

In the Spirit

Romans 8:1-17



Apostle Paul (~ 5 – 67 A.D.)
By Andrei Rublev (1410)

In the Spirit Introduction

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- **2 Corinthians 5:17** (ESV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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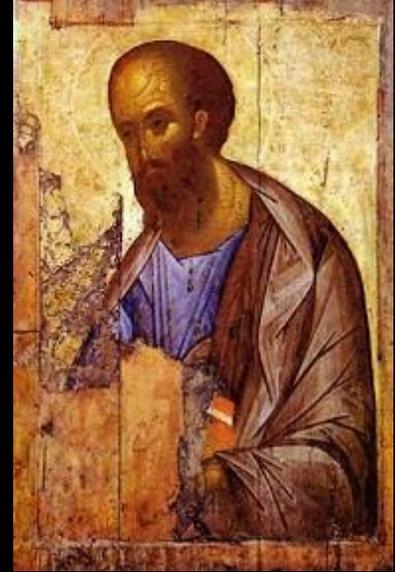
- We are new creatures in Christ, but sometimes we live as if we are not.
- We may find it hard to get this new life off the ground.

In the Spirit Introduction

- Paul wanted the Romans believers to understand the factors that play into this new existence.
- New creatures in Christ cannot live, act and think in the same old way.
- There is much for us to learn in the first half of **Romans 8**.

In the Spirit Outline

1. A Spiritual Walk 8:1-4
2. A Spiritual Mind 8:5-8
3. A Spiritual Life 8:9-11
4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17



1. A Spiritual Walk 8:1-4



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- **8:1** *Condemnation* refers to a guilty verdict or sentence.
- The believer need not worry about such judgment.
- One of the benefits of being in Christ is that we receive a complete pardon.

1. A Spiritual Walk 8:1-4

- John 3:16-18 (ESV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

1. A Spiritual Walk 8:1-4

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 1. The Law
 2. The Devil
 3. Our Own Hearts

1. A Spiritual Walk 8:1-4

- So why do we sometimes *feel condemned*?
- Reason 1: The Law
- The law provides information, but not transformation.
- It tells us what is right and where we are wrong.
- But gives us no power to carry out the right.
- The law must lead us to the cross.

1. A Spiritual Walk 8:1-4

- So why do we sometimes *feel condemned*?
- Reason 2: The Devil
- The word *devil* means “accuser or slanderer.”
- He wants you to feel guilty rather than forgiven.
- He also tries to lay guilt on you when you haven't done anything wrong.

1. A Spiritual Walk 8:1-4

- So why do we sometimes *feel condemned*?
- Reason 3: Our Own Hearts
- Real guilt causes us to – no surprise here – *feel guilty*.
- That's OK to a point.
- The conviction of the Holy Spirit will move us forward to confession, repentance and a new Spirit-led course of action.

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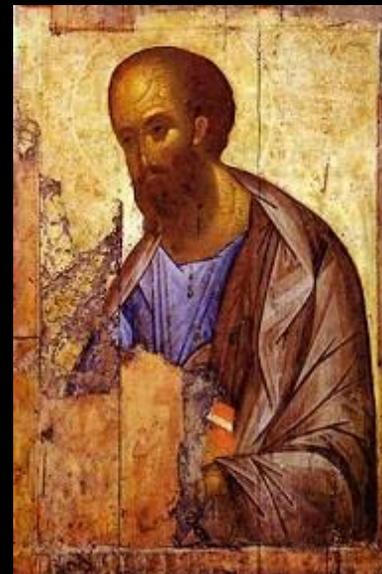
- 1 John 3:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

1. A Spiritual Walk 8:1-4

- Two Big Steps:
- 8:1 Believe there is *no condemnation* for you if you are now in Christ.
- 8:4 Learn to walk according to the Spirit.
- A spiritual walk will keep condemnation away.

2. A Spiritual Mind 8:5-8



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- On what, exactly, are we setting our minds?
- Thoughts lead to actions.
- Our character is formed by what we think even before it is formed by what we do.

2. A Spiritual Mind 8:5-8

- Colossians 3:1-3 (ESV)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

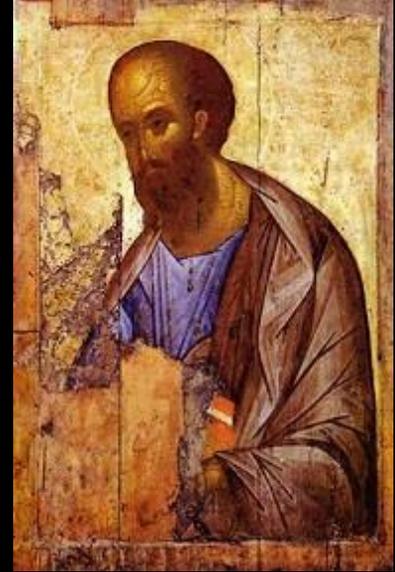
² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

2. A Spiritual Mind 8:5-8

- **Philippians 4:8** (ESV)

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

3. A Spiritual Life 8:9-11



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- The Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, dwells in you if you belong to Jesus.
- This Spirit gives life to our mortal bodies – the bodies we have right now.

