

Feb. 16, 2020

Speaker: Eric Naus **Series:** This I Believe – The Book of Romans

Passage: Romans 8:1-11

Community Group Questions: “Life in the Spirit”

Read Romans 8.1-11 aloud as a group. And then work through the following questions:

1. In Romans 8, the Holy Spirit suddenly becomes a focal point. Though he is mentioned a few times in chapters 1-7, in chapter 8, the Holy Spirit is mentioned by name 19 times! Clearly, Paul believed that the Holy Spirit is essential for the gospel, and essential for the Christian life. What has been your experience with the Holy Spirit so far in your Christian life? Have you been a part of churches that placed more or less of an emphasis on the Spirit’s work? At this point in your life, what questions do you wrestle with about the person and work of the Holy Spirit?
2. In verses 1-4, we see the Holy Spirit’s vital connection to our salvation. Paul calls it the “law of the Spirit” which sets us free from condemnation. God “condemned sin in the flesh” of Jesus on the cross, and Jesus kept the “righteous requirement of the law” through his perfect life. But this forgiveness and righteousness of Christ are fulfilled “in us” (see vs. 4) who have the indwelling Spirit in our heart, and therefore, “walk according to the Spirit.” We might put it this way: when the Spirit “moves in” to our lives, he brings with him the finished work of Christ! As you think about your own conversion experience, where did you see evidence of the Spirit’s work in the process? Share your story with the group.
3. Verses 5-8 speak of two controlling powers that can dominate a person, the “flesh” and the “Spirit.” Those who are in the Spirit (i.e. Christians) should “set their minds” on the things of the Spirit. In other words, Christians should expect to have a different mindset. The Holy Spirit affects our thinking, our willing, our emotions, our outlook, and our attitudes. In your life, how have you seen the Holy Spirit’s work on your interior thought-world, especially compared to when you didn’t know Christ? What should it look like to interact with the Holy Spirit in our daily lives as Christians, especially when it comes to our mind, will, and emotions?
4. In verse 9-11, Paul speaks about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Notice how verse nine makes it clear that the Holy Spirit permanently indwells every believer. He “moves in” at your conversion. Why is it so important, and encouraging, to realize that every Christian has the Spirit residing permanently in their life?
5. Notice that in verses 9-10, the Spirit is also called the “Spirit of God,” the “Spirit of Christ,” and even “Christ in you.” The Holy Spirit is so unified with the Father and the Son, that to have him in your heart is to have the very presence of the Father and the Son as well. To put this another way, people should see evidence that Jesus is at home in us, if indeed, the Spirit lives in us. Take time to share and encourage the others in your community group one by one: how has this group seen evidence of Christ and his indwelling Spirit in each person in the group?

Prayer suggestion: Pray for the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in each other's lives. Pray for growing Christ likeness.