

The Blessing Of Having The Spirit

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- [0 : 0 0] Let's turn for a little to the chapter we read, Romans chapter 8 and verse 14. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
- But belonging and being part of anything is very, very important for us in life.
- That's why families are so important to us, where we feel so much part of. It's something we take for granted if we're born into a family and we have brothers, we have sisters, we have parents, we have close relatives.
- Sometimes we don't really stop to think of how precious that is until maybe we lose one or lose more. And then we come to realize just how wonderful, what a wonderful blessing it is to be part of, to have family, to be this sense of belonging.
- Because we all crave a sense of belonging in this world. And that's one of the wonderful things about becoming a Christian. is that you become part of a family.
- [1 : 2 2] You are brought into God's family. God is your Father and you have a huge family on earth where we are turned from the Word of God as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- And so one of the great and wonderful privileges that we have that sometimes we maybe don't take fully and fully understand it or marvel at what it is that we belong to one another.
- And what we begin to become here is but a picture of what we will be fully in glory. The family begins here. And unfortunately as in all human families there are sometimes squabbles and this and that.
- And so within the family of God sadly there are still sometimes squabbles. In glory there will be no squabbles. And we long for that time when the family of God will be one in Christ in glory.
- But we should be enjoying the family circle and family unit here in this world before we get to glory. Now Romans chapter 8 is a chapter that we know is bursting with the privileges and the blessings of what it is to be a Christian.
- [2 : 4 2] If you are ever down and wondering you know what do I have as a Christian? What does it mean to be a Christian? Go to Romans 8. Start at Romans 8.1 and work your way right through.
- And if you are still feeling down afterwards well I would be kind of surprised. Because it is just there are so so many privileges and blessings that are brought out to us in this chapter.
- Now this verse 14 is a kind of a link verse. Because in this particular chapter the apostle has been dealing with great theological truths.
- But he does so very simply. And he has been working through. He has been working through really in Romans. Working through what it means to be justified.
- And how amazing that is. That through and because of what Jesus Christ has done for us. We are now justified in the sight of God.

[3 : 44] We are now acquitted. On the day of judgment we are told we will be openly acknowledged and acquitted. Isn't that a wonderful thought? That God will there will be an open acknowledgement that you belong to him.

And you will be acquitted of all the wrong that you have done here in this world. Openly acknowledged and acquitted. But although that would be an open declaration in the day of judgment.

Here in this world we are already acquitted. We are termed just as God looks on us through the work of Jesus Christ.

He says you are just. You have been justified. You have been set free. You are no longer under condemnation. That's what we are told. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

So that's one of the most wonderful things. One of the great, great blessings that we have. But then following on from being justified. We are also sanctified.

[4 : 53] Now as we often talk about it. We look on sanctification as twofold. We use the different expressions. We have that.

What we normally think of sanctification is a progressive sanctification. The ongoing. But there is a once and for all sanctified. Because to sanctify really is to set apart.

To set apart that which is holy. And the moment we are justified. The moment we are born again. When we are regenerated and born again. We are justified in the sight of God.

And we are set apart. As his. We belong to him. Don't belong to ourselves anymore. We belong to him. And you know. Although in some ways there is a real pressure.

In seeking to walk according. To the spirit in life. There is also a tremendous sense of liberty and freedom. Where we are being set free.

[5 : 56] From the rigors of the law. Where we are not under condemnation anymore. And there is this freedom to live. With Christ. And in Christ. And it is a wonderful.

A wonderful freedom that we are given. But that as we are saying. We are set apart. Right away. Sanctified. But then there is this. What we term this. Ongoing work.

Where God's spirit. Is working. Conforming us. Moulding us. Shaping us. Into the image of Christ.

And that is an extraordinary thing. But that is ongoing. It is happening. Day and night. And very often. This is part of the problem. Is that although the word of God.

tells us that this is what is happening. We feel ourselves becoming less and less like Christ. Because maybe as you look over your life. You say you know this. When I started out first.

