God’s Power to Help You Change February 14, 2021

*Romans 8:1-17 Series: How God Helps Us Change*

The believer’s once-for-all death to the law of sin does not free him from the necessity of mortifying sin in his members; it makes it necessary and possible for him to do so.” – John Murray

Intro: ‘The devil inside me’?

1. The Spirit frees from condemnation those who walk according to the Spirit vv. 1-4
2. There is no condemnation for those whom God has set free

v. 1 *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

v. 2 *For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

v. 3 *God has done what the law … could not do.*

v. 3 *By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh …*

v. 4 *in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us*

1. Those whom God has freed walk according to the Spirit

v. 4 *fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit*

* If God takes away the threat of condemnation, won’t we be more likely to sin? How does condemnation actually foster sin?
* What does it mean to “walk … according to the Spirit”?
* How do we know if we’re walking according to the Spirit if we still struggle with sin?

1. The Spirit gives peace to those who set their minds on the things of the Spirit vv. 5-9
2. The mindset shaped by the world opposes God

v. 5 *those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh*

v. 6 *to set the mind on the flesh is death*

v. 7 *the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God*

v. 7 *it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot*

v. 8 *Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

1. Faith transfers us from life in the flesh to life in the Spirit

v. 9 *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.*

v. 9 *Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

1. The mindset shaped by the Spirit is at peace with God

v. 5 *those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit*

v. 6 *to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace*

* Why can’t someone who is “in the flesh” please God?
* Why do we need peace with God to be able to grow in righteousness?
* How do you set your mind on the things of the Spirit?

1. The Spirit gives hope to those who are killing their sins vv. 10-13
2. We’re not done yet, in hope we await the resurrection

v. 10 *But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

v. 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.*

1. We’re not done yet, we’re still at war with sin

v. 12 *So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*

v. 13 *if you live according to the flesh you will die*

v. 13 *if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live*

* Why is the hope of the resurrection important in order to persevere in the battle with sin?
* What does it mean to “put to death the deeds of the body”? How is that different than just trying to be good?

1. The Spirit gives assurance to those who follow where the Spirit leads vv. 14-17
2. Fear has been replaced by adoption and inheritance

v. 15 *did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear*

v. 15 *you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons*

v. 15 … *by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”*

v. 16 *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God …*

v. 17 *if children, then heirs—heirs of God*

1. Children of God follow the Spirit in the path of the Son of God

v. 14 *all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God*

v. 17 *provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him*

* How are children and slaves similar? How are they different?
* Why is an intimate, childlike relationship with God important to grow in righteousness?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Romans 8:18-25.

Notes