

The Spirit Gives Life

Rom 8:11

If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. NKJV

Paul has been talking about the conflict between the spirit and the flesh of the believer. In chapter 7 he had concluded it with “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” Rom 7:24 NKJV

Now even though he has demonstrated that by the Spirit of God we can have great victory over the flesh yet we cannot be 100% successful. Because we live in our mortal body that uses the law against us to condemn us. And because we know that this mortal body will one day die as the result of sin. Paul now tells us that even after that God will have the victory through the same Holy Spirit that dwells in us when the Spirit quickens our dead bodies and brings them back to life.

Last week we spoke on the indwelling Holy Spirit. We saw that He lives inside every believer and that He helps them and teaches them and guides them in their daily lives. He enables them to live the Christian life and that without Him that would be impossible. He teaches them by using their exposure to the Word of God. That is why spending time in the word is imperative to the Christian. And finally we saw that He is our seal, our guarantee that we will finally be accepted by the Father into heaven.

Today we want to see that the Holy Spirit gives life. Not only spiritual life but that He will also give life to this mortal body.

- I. Why is God concerned with our body?
 - A. It has long been the source of much trouble and sorrow among humans.
 1. The three areas of temptation by the serpent in the garden revolved around the desires of the flesh.
 2. Every failure of God’s people have revolved around the weakness of this mortal body.
 3. So why does God want to redeem this broken part of us, wouldn’t we be better off without it?
 - B. God created everything perfect.
 1. Humans today are not the way that God created them.
 - a. Those first humans were created with immortal bodies that would never die but through sin God change that immortal body into a mortal body.

- b. This world is not what God has made but what Satan and humans have ruined.
 - c. Paul will tell us later that “the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Rom 8:21-22 NKJV
- C. So because God created everything perfect, He will restore all things through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Part of that will be to restore to His saints, their bodies, fashioned like the glorious body of their Savior Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Phil 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body , according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. NKJV
 - 3. 1 Cor 15:20-28 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. NKJV
- D. Also the body of the believer is a temple for the Holy Spirit and that makes it holy, and God will have it that way forever.
 - 1. 1 Cor 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. NKJV
 - 2. Now, though these temples may be suffered for awhile to lie in ruins, yet they shall be rebuilt. The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, shall be repaired, whatever great mountains may be in the way. The Spirit, breathing upon dead and dry bones, will make them live, and the saints even in their flesh shall see God. (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c)

- II. This mortal body will one day put on immortality.
 - A. 1 Cor 15:42-44 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body NKJV
 - B. 1 Cor 15:53-58 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. NKJV
 - C. Although to the sceptic mind of the 21st century it seems ridiculous so it did to those in Paul's day.
 - 1. In Acts 17:31 the Athenians listened to Paul until he spoke of the resurrection of Christ.
 - 2. They were very enlightened back then also.
- III. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies.
 - A. Here is why the resurrection of Jesus is so important.
 - 1. Many of the cults do not believe that the physical body of Jesus was raised from the dead.
 - 2. Many of the liberals deny the resurrection.
 - 3. But if that is true than when we die all is finished for it takes the same power to raise our mortal bodies that it did to raise that of Jesus Christ.
 - B. But here to is the surety of our own resurrection.
 - 1. If Jesus was raised than so will we.
 - 2. It is as much a part of God's plan as the resurrection of His Son.
 - 3. Yesterday we had the committal of ashes for Vernon Ford and although to us it seem incredible that God could take those ashes and give them life yet we know the power of God will do it.
- IV. All of this is only for those who are indwelt by the Spirit of God.

- A. Paul makes it plain.
 - 1. If there is no Spirit then these things do not apply.
 - 2. Now everyone will be resurrected, but only those who have God's Holy Spirit abiding in them will be resurrected to life.
 - 3. The rest will be raised only to face a certain judgement and condemnation.

Rom 8:11 'Your bodies indeed are not exempt from the death which sin brought in, but your spirits even now have in them an undying life; and if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, even these bodies of yours, though they yield to the last enemy and the dust of them return to the dust as it was, shall yet experience the same resurrection as that of their living Head, in virtue of the indwelling of the same Spirit in you that quickened Him.' (from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by BibleSoft)