

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #10: The Spirit Brings Life

INTRODUCTION

The Bible describes our conversion as a spiritual birth, the beginning of a new life. **Jn 3:3-7** What were some of the early signs of your new life when you became a Christian?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 8:1-17

*Note: "Therefore" in verse 1 refers to the first seven chapters of Romans. It marks a major change in the focus and flow of the epistle. He begins to delineate the marvelous results of justification in the life of the believer. God's provision of salvation came not through Christ's perfect teaching or through His perfect life but through His perfect sacrifice on the cross. It is through Christ's death, not His life, that God provides the way of salvation.*¹

1. If we couldn't defeat sin as non-Christians, how can we defeat it as Christians? **Heb 7:18; Jer 31:31-34**
2. What has God done to free us from the law of sin and death? vv. 1-4 **Titus 3:5**
3. What are the characteristics of the sinful nature, and those of the life in the Spirit? vv. 5-8
4. What evidence do you see of your life being controlled by the Spirit? Who else would see it?
5. What are the results of having the Spirit live in us? vv. 10-11
6. Why do non-believers often do things that are "good" and moral according to man's view?
7. How do we know that what Paul is talking about is real? vv. 14-16 What is the role of "feelings?"

8. As Christians, we have an obligation -what are its negative and positive aspects? vv. 12-14

*Note: Many Bible students see no difference between the word translated "sons" in 8:14 and the word translated "children" in verse 16. However, in verse 16 the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence attests the believer's birth relationship to God (tekna, "children," is lit., "born ones"). But in verse 14 the Holy Spirit's control and direction attests the believer's privileges in God's family as a "son" (huios means a child mature enough to take on adult family privileges and responsibilities). A son in God's family is led by God's Spirit.*²

9. How do we experience the reality and privileges of being God's children? vv. 15-17

APPLICATION

How can you encourage others in their early signs of life as a Christian?

*The goal of a baseball player is to get on base. But he does it by watching the ball, not peering intently at the base when the pitcher winds up. This is Paul's point. Our goal is to be righteous, and it is true that the Law describes righteousness. But we get there by keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus and our hearts responsive to the Spirit, not by trying to keep the Law. Augustine said, "Love God, and do what you please." What you "please" then will be good.*³

¹MacArthur, John: *Romans*. Chicago : Moody Press, 1996, c1991, c1994, S. 399

²Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 2:471

³Richards, Lawrence O.: *The Bible Readers Companion*. electronic ed. Wheaton : Victor Books, 1991; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996, S. 744