Lesson 9 Romans 8:1-17

The Spirit Brings Life

1. How many times does the word Spirit occur in verses 1-17?

1 Hence, now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law, weakened by the flesh, was powerless to do, this God has done: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for the sake of sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

4 so that the righteous decree of the law might be fulfilled in us, who live not according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

5 For those who live according to the flesh are concerned with the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the spirit with the things of the spirit.

6 The concern of the flesh is death, but the concern of the spirit is life and peace.

7 For the concern of the flesh is hostility toward God; it does not submit to the law of God, nor can it;

8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

11 If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

12 Consequently, brothers, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “Abba, Father!”

16 The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

2. 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 (vs.1-4)?

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

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

19 For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God;

20 for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope

21 that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

22 We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;

23 and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance.

4. In verses 5-8, Paul divides all of humanity into two categories: those who live according to the sinful nature and those who live according to the Spirit. What are some characteristics of each group?

5. There are some 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?

6. What are the results of having the Spirit live in us (vs. 10-11)?

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

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

9. How do we experience the reality and privileges of being God's children (vs. 15-17)?

10. How can this encourage you when you are trying to put sinful habits to death?