



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT: No Condemnation

Pastor Derek
March 5, 2023

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement:

- What do you know about the Holy Spirit? (what did you learn/not learn growing up? How have you experienced the Spirit in your life as a Christian?)
- What do you want to gain from this sermon series?

Scripture:

READ [Romans 8:1-39](#) all the way through. Ask everyone to listen for repeated words and phrases and for anything that stands out to them.

- What was familiar to you in this chapter? What was something you heard for the first time?
- How would you describe the theme of the chapter based on repeated words and phrases?

READ [Romans 8:1-2](#) in multiple translations (the YouVersion and Bible Hub apps make this easy!)

- If Romans 7 is about fighting sin and failing (read [7:15](#)), what is the good news of these first two verses in chapter 8?
- Pastor Derek says that we are “doubly free.” What are we freed from? [condemnation; sin & death]
- What does this freedom mean for you in day-to-day life? What does it mean for you eternally?

Prayer: Alternate reading Romans 8:1-2 with prayers of praise, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication (asking for what you need). Altogether, you will read the passage 4 times, each reading followed by specific prayers. Encourage the group to pray out loud or to write their prayers down.

Next Steps:

- To get the most out of this series, set Grace as “My Church” in YouVersion and follow the Featured reading plan every week.
- Let’s work together to memorize Romans 8:18-39! We’re starting with verses 18-22. The journals they’re giving out for the series have memorization tips, and there are several suggested apps too. Let’s brainstorm a plan so we can all be successful!



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT: New Possibilities

Pastor Mike Crisman

March 12, 2023

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement:

- Share something the YouVersion reading plan taught you this week about living in the Spirit.
- As we think about overcoming the power of sin in our life by the power of the Holy Spirit, how would you describe the possibilities of a life freed from sin's bondage? What might be the impact on the people around us?

Scripture:

Read: [Romans 8:3-4](#), [Ezekiel 36:26-27](#), [Galatians 5:16-25](#)

Big Idea: Only with the Holy Spirit can you achieve God's standard.

- Put Romans 8:3-4 in your own words.
- How did God fulfill the righteous requirements of the law for us? What are some of your favorite verses that explain this? (A little help: 2 Corinthians 5: 21, 1 Peter 2:24, Colossians 2:13-14)
- Does the fact that Jesus fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law for us mean that it no longer matters if we sin? Explain.
- What could be the consequences of not overcoming sin in our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Ezekiel passage help us understand what living by the Spirit and not the law looks like?
- What does walking according to the Spirit and not the flesh look like? How do you know when you are walking according to the Spirit? What would be signs that you were walking according to the flesh? (Galatians 5:16-25 will give you some direction.)
- If someone wanted to grow in walking/living by the Holy Spirit, what advice would you give them?

Prayer: First, spend time in worship, praising our Savior for taking our sins on Himself and fulfilling the righteous requirement for us. Second, take time to confess and ask for God's help where you feel sin is still winning. (This could be a time of silent prayer) Third, as a group, declare your desire to hear and yield to the Spirit of Christ in you.

Next Steps:

- Continue working together to memorize Romans 8:18-39!



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT: Living in the Spirit

Pastor Derek

March 19, 2023

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement:

-Share something the [YouVersion reading plan "Renew"](#), written by Tim Keller, taught you this week about living in the Spirit.

-Tim Keller asked, "What do you do with your solitude?" How would you answer that question? How do our answers reveal what our minds are set on?

Scripture:

Read [Romans 8:5-8](#) in 4 different versions (ESV, AMP, NLT, MSG, all found on YouVersion) As you read, make two lists—one of the ways to describe living in "the flesh" and one of the ways to describe living in "the Spirit." Read over those lists again. In your own words, contrast "the flesh" (worldliness) vs. "the Spirit" (godliness.)

Read [Romans 12:1-2](#). Paul tells us that renewing our minds transforms or changes us. How have you seen your life change as you learned new patterns of thinking? What are some ways your group can encourage one another to set (focus) your mind on things of the Spirit?

Read [Philippians 4:4-9](#). What kinds of things should we think about? You feed those positive, life-giving thoughts in five ways: Increase positive intake, challenge your doubts, dwell on beautiful ideas, seek out life-giving conversations, and memorize Scripture. Share some specific ways you have done this or can implement one or more of these in your life.

Prayer: Read [Psalm 19:14](#) out loud using multiple versions and pray together this prayer written by King David: *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."* Amen

Next Steps:

-Choose one of the five ways to feed positive thoughts and practice it consciously each day.

-Get the most out of this series by setting Grace as "My Church" in the YouVersion app and following the Featured reading plan each week.

-Continue working together to memorize Romans 8:18-39. One way to memorize is to simply read the passage over and over again. You can read Romans 8:18-39 aloud in just two and a half minutes. Try to do this at least twice a day.



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT: Acceptance and Obedience

Pastor Sarah Burt

March 26, 2023

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement:

- Share something the YouVersion reading plan taught you this week about living in the Spirit.
- Share how you have seen the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) in others in the group.

Scripture:

Read [Romans 8:9-13](#), [John 10:10](#), [Galatians 5:16-25](#), [1Corinthians 6:19](#), [Galatians 2:20-21](#), [2 Corinthians 13:5](#)

- The Big Idea for this message is, “live like the Spirit has made His home in you.” What does that mean to you in light of these scriptures?
- How does Paul say we can overcome the “flesh” or old nature in Romans 8? If we are to live by the Spirit, we must yield to the Spirit, which is an act of will on our part. Remember- you are not a “debtor” to your flesh, but to Christ. Sin grows when you feel you are owed and entitled. You are owed nothing. By grace, you have been freed from self!
- How does Galatians 5 contrast life in the Spirit with life in the flesh?
- What does it look like to “*no longer live, but Christ lives in me*” (Galatians 2:20-21)?

Prayer: Invite someone to open in prayer and ask those in the group who feel comfortable to pray as they feel led, then close- *“God of Creation, empower us through your Holy Spirit who lives in us when we accept Christ as our Savior. May we continue to yield to your Spirit and allow Him to live through us so that the Fruit of the Spirit grows abundantly in our lives.”*

Next Steps:

- Discuss practical ways to “share” the fruit of the Spirit in you with the people in your circles of influence (family, friends, colleagues, classmates, etc.)
- Get the most out of this series by setting Grace as “My Church” in the YouVersion app and following the Featured reading plan each week.
- Continue working together to memorize Romans 8:18-39! Don’t forget that there are tips and tricks in the study book (available in hard copy on Sundays and in pdf at www.whoisgrace.com/read).