

His Spirit in Us

Romans 5:1 – 5

I. Intro

- A. Last week, about dying and as believers in Paul's words – *To die is gain*, also dying is about relationship with Christ just as life on earth is
 - i. God's ultimate relational move – sending His Spirit and His Spirit living in us
 - ii. Another expression of God's grace is that He is able to accomplish through us, because of the presence of His Spirit in us, things that are impossible for us to accomplish on our own
- B. Jesus tells us: John 15:5 (ESV)

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing**.
- C. Jesus said: Matthew 19:26 (ESV)

26 ... with God all things are possible."
- D. **IMPORTANT POINT:** Many church folks who have made a decision to accept Christ, but who are not growing because they're not open, haven't fully surrendered to Holy Spirit's work in their lives; (Book reading)
Many people who are churched, but they haven't been changed
- E. **READ Romans 5:1 – 5**
- F. About Holy Spirit relating to God's desire for relationship with us, 3 areas to look at: things/experiences beyond our human capacity; inside-out capacity change; real capacity-changing person

II. Things/Experiences Beyond Our Capacity

- A. In the human existence we have experiences that are beyond our natural capacity – limits
 - i. **Ex:** Can't flap our arms and fly; can't run at speed of 100 mph; throw an object a distance of a mile; humans have "no way" capacity/limit
- B. Also true in spiritual world
- C. Talked about purpose God created us – to have a personal, intimate relationship with Him (again, true even after death)
- D. In OT, seemed impossible – God appeared to His people in ways that seemed non-relational; appearance in clouds and fire; even in temple, only High Priest could enter into the most Holy of Holies – and then, only once a year
- E. It all changed with Jesus – when Christ came to earth, what seemed impossible became possible; He invested Himself in close, intimate, spiritually-focused relationships; but, Jesus ascended back to heaven
- F. **Question:** How was that relationship between Jesus and man supposed to continue?

G. John 14:16-17 (ESV)

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for **he dwells with you and will be in you.**

- i. **After Jesus' physical absence on earth, He promised that the Holy Spirit would enable us to continue having that intimate relationship with Him and God**

H. When we truly grasp who God is, and understand the true nature of His character, all this makes perfect sense; [POINT 1] God who strongly desires a personal relationship with us, made a way for a permanent relationship with Him to be possible

III. Inside-Out Capacity Change

A. At the moment of our spiritual new birth (through believing and trusting in Christ as Lord and Savior and surrendering ourselves, all our personal wants/desires, to follow Him), instantly the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts and makes it possible for us to experience what we were created for

B. Once that happens God, through His Spirit in us, starts working to change us from the inside-out

C. REFER v. 5

D. Ephesians 4:22-24 (ESV)

22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,

24 and to **put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**

E. Colossians 3:10 (ESV)

10 ... put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

F. How incredibly critical it is for God to infuse His Spirit into our lives

G. [POINT 2] God does what we cannot do – because of the presence of His Spirit in us can change us from inside-out; only He can bring about deep and lasting change in our hearts and lives; only He can change us to be more like Him

H. No way this change can take place without the Holy Spirit living in us – that's a foundational reality when it comes to identifying ourselves as Christian

I. Paul's question: 1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

- J. In OT, God would come and fill structures built by human hands (temple, tabernacle, etc.); but since Jesus came into this world, since the Spirit of God has come, for the past 2000+ years God has been filling structures that He built – human beings

IV. Real Capacity-Changing Person

- A. Holy Spirit is not just some super-natural force that can't be understood/explained (like Star Wars – “*The force be with you*”)
- B. Holy Spirit is not just some kind of spiritual energy
- C. Holy Spirit is not just some extra boost of power that God sends when we need it
- D. Holy Spirit is a real being, 3rd person of God-head
- E. Scripture clarifying this fact:
- i. Romans 8:27 (ESV)
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.
 - ii. Hebrews 9:14 – Holy Spirit is eternal
 - iii. Luke 1:35 – Holy Spirit is almighty and powerful
 - iv. Psalm 139:7 – Holy Spirit is simultaneously everywhere
 - v. 1 Corinthians 2:10, 11 – Holy Spirit is all-knowing
- F. Holy Spirit is real, Holy Spirit is God
- G. **Question:** Why is this important to understand?
- i. **Relationship** – God is all about relationship, He has provided the way for us to experience that relationship with Him, first through Jesus Christ His Son, then through presence of Holy Spirit in life of believer in Christ
 - ii. God is a **personal** God, wants us to pursue, seek after Him – not some mystical force or power
 - iii. God wants to be our **companion/friend**, us literally taking Him wherever we go and in whatever we experience; that should have an affect on everything we do
- H. **[POINT 3]** No matter how smart, talented, or influential we may be, there is no way to accomplish what God wants for us in this life without the Holy Spirit
- i. Zechariah 4:6 (ESV)
6 ... Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

V. Close

- A. Scripture earlier – *Nothing is impossible with God*; turn it around – *Nothing is possible without God*

- B. [POINT 4] Top 5 “impossibles” if we didn’t have God and His Spirit in us**
- i. 1 – Without the Holy Spirit, it’s impossible to enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:5)**
 - ii. 2 – Without the Holy Spirit, it’s impossible to please God (Romans 8:7 – 9)**
 - iii. 3 – Without the Holy Spirit, it’s impossible to have fellowship with God (Romans 8:26)**
 - iv. 4 – Without the Holy Spirit, it’s impossible to be an effective witness for God**
 - v. 5 – Without the Holy Spirit, it’s impossible for our prayers to have any power or effectiveness**
- C. Without the Holy Spirit, it’s impossible to have any kind or form of relationship with God**