

Date : 27 October 2024
Theme : Making our election sure – Our Sanctification
Topic : Victory through the law of the Spirit
Passage : Romans 8: 1-17
Key Verse : *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:2 NKJV)*

Introduction

From the past weeks’ sermons, we have seen that by the grace of God [*remember ‘GRACE’ acronym: Gift - Righteousness - Abundance - Cleansing - Elevation*], we are set free from the power of sin (*Romans 6:14*) and no longer come under the law of sin and death, but are now under the law of the Spirit of life to become *“slaves to righteousness” (Romans 6:18)*.

Now under the law of grace, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross brings redemption to the repentant sinner through faith in Christ Jesus, and brings about his/her reconciliation with God.

By the power of the Spirit,

- (i) we are no more under the law of sin and death.
- (ii) we are dead to sin, so we can now live our life righteously (as we are no longer under the slavery to sin, having been set free to be servants of God. (*Romans 7:4*))
- (iii) we choose to be a bond slave to our good Master, giving Him our allegiance and loyalty in a lifelong relationship. (*Romans 7:6*)

We now need to recognise that it is all about the work of the Holy Spirit who indwells and empowers every believer (*Romans 1-17*) who, having been set free from the law of sin and death now exercises liberty to come under the law of the Spirit of life. (*Romans 8:2*)

The law of the Spirit of life refers to the powerful work of the Spirit in the life of the believer for redemption and sanctification.

We need to submit to the Spirit in order to be empowered and this points us on the need to exercise the power of the new life in pursue of righteousness.

1. The Holy Spirit is a Gift from God

The prophets foretold God would put a new spirit in His people (*Ezekiel 11:19, 36:26*). With Jesus’ finished work on the cross, justification comes in the power of His resurrection for the believer in Christ, upon which the Spirit of Jesus indwells in him/her to enjoy the reality of this new life in the Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit (*Allos Parakleto* in Greek) dwells in the believer
 - *Parakleto* = Counsellor or Comforter; *Allos* means another of the same kind. When Jesus promised another comforter, He meant another just like Him. He was referring to the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit is also known as Spirit of Jesus, Spirit of the Father, Spirit of adoption, Spirit of truth, and Spirit of life.
 - He is the 3rd Person in the Godhead.
 - Upon justification by faith in Jesus Christ, God the Father sends the Holy Spirit to indwell in the believer (Christian), for Jesus said:
“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ ... you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16)

- The Christian life is possible only by the grace of God - because our sins have been forgiven, we are cleansed and our guilt has been removed, and God’s Spirit dwells in us.
- The Holy Spirit is active and instrumental in our conviction to follow Jesus.

- The Holy Spirit is involved in our salvation (vs 1-2)
“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” (vs 1)
 - There is no condemnation when we are in Christ.

- The Law of the Spirit of life is at work. The Spirit is working in us to set us free from the law of sin and death. (vs1-2)
“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” (vs 2)

- The Spirit sets us free so that we are transformed to the new life in the Spirit.
 - The ‘therefore’ in vs 1 picks up from *Romans 7:6* *“but now we are free from the Law. We are dead to sin that once held us in its power. No longer do we follow the Law which is the old way. We now follow the new way, the way of the Spirit.” (NLV)*

- It is our obligation to live life in the Spirit
“Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it... but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.” (vs 12-13)
 (Paul speaks of obligations. We feel obligated to another only when we believe they have done something good for us).

- To turn away from our carnal self.
 - Put to death the ‘old self’ and live the ‘new life’ in the Spirit.
 - Put to death the deeds of the flesh [Greek word is **sarx**: the unregenerate state of men]
 For eg, all of us can identify with Paul’s struggle in *Romans 7:24* which he says is delivered *“through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (7:25)*
- To be dead to sin is by the grace of God, in Christ we receive cleansing and the imputed righteousness.

