

SERMON STUDY SUMMARY

June 25 / 26, 2022

ROMANS SERIES Part 18: A New Me: Living in the Spirit Through Hardships

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When Jesus enters your life, you become spiritually alive. As you trust Him and yield your life to HIS control, He will live HIS life in and through you, and you will receive power not only to live a satisfying, fulfilling, and God pleasing life but also to increasingly SAY NO to the temptation to sin. This is called living IN CHRIST or living in the Spirit.

That does not mean life is easy. We still face sufferings (v.18) and hardships. The reality is that our world is broken. Creation is frustrated (v.19) and all creation groans (v.22) because our first parents, Adam and Eve, rebelled against God and brought death and evil into the world. Because our first parents chose that path, all of creation has been subjected to the curse, and creation itself is in bondage to decay (v.21). Weeds now grow along with the beautiful flowers. We have tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and earthquakes.

Because of our rebellion against God, not only do we live in the slavery and destructive power of sin, but our mortal bodies are subject to disease, fatigue, illness and aging, and our world is full of evil and cruelty, hardships and difficulties.

Even we believers groan (v.23), but we live in hope that Jesus will come again and make all that is wrong right again. Through him we are adopted to sonship and we eagerly await the redemption of our bodies. Our present bodies, which are made to live in the earthly realm, will be miraculously exchanged for a heavenly body made for an eternal existence.

But until that day comes, we groan! We groan when we suffer the effects of aging. We groan because of how sin hurts or even destroys lives. We groan when we see people waste their lives and miss God's best for them.

Though we do not yet have everything Jesus promised us, we are saved IN HOPE (not BY hope) that ONE DAY we will! A day is coming when we will have bodies that will not age or wear out. THAT is our hope as Christians. THAT is what we wait for patiently.

CREATION groans, WE groan, JESUS wept (John 11:35) and the SPIRIT also groans (v.26-27) as He intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. In those moments when we don't even know how to pray anymore or perhaps, out of exhaustion, can't find the strength or words to pray, the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

God works all things out for our good. His good purpose is to transform us into the image of His SON Jesus Christ. (v.29) "For those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son." The good purpose God wants to perform in your life and mine is that we would be a reflection of His Son Jesus.

Meanwhile we can rejoice in our suffering because WE KNOW that suffering produces perseverance (Rom 5:3), that GOD is in control, and that His motive is good (8:28). His love has our best interest at heart.

So, surrender your life completely to our Lord and give thanks IN ALL circumstances (I Thess. 5:18) for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

When we give thanks, we are making a faith statement that we believe our lives are in GOD'S hands AND that God is working out all things for our good even when nothing seems to make any sense.

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Share one experience when you worked hard, waited, and persevered to achieve something. How was the experience? Was it worth it?
2. When people say ‘Living in the Spirit,’ what comes to mind for you or how that is done?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read Romans 8:18-28. What are the ‘bad news to good news’ elements in these verses? This passage starts with glory and ends in glory. How do these passages give us hope when passing through the bad news parts of life?
4. Read 2 Cor 5:1-2, Gal 5:22-23, Rom 8:23. How do these verses express foretastes or firstfruits of what we as believers look forward to?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Henry said, “Living in the Spirit means I am convinced that God will use all the things I surrender to Him to accomplish His good purpose in my life.” Discuss the ramifications of this statement.
6. Share specific disciplines or habits that have helped you stay connected to the Holy Spirit in the past. What will you do to fortify your connection to the Spirit? What difficulties in the ‘now’ are you experiencing? Pray for one another in the knowledge that the Spirit Himself too is praying for you and knowing that our trustworthy God will accomplish His good purposes in your life.

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Take time this week to look more closely at Romans 8:18-30. Write down all the places where or why it says that we can trust God and for what benefit. Think of an area in your life where you are hesitant to trust God and, armed with these verses repent and choose to trust Him. Memorize Romans 8:28-30.

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 8:18-28

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 5:1-2

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling,

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

This week’s writers: Elsa Henderson, Gene Gibbs, and Jorel Quemuel