**The Book of Romans**

Part Three: God’s righteousness is revealed in His free gift of Spirit-life. (Romans 5–8)

***New Life: Victory Through God’s Spirit. . . Or, Winning the battles in your spiritual life***

***Romans 8:12-17***

If we are no longer under the Law, then what directs our lives? If we are no longer under condemnation, what takes the place of guilt in motivating obedience? If sin has rendered us “dead,” what empowers us? The answer to all three questions is the same: God’s Spirit. Following Jesus is not merely a more disciplined legalism or a more intense willpower. Just as Jesus gently and lovingly led His disciples, His Spirit now leads them. But how does it work? Believers now have. . .

***A New Accountability to God’s Spirit*** v. 12

Sin brought condemnation and death, but what is left? The reborn child of God! The New Covenant promised to put God’s laws in people’s hearts and pour His Spirit upon them. (That’s why Jesus told Nicodemus he should know these things already.) Because we are God’s, we no longer owe anything to our old life of sin. Far from it! On the contrary, we owe everything to God, who has freed us to love and obey Him as the Law never could. Are you aware of the Holy Guest?

***A New Ability by God’s Power*** v. 13

We can and will say “no” to sin because God’s Spirit enables us. The Spirit does not render us sinless, but in any given situation have the power not to sin. Is your life different because you consciously choose to follow Jesus even when you are tempted otherwise?

***A New Identity under God’s Leadership*** v. 14, 15

We can and will say “No” to sin because God’s Spirit leads us. The leading of God’s Spirit usually is not geographical, but ethical. He leads us in paths of righteousness, not telling us where to move and whom to marry. He never leads us, His children, into evil. Does your life show that you are being led by God’s Spirit?

***A New Peace through God’s Witness*** v. 16

Paul says that the witness of God’s Spirit is not TO the believer, but WITH the believer. That is, our life’s testimony is one witness to which God adds His witness, through the Spirit. He will not desert His own, but will bear witness to the universe, “This is my child!” The evidence of that is a changed life. What can the Spirit say of you?

***A New Inheritance of God’s Riches*** v. 17

It is staggering to think of being God’s heir, as in inheritance, as in the meek inheriting the earth. Believers will be blessed beyond any imagining according to God’s riches. How rich, exactly, is God?

Christ sets us free, but what does His freedom mean?

***We are free to live lives of obedience, not enslavement to sin.***

We are made in God’s image, so we reach our potential and complete our destiny only in God’s will. He enables us to desire His will for us, but it is our desire and our choice. Say “Yes!” 1 John 2:1-6

***We are free to make choices, not be paralyzed by fear.***

Many wait to make perfect choices, as if God will tell them what to do. But God does not whisper the test answers in our ear; He places His wisdom in our hearts. Boldly step out in faith, knowing that God delights in His own, in war and peace. He leads us beside quiet waters, but also sets a table for us in the presence of our enemies. Prov. 3:5, 6

***We are free to love God as His children, not his slaves.***

Our motivation is not positive thinking or inner determination, but knowing we were made to love and be loved by God. 1 John 3:1-3