

# SRMBC Family Bible Study

## Romans: A New Lifestyle

May 23, 2018

*Reverend Thomas A. Keys, Pastor*

### Lesson 10: The Spirit Brings Life Romans 8:1-17

If we were unable to defeat sin as non-Christians, then how can we as Christians? What has happened to turn our slavery into freedom, our sin into righteousness and our spiritual death into life? As the camera pans back in this passage, we'll discover the presence of the One who changes everything.

The struggle described in Romans 7 does not end when we become Christians. But there is a new dimension to that struggle which totally changes its outcome. In chapter 8 Paul describes the lifegiving effects of the Spirit.

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

I began to think more about what God thinks about the things that I do every day (WWJD).

#### Read Romans 8:1-17

1. Romans 7 described how the law of sin brought about our spiritual death. What has God done to free us from the law of sin and death (vv. 1-4)?

Under the Law, we are condemned to die because of our sinful nature and the first sin in the Garden of Eden. God sent His Son J.C. to die in our place and free us from the penalty of sin.

2. How does this affect the outcome of our struggle with sin described in 7:13-25?

Something inside of us makes us a prisoner of sin. The Holy Spirit frees us from the captivity of Sin. However, since we are human, we must fight this sin battle every day. In verses 5-8

3. Paul divides all of humanity into two categories: those who live according to the sinful nature, and those who live according to the Spirit. In your own words, what are some characteristics of each group?

- Sinful Nature: (i) Ruled by Desires; (ii) Will die spiritually and physically; (iii) Fight against God, Rebellious.
- Spiritual Nature: (i) Ruled by the Holy Spirit; (ii) Will Live Forever; (iii) Crave Spiritual Things; (iv) Do what God Wants.

4. There are many professing Christians whose lives seem very different from Paul's description of life in the Spirit. How do you think Paul would account for this fact?

The fight against Sin is a daily battle. Some of us are doing a better job than others in this daily battle.

5. What are the results of having the Spirit live in us (vv. 10-11)? What evidence do you see of your life being controlled by the Spirit?

We are Alive because God's Spirit lives in us. We will be raised to life by His Spirit.

6. In verse 12 Paul concludes that we have an obligation. Describe in your own words the negative and positive aspects of that obligation (vv. 12-14).

If we live by our desires, we are ignoring what God wants for us. When we live according to the dictates of the Holy Spirit, we are pleasing God.

7. Practically speaking, what does it mean to put to death the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit (vv. 13-14)?

It means that we actively determine to reject Sin and Satan (our desires) and accept the Gift of Life from the Holy Spirit.

8. How do we experience the reality and privileges of being God's children (vv. 15-17)? How can this encourage you when you are trying to put sinful habits to death?

We experience the reality and privileges of being God's children by becoming a slave to the Holy Spirit. This is encouraging because it means that we will share in the Glory of Christ because we have suffered with Him. Moreover, it is a guarantee that we are the children of God and Joint Heirs with Jesus Christ.

### *Keys for Living*



The Spirit of Christ not only gives us salvation, but also gives us the power to overcome sin and to live a godly life.



There are only two types of people in the world – those who have the Spirit of Christ and those walk after the flesh. Those who walk after the Spirit have life and those walk after the flesh will experience death.



The Spirit of God in us is the guarantee that we are indeed children of God and Joint – heirs with Jesus Christ.