[6 : 53] I was more like. I feel I was far more like Jesus. Than I am now. But you know. The growth of the Christian. Although we are growing up. We are also growing down.

And the more that the Lord. The more that we grow. Like Jesus. The more that we. We become conscious. Of our own sin.

Of the. The depth. Of depravity. That is within us. I am sure that you have discovered. Things about yourself now. That you didn't know before. There are aspects and areas of your life.

That. That it is like there is a. It is like a torch has shone in. And you are seeing other things. And you are saying to Israel. You know. You are aware that there are sins.

Within your life. But you are maybe now discovering. Why these sins are there. You are coming to a. A new level of the sheer deceit. And corruption. That lies deep down there.

[7 : 47] And that is what is there. And it is causing this. But that is because of the spirit. Within you. Because if the spirit. Wasn't within you. You couldn't see. You wouldn't be able to see this.

It is. This is what. What. What. What. What is happening. That it is the work of God's spirit. Within you. Revealing these things to you. So that. There is this. Ongoing. Growth.

But then the other thing. And this is where Paul. Is now linking everything up. There is this. Other wonderful privilege. And blessing. Is where we are adopted. Into the family of God.

So there is this. Being justified. We are being sanctified. We are being adopted. All these things happen. Where we are able. To call.

As it says there. For. For all who are led. By the spirit of God. Are sons of God. For you did not receive. The spirit of slavery.

[8 : 45] To fall back into fear. But you have received. The spirit of adoption. As sons. By whom we cry. Abba. Father. Isn't that wonderful. So that's.

This great privilege. That we have. That we are now. Able to call God. Abba. Father. We are no longer. Governed by fear. No longer afraid.

The fear that. Came. In the fall. Because there had been. No fear. Prior to the fall. But whenever the fall. Took place. Fear.

Came. And that fear. Was evidenced. In Adam. Running away from God. Prior to that. Adam had walked. With God. But now he's run away.

When he hears the voice of God. Because of the fear. That's what sin does. Sin produces fear. Within the heart. And I believe. That that is part of.

[9 : 41] The explosion. Of all that's taking place. Within. Within our world. Where there's so much fear. So much anxiety.

So much unrest. Now. Don't get. But. It's a fruit of sin. That's what. That's what sin has done. It has. It has brought.

Fear. And pressures. And anxieties. And unrest. Now I'm not saying. That the moment. A person becomes a Christian. That all of a sudden. All anxieties. And fears disappear. That doesn't happen.

We all have different natures. Different dispositions. We're all different. And we're not for one moment. Suggesting that. That a person. When they become a Christian.

Will never again. Have any mental issues. Or anything of that nature. Of course. That's not true. However. There is. When we become a Christian. We have.

[10 : 36] We have a freedom. That. To go to God. The fear. That existed there. That sometimes. We weren't aware of. All of a sudden. We feel.

We can go to God. The fear. That. That there were times. You would. I remember. I often said it before. Before I became a Christian. I'd waken up in the night. And there would be a fear.

Oh. If I die. If I die. I'm lost. And there was this fear. This. Awful fear. That would be there. And then. As the longer. I would be awake. Maybe the more.

That fear. Would subside. But it was an instinctive. Natural fear. That was there. Because of sin. And I thank the Lord.

For the teaching I had. And the upbringing that I had. That enabled me to understand that. Because there are many people. Who have that fear. And they don't know why that fear is there. That fear is there.

