirit is called a son or child of God, an heir of God and a co-heir with Christ.)

- ⊗ What is the evidence that a person is following the new nature and being led by the Spirit? Romans 7:12-14, Galatians 5:22-33, James 3:17-18.

(That person will be led by the Spirit and live in the power of the Spirit. There will be the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in his life.)

- ⊗ What fruit is being produced in your life? What do you need to do to see a change in your life? Share what you have learnt from this study.

Conclusion

If you only read to Romans chapter 7 you would conclude that the Christian life is a constant struggle! However the Apostle Paul did not write this book to leave us feeling hopeless, but rather to show us that we cannot live the Christian life in our own strength. In chapter 8 we discover the answer, and that is to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. When we do, the Holy Spirit will give us the assurance that we are truly God's children.

