

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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**Series:** Romans

**Sermon title:** Assurance in the Spirit

**Scripture reading:** Romans 8:1-17

We finally come today to that famous chapter of Romans, Romans chapter 8. It's probably the chapter that most people are familiar with.

Everything in chapters 1-7 have led up to this point. What does God wants us to know through the pen of Paul here in this chapter?

Well, it's not hard to know what the focus is. Remember when you study the Bible to look for patterns and things often repeated.

In chapter 7, the Holy Spirt was mentioned once and 'Law' mentioned 31x.

In our passage today, Romans 8:1-17, the "Spirit" is mentioned 15x.

**Main idea:**

We have assurance of salvation through the indwelling Holy Spirit, who empowers us for righteousness.

It's my hope and prayer that today's message will be an encouragement to you.

## **Let's pray**

Let's head straight into the Scriptures to see this great assurance that the Christian has.

### **I. Freed by the Spirit.**

**1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. **3** For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

This '*therefore*' signals a major turning point in Romans. Paul is saying based upon all that you have read thus far,....be assured that you are not under condemnation because of your sin.

And he tells us what God did and how he did it.

**2** For the law of the Spirit of life (the Holy Spirit transforming us by the life-giving gospel) *has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

**3** For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. (Chapter 7)

By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh (the incarnation) and for sin (literally, 'for a sin offering) , he condemned sin in the flesh,

This is what he already said in **Romans 3:24-25**, we are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an atoning sacrifice by his blood.

Why do I say, "Freed by the Spirit"?

Because our regeneration was brought about by the Holy Spirit...when he came into us.

Jesus paid for your salvation but it was made effective for you by the Holy Spirit.

So, there is no condemnation for you....you have assurance believer....because you have been freed by the Spirit of God.

But God didn't just save you so that you could enjoy being saved....

## **II. Freed to obey by the Spirit**

4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

God saved us so that we could walk in righteousness and obey him. And when we do that we honor and glorify him.

This is part of the exhortation of the letter....*"Because you belong to Christ now, live like it. Be who you are. Don't live according to the flesh."*

He exhorts us by giving us a comparison and contrast between the flesh and the Spirit.

**5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. **6** For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **7** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. **8** Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Those who live according to the flesh are unbelievers here. This is clear. They are hostile to God, don't submit to God and cannot please God.

Those who live according to the Spirit here are believers. This is clearer in **verses 9**

### **III. Assurance in the Spirit (Present & Future)**

**9** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. **10** But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead [subject to death] because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. **11** If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

What evidence can a person give that they are saved?

They have the Holy Spirit.

**[Side note]** Notice here as a side note that there is no category for a person who belongs to Christ but doesn't have the Holy Spirit. Those aren't 2 different experiences.

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Are you looking for assurance that you are born again?

If you have the Holy Spirit, you are born again.  
And the Holy Spirit in you will desire the things of God.  
If you love the flesh, you have reason to question  
whether you are saved according to **verses 5-11**.

The Holy Spirit will confirm in you that you belong to  
God.

He gives us additional assurance and even evidence in  
**verses 14-17**

**14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of  
God. **15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to  
fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of  
adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

**16** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that  
we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs—  
heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we  
suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified  
with him.

This blessed assurance that we have is here in the  
present that we know that 'Jesus is mine' and it is also a  
foretaste and hope for the future.

**11** If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead  
dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the  
dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through  
his Spirit who dwells in you.

The Spirit is the deposit guaranteeing our inheritance, which is first and foremost getting more of God than the Spirit....face to face with God in renewed sinless bodies.

So, Paul wants us to see that we are:

- **Freed from condemnation by the Spirit.**
- **Freed to obey God by the Spirit's empowering.**
- & that we have **Assurance by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit**....assurance now and hope for a glorious resurrection.

Fourthly, Paul moves to exhortation.

Based upon all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus and through his Spirit.....we have an obligation to live differently.

#### **IV. Obligation to the Spirit**

**12** So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

We are debtors.

We are obligated to something he says.

We are NOT debtors to the flesh to live according to that way of life, to live like the world.

### **But what are we debtors/obligated to then?**

We are obligated to put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit..and live.

Well, what does that mean?

We could say it means something like **Romans 6:11**  
So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. And.....

**Romans 6:12** Let not sin reign in your mortal body to make you body its passions.

Or **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

### **Galatians 6**

Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh....

If you live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.



I think all of those verses are consistent with **Romans 8:12** So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

But let's lean in more into this text to get to the clue as to how we 'put to death the deeds of the body..by the Spirit'.

### **I think some of these phrases are saying the same thing:**

- Walk according to the Spirit [verse 4]
- Live according to the Spirit [verse 5]
- Set the mind on the Spirit/ things of the Spirit [5-6]
- You are 'in the Spirit' [verse 9]
- By the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body [13]
- Led by the Spirit [verse 14]

5x in this passage it mentions the MIND.

Ask yourself this question: **What do I feed my mind?**

The battle is in the mind.

The mind needs to be renewed by the Spirit of God.

HE desires to do that but we work against him by feeding our minds on flesh.

But if BY THE SPIRIT we put to death the flesh....we will live; really live. Thrive spiritually.

So, how do we fight and wage war by the Spirit?  
Renew the mind with the word of God.  
(Remember we don't fight the flesh with the flesh...  
that's LAW-type fighting. If we do that we will be  
defeated.)

Listen.

### **Ephesians 4:22-24**

Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

### **Colossians 3:1-2**

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

### **Philippians 4:8**

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.

And lastly, **Romans 12:2**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

We have to wage war in the Spirit. How?

Renew the mind with the word of God.

Brothers and sisters, we are:

- **Freed from condemnation by the Spirit.**
- **Freed to obey God by the Spirit's empowering.**
- we have **Assurance by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit**....and a blessed hope and future...
- So let us ....walk in the Spirit and put to death the deeds of the body and live the life that he has for us.