2. The Holy Spirit is actively involved in the life of the Christian

- The Spirit indwells in the believer of Christ
 Verses 1-6 give pairings of opposites - of ‘sin and death’ and ‘righteousness and life’ - and point to the work of the indwelling Spirit Who frees us from indwelling sin.

Romans 8	Those not in Christ	Those in Christ
Vs 1	<i>Walk according to the flesh</i>	<i>Walk according to the Spirit</i>
Vs 2	<i>Law of sin and death</i>	<i>Law of the Spirit of life</i>
Vs 3	<i>Sinful flesh</i>	<i>Condemned sin in the flesh</i>
Vs 4	<i>Righteous requirement not fulfilled</i>	<i>Righteous requirement fulfilled</i>
Vs 5	<i>Carnal mindset</i>	<i>Mind set on things of the Spirit</i>
Vs 6	<i>Carnally minded is death</i>	<i>Spiritually minded is life</i>

- The Spirit liberates us
 - He is involved in our sanctification.
- The law of the Spirit of life refers to the powerful work of the Spirit to bring liberty.
 - So, we who are in Christ, have been liberated by the Spirit. (vs 2-3)
 - While the law of sin and death brings judgement (the penalty for sin is death).
 - The “law of the Spirit” unshackles the grip of sin to free us from the law of sin and death (sin in the flesh is condemned) - so we now have the liberty to walk in the way of holiness.
 - Living ‘*according to the Spirit*’ (vs 4) brings about sanctification.
- The Spirit of Jesus imputes righteousness
 - “*And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*” (vs10)
 - while the penalty for sin is death, the Spirit gives life because of the imputed righteousness.
- When we are in Christ (*Romans 8:9-11*) – no longer controlled by sinful nature – we are dead to sin but alive because of righteousness.
 - Those not in Christ cannot have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ
- The Spirit guides us
 - To take control of the mind
 - Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. (vs 5)
 - the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. (vs 6)
 - The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so... they cannot please God. (vs 7-8)
- The Spirit empowers us
 - When we subject ourselves to the Spirit direction, He empowers us:
 - to please God (vs 8)
 - to belong to God
 - “*But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*” (vs 9)
 - with the power of His resurrection (vs 10)

3. The Holy Spirit assures us of our position in Christ

- The Spirit confirms our elevated position in Christ
 - **GRACE** - *Elevation to sonship*
- What amazing grace! The Spirit of adoption elevates us to be sons of God.
- Receive the Spirit as a Gift from the Father with the adoption to sonship
 - “*...the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.*” (vs15)
 - We are to take on our rightful place that God has bestowed upon us by our adoption into the family of God.
 - “*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”*” *Romans 8:14-15*

- Our BC founding leader's God-given vision to build a Sanctuary for Him at Tampines is now before us (after about 40 years since conception). God has given us a beautiful plot of land at Tampines St 86.

In our position of adoption to sonship and as members of the BC family, we must see this church building project as a privilege and divine opportunity given to us, and rise to contribute in the work. Let each of us be Spirit-led as to how we can contribute towards the building of the Sanctuary.

- The Spirit testifies we are God's children
"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (vs 16)
- Vs 16 application: Take hold of this word and in faith witness in the authority bestowed upon us as children of God.
 - When we witness the Good News, the Spirit will come alongside.
 - He bears witness that we are God's children and ambassadors for Christ.
 - He will help us to convict the heart of the hearers (just like the Father testified Jesus at the Transfiguration: *And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is ^{is} My beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Luke 9:35)*

Application

1. *"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."* Romans 8:9.
What marks a true Christian according to *Romans 8:9*?

Can you check [✓] on the respective box if you agree with the statement:

- I am in Christ
- The Spirit lives in me
- I am victorious in Him who strengthens me

2. What does *Romans 8:12-13* teach us about to whom we have a debt?

3. Knowing your privilege position to build Him a Sanctuary, discuss with your net leader how you may contribute towards the building project as a group.