3. A Spiritual Life 8:9-11



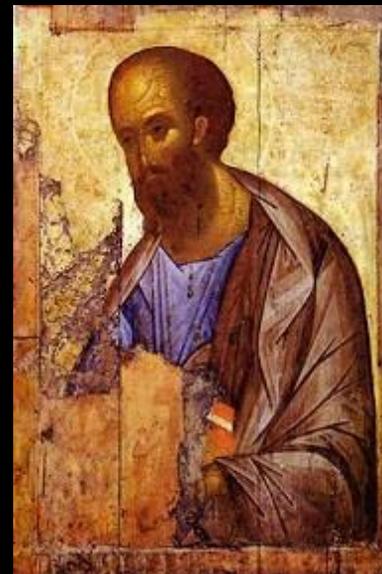
In other words ... possession of the Spirit goes hand-in-hand with being a Christian. However much we may need to grow in our relationship to the Spirit; however much we may be graciously given fresh and invigorating experiences of God's Spirit, from the moment of conversion on, the Holy Spirit is a settled resident within.

– Douglas Moo, Wheaton College

3. A Spiritual Life 8:9-11

- Therefore, it is possible to live a Spirit-filled and Spirit-empowered life right now.
- The same power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us at this moment.

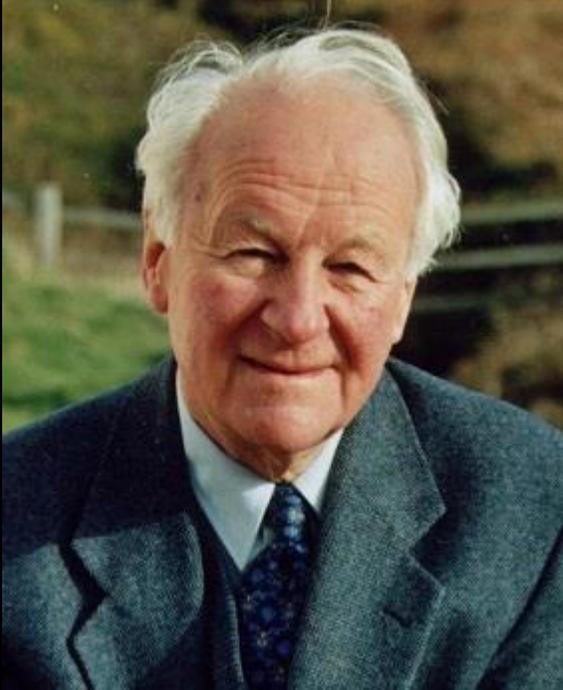
4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17



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- 8:12-13 In some ways, the choice is ours.
- We still have the option to live *according to the flesh*.
- But that is not God's will for us.

4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17



How can we possess life and court death simultaneously? Such an inconsistency between who we are and how we behave is unthinkable, even ludicrous. No, we are in debt to the indwelling Spirit of life to live out our God-given life and to put to death everything which threatens it or is incompatible with it.

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011),
All Souls Church, London*

4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17

- There are times when our identity changes to some extent:
 - A student who graduates needs to begin thinking differently about his or her role.
 - Marriage, or even divorce, means we have to rethink our role in life.

4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17

- There are times when our identity changes to some extent:
 - A first child makes you a parent – and that means thinking of yourself in light of those new responsibilities.
 - Jesus imposed a change of identity upon His first disciples.

4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17

- **Matthew 4:18-20** (ESV)

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17

- 8:16-17 We have received the *Spirit of adoption*.
- We are *children of God* and *fellow heirs with Christ*.

4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17

The Spirit will ... replace fear of God with the freedom that children enjoy with their father. Those who are slaves to sin have good reasons to fear God, but as children, we can acquire boldness to approach God as our Father ...

*– David M. Kasali, Bilingual Christian
University of the Congo*



4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17

Because we have received the legal status of sons (8:15a), we will be free to address him as Abba, Father (8:15b). The Spirit testifies with our own spirits that we are indeed children of God (8:16).

*– David M. Kasali, Bilingual Christian
University of the Congo*



4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17

- It's a fact.
- We are now children of God and fellow heirs with Christ.
- This is how God sees us, so we need to begin viewing ourselves in the same way.

4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17

- Your identity will influence your thoughts, your goals, your day-to-day decisions and actions.
- Let your new spiritual identity govern how you think of yourself.

4. A Spiritual Identity 8:12-17

- 8:17 If that should mean *suffering with Christ*, so be it.
- It ultimately means being *glorified with him*.

In the Spirit Conclusions



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- **2 Corinthians 5:17** (ESV)

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- We can accept that we are not condemned and can now walk according to the Spirit.
- We can think spiritual thoughts to replace whatever garbage used to fill our heads.
- We can live a life for God enabled by God's own power.
- We can accept our new identity in Christ as children of God and fellow heirs of all that God our Father possesses.

In the Spirit Conclusions

- **Philippians 3:17-21** (ESV)

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.