

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Romans and the God of Hope

December 11, 2022

Dr. Mary Craig

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



[Click/tap to hear more from the live recording](#)

We turn next to Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul wrote this letter to confirm to the believers in Rome true doctrine. In this letter, Paul distinguishes between the Holy Spirit's work from the operation of providence and from the objective presentation of truth. There is another influence distinct from the word, though connected with it, in producing faith and in leading Christians in whom this faith already exists.

The Gentiles were made obedient by word and deed, through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God (Romans 15:19). The miracles wrought by Paul are attributed to the Holy Spirit. The conversion of the Gentiles and the offering up of the converted Gentiles as an acceptable sacrifice are both ascribed to the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:16) In fact, in Romans 15:13 Paul talks about the God of hope filling the believer with all joy and peace in believing; even abounding in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. The communication of the Holy Spirit proved Jesus to be the Messiah and the Son of God, according to His own claim. (John 5:19; 15:26, 27) No created being could have given such a gift as did Jesus.

In Romans 5:5 we have this wonderful fact: **“The love of God is shed abroad upon our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given to us.”** The Holy Spirit has a work to do. He is given according to a divine economy. Through Him the redeeming love in God's heart is shed abroad in our hearts. This is a continual thing, and it is distinct from the proclamation of the gospel and from the miraculous gift. The Holy Spirit sheds abroad God's boundless, free, unchanging love in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is given to dwell in believers perpetually, reminding us of reconciliation, applying constant experiences of God's love, and assuring us of a gift into perpetuity never to be forfeited.

In Romans 8 Paul provides us under the superintending influence of the Holy Spirit, the most fully developed passage about the Holy Spirit's operations. A true believer is led by the Spirit of God. The blessing of the Holy Spirit is grounded in the surety-obedience of Jesus Christ as its procuring cause. Those who have the Spirit indwelling them and who walk after the Spirit are exempt from condemnation. Those free from the service of sin as their master through the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus are also free from condemnation.

In Romans 6:1-13 Paul shows the connection between justification and sanctification on the ground of merit or purchase. Then in Romans 8, he shows that spiritual life is secured by the effectual operation of the Holy Spirit.

In Romans 7, Paul speaks of the struggle or war within due to the fact that two laws are in operation simultaneously: the law of sin and death and the law of life in Christ.

Romans 8:1-4. **¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh,**

could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ESV

The Holy Spirit is called the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. George Smeaton: "The spirit of life residing in Christ and dispensed by Christ is a law of irresistible power counteracting the law of sin and death. It is the law written on the heart, by which the regenerate man is step by step enabled to resist sin and to follow holiness. It is the law of the life-giving Spirit in the fellowship of Christ Jesus." (George Smeaton)

What can we notice about the Holy Spirit in Romans 8?

1. Paul introduces three distinct expressions: (1) Believers walk after the Spirit (8:4). (2) They are spiritually-minded. (8:6) (3) They are in the Spirit (8:9).

How is one "in the Spirit?" The answer is: by the act of regenerating grace.

How is one spiritually-minded? The answer is: Someone minds the things of the Spirit when he is inwardly disposed, moved, and motivated according to the mind of the Spirit.

How does someone walk after the Spirit? This happens when a believer's practical and outward life agrees with the life of the Holy Spirit within; someone is walking in the manner or way of the Holy Spirit according to the character and disposition of the Holy Spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit DWELLS in the true believer (8:9) There is a conflict between the flesh and the Spirit; they are at war. The indwelling Spirit of Christ proves we are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. Christ, the last Adam and second Man, received the Holy Spirit as a reward for His perfect performance in order to give the Spirit to those for whom He died. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Christ's. Not everyone has the Holy Spirit. Only those who are given to Christ and redeemed by Him enjoy the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's indwelling imparts the spiritual mind, the mark by which the true follower of Christ is distinguished. Christ and His people are anointed with the same Spirit.

3. The Holy Spirit is LIFE because of righteousness (Romans 5:10). Death for the believer in Christ is not a punishment. The body is dead because of sin. Death is permitted to run its course, but the Spirit is life on the ground of Christ's righteousness.

Jesus had no personal sin. Jesus fulfilled all righteousness in our place and stead and on our behalf. Jesus walks in the power of an endless life. Jesus gives life to all creatures as Creator and gives life immortal, incorruptible, and unfading to the new creature or new creation in Him, i.e., to all the redeemed of the Lord.

4. Those who have the Holy Spirit mortify the deeds of the body (8:13). Believers don't owe the flesh anything; they owe the Holy Spirit everything. The flesh, or deeds of the body, are to be mortified because they are the cause of death. With every sin there is a little death. Kill the sin.

5. Believers are led by the Spirit of God and are thus the children of God (8:14). The Holy Spirit is the one who prompts inwardly, who inclines the heart to do the will of the Father with the mind of Christ, who rules and guides so as not to omit obedience or neglect privilege. Believers are like little children who cannot stand alone and need support. (Jeremiah 10:23) We are prone to stumble and fall, and we are by our own human nature reluctant to do the right thing. The Holy Spirit helps us walk; He leads us in the paths of righteousness.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Adoption, the one who effects sonship and transforms believers into the relationship of sons. The Holy Spirit is the producing cause, as also of power, of revelation, of wisdom, and/or of love.

