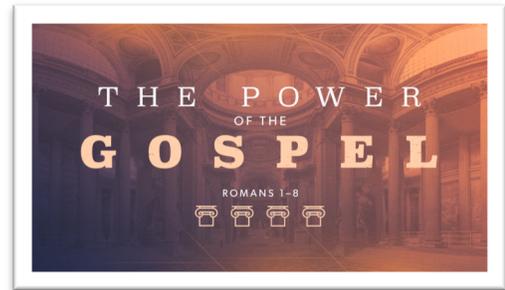


THE GOSPEL IS SPIRIT

ROMANS 8:1-11 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
FEBRUARY 14, 2021



When I have Christ, I will be controlled by the Spirit and not the flesh.

When I'm controlled by the flesh...

- *I'm condemned (8:2b, 6a)*
- *I'm wrongheaded (8:5a)*
- *I'm hostile to God (8:7)*
- *I'm unable to please God (8:8)*
- *I'm orphaned (8:9b)*

When I'm controlled by the Spirit...

- *I'm set free (8:1-2a)*
- *I'm right-headed (8:5b)*
- *I'm alive and at peace (8:6b)*
- *I'm pleasing to God because Christ pleased God (8:3-4)*
- *I belong to him (8:9a, 10-11)*

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Look back at Romans 7:24. Paul describes himself with self-condemning language when he calls himself “wretched.” To what did Paul immediately shift his perspective, and why is that mindset so helpful to us as believers? (Romans See 7:25 and 8:1.)
2. Do you think that Paul is speaking literally or metaphorically when he says the Spirit dwells in you? How does Acts 9:17-22 demonstrate that Paul is talking about an actual event that happens in a believer’s life?
3. The Spirit’s entrance into our lives tends to be noticeable. In Paul’s testimony, his radical change of heart towards Jesus helped the church recognize he’d been saved. When you believed the Gospel, what change of heart first made the Spirit’s presence evident in your life?

Questions 4 through 8 require more time to reflect on than group discussion alone allows. They can help you assess whether the flesh of the Spirit is in control.

4. Am I condemned or set free: Is there any sin that you're carrying guilt for unnecessarily? What does a burden of guilt do to your confidence in worship?

5. Am I wrongheaded or right-headed: Think about your usual daily priorities and list 1 or 2 that are not related to survival. What does the pursuit of these priorities reveal about your mindset? What kind of thinking appears to be in control of your daily life?

6. Am I hostile or at peace: Is there any current situation that reveals an ongoing struggle with anxiety or anger? What truths about God settle your Spirit in this situation? (Find a scripture reference that could support a sense of peace.)

7. Am I displeasing or pleasing to God: As you pursue what you want most, do you care about the answer to this question? What good can happen if you ask this question before acting or speaking your mind?

8. Am I orphaned or do I belong: *In Romans 8:9-11, Paul describes the critical factor that determines if we belong to God or if we do not. We belong to God if the Spirit dwells within us. When do believers receive the Spirit? When you have the Spirit dwelling in you, what else do these verses say is true about you?*

9. After reflecting on this sermon and questions 4-8 above, where is the Spirit's control most apparent in your life today? Where are you struggling to see the Spirit's influence in your life right now?

10. What can small groups, friends, or families, do to encourage each other as they admit to struggling in the above areas? Why must we offer each other grace and not judgement?