6. In Romans 8:23, Paul says, “**We ourselves also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit...**” He’s talking about the universe groaning and waiting for deliverance. Christians also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit groan. Believers have the commencement of the communications of the Spirit to be enjoyed in this life.

7. In Romans 8:26 we find the Holy Spirit helping us in prayer. The Holy Spirit helps our infirmities since we don’t know always what to ask in prayer. Dr. Robert Reymond, my systematics professor in Seminary, used to call the Holy Spirit “the Divine Editor.” He helps us find the words. He makes what we say acceptable to the Father. The Holy Spirit also intercedes **in us** with unutterable groanings while Christ intercedes **for us**.

Sometimes we cannot speak at all; things are so bad, so disturbing, so emotional, so traumatic. Sometimes, all we can do is sigh, or groan, or make some kind of sound; but it’s not a word. Even in that, the Holy Spirit helps us, in our weakness, in our inabilities. It’s not to become an excuse for us to be crude or rude in our speech or not to try to express what’s inside of us in an acceptable way to the Father; but the Holy Spirit will help.

I believe He shows us what to pray, from the Scriptures, and leads us through even the darkest days of our lives. He also helps us pray when it’s time to be thankful, to praise, to worship, to glorify the Godhead properly. He helps us communicate with a holy God who transcends us in every way, but who also stoops in His grace to dwell in us and share life together with Him.

The believer has a choice between two masters to serve: God and sin. (Romans 6:15-22) In serving God as the only Master, there are two ways to do it: in the oldness of the letter or in the newness of the Spirit. (Romans 7:1-6). Dangers exist in yielding to sin as master. In describing serving God in the newness of the Spirit, Andrew Murray notes: “It is only out of the death of the old life of confidence in the flesh that the new can arise.” (Andrew Murray)

When the soul governs the body or when the body rules over the soul, one is not governed/ruled/led by the Holy Spirit. Someone either follows the dictates of the mind of the natural man with a self-guided inner rule or someone uses a moral, external rule, like the Ten Commandments. Paul says, “If you are led of the Spirit, you are not under the law.” We are not under the penalty of the law; in Christ we, by grace, live in the estate of grace. What is it to have the law written in the heart? “The Spirit within frees from the law without.” (Andrew Murray)

Key words for Romans 6 are: know, reckon, yield. It's a fun and revealing exercise to find verses in Romans 6 for each word. As you do, you might think of reasons why making dead the deeds of the body through the Indwelling Spirit precede the leading of the Spirit (Romans 6:13). We call such research "discovery time." This process prepares the way for verses 15 and 16, the abiding witness to sonship in the living power of the Holy Spirit. Sin will never be totally rooted out; but it can be put to death, be kept in the place of death.

The life of Christ brings with that life the making dead of sin. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus and His power to us to keep sin down, to kill it, to conquer a sin in our lives.. Jesus secured for believers that the Holy Spirit would/could dwell within them.

George Bowen noted, "There can be no safe guidance that is not perpetual. The advantage of a year may be lost in an hour. If we act independently of the Spirit in little things, we shall look for Him in vain in great things." George Bowen, American missionary to Bombay, India, c. 1865.

We are to pray in the Spirit and with our understanding. Knowing the Word of God informs, encourages, and improves our prayers. Let the Spirit of Faith hold the promise, watch, and wait for, and follow His leading, surrender the flesh to death, and yield to His rule.

He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it! Amen.

Mary Craig, D. Min.

© 2022 Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. www.marycraig.org www.mcmtffr.org



Thank you for giving to MCM! Donate: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 4610, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338-4610 or through PayPal® online at www.marycraig.org. Go to marycraig.org for the latest articles and words received. Take a look and see all that God is doing through this ministry, in world missions, in evangelism, the Barnabas Project, Craighouse® Christian Fellowship, home visitation, Kinetic Koinonia, media, and more. Worship with us 4:30 p.m. Sundays via teleconference. Reach MCM at 954-491-7270. Send in your prayer requests. Follow MCM Bible teachings and Rev. Jim Craig's sermons; go to www.marycraig.org and click on "Audio Bible Studies" or "Divine Appointment" radio ministry; or go to www.mcmtffr.org for audio sermons, teachings, and handout sheets. Free. Go to www.marycraigverses.org for "Enjoying God for Life," daily encouragement and growing in your faith. Go to www.marycraig.smugmug.com for some pictures of MCM world

missions.

See our new Mary Craig Ministries YouTube Channel here:
www.youtube.com/@marycraigministries or www.mcmvideochannel.com. Subscribe for free.

Free books by Dr. Craig to download, print, or just open and use, here: www.marycraig.org/Catalog.htm .

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. is a USA 501 (C) (3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1993. Federal ID 65-0429517