- [11 : 31] Because. We're not right with God. But you know. When you become a Christian. That fear goes. That slavish fear. There's a new fear. The fear of awe. And respect. In the presence of God.
- But that fear. That fear of. That bondage. That. Fear that you had. It's been taken away. And you can now.
- You can now go. To the Lord. And that's one of the wonderful things. You see. You would think it was a very. Very strange home. If you saw a child.
- In that home. And they were in fear. Every single time. That they were going to. Ask their father for anything. Or go to their father. About anything.
- You would say to yourself. Whoa. That's. That's. That's not a good home. That's a home that's ruled by. By fear. Fear is a dominant factor. In that home.
- [12 : 26] They're terrified. In that home. You'd say to yourself. I'm glad. I don't live in that home. But that's. You see. That fear is now gone.
- We're able. We're able to go. To the father. And that fear. The. The reason why we can now go. Confidently. To our father. Is because of the knowledge.
- That we have of him. And knowledge is absolutely essential. With. To our Christian faith. Because. In. Before you will commit yourself.
- To anybody. Before you will. Throw yourself. On to anybody. You've got to know that person. You wouldn't. You wouldn't trust somebody. With your life.
- That you had never met before. It. You see. Knowledge is very important. With regard to relationship. With regard to. Giving of ourselves. And that's what happens.
- [13 : 23] When we become Christians. There is. A knowledge. That is born. Even although. You know. You can have a great. And it's. That's one of the great things. Wonderful things. Of training up children.
- In the Bible. So that when they do come to faith. In Jesus Christ. The knowledge. That they have gained. On the way up. That knowledge. It just. It all makes sense.
- I remember. As a. As a kid. When I was learning. The shortest catechism. It was double dutch to me. But we had. We had to learn it. And I was. I used to. I used to struggle.
- With all these concepts. And things. And I. And again. Verses of the Bible. And so. Do you know. When you became a Christian. You were so thankful. Because all of a sudden. It all began.
- To make sense. And that's what the Holy Spirit does. The Holy Spirit. Casts light. Straight away. And so there is a. Instantly. A knowledge.
- [14 : 20] Is born. Within the heart. The moment. The moment. You come to faith. In the Lord Jesus Christ. And so you know. Who you go to. You know. That you're going. The one that you.
- You go to. And you depend upon. That's why children. When they're in trouble. When anything. Frightens. They want to get home. Little children.
- They might have pals. They might have. But you know this. When the chips are down. And when they're in trouble. They just want to get home. Because they want to get into the security of home. And with their parents.
- And so it is with ourselves. There's this. Where we're more and more. Where we're casting ourselves upon the Lord. Because we know that. He understands. That he cares for us.
- That we belong to him. We are his children. And so there's this. It's unnatural. And so there's a. There's a sincerity in our prayer. We know that he will hear us.

[15 : 15] It'd be an awful home. If children had to analyze. And work out. And say. I wonder now. Can I actually go? Can I go to my mom and dad? What if they don't want to see me?

Again. You'd be saying to yourself. That's an awful home. I wouldn't like to be part of that home. Where the children are trying to work out. You know. Can I go and speak to my mom? Can I go and speak to my dad?

You would say. There's something. Absolutely. Horrendously wrong in that home. But that's how it is with us. We can go. We have a freedom to go.

We don't have to analyze and work out and say. I wonder. Can I approach my heavenly father? No. We just go. It's instinctive. We want to go. It's a great. Great desire of our heart.

And then verse 16. It's really highlighting what verse 15 is all about. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear.

[16 : 16] That's what we've been talking about. But you have received the spirit of adoption. That's what we were saying. You see all that fear. That negativity that used to be there.

The bondage through the law and condemned by it. It's lifted. It's gone. So now we have the spirit. We have the spirit of adoption.

The family spirit. And so we cry. Abba Father. And so the spirit himself bears witness with our spirit. That we are the children of God.

You know this is one of the wonderful things the Holy Spirit does for us. He convinces us that we belong.

We don't work this up in our shelves. It's not a sort of sort of saying. Right. I'm going to try and work out and work up within my own self. I belong to God. No. The Holy Spirit who has come to reside.

[17 : 18] To abide. To dwell. To live within you. He is assuring your spirit that you belong. And that's why it's very difficult sometimes to explain assurance to somebody.

To explain assurance. Sometimes when you as a Christian have a sense of assurance. Now I know that there are times that we can lose our sense of assurance. Losing our sense of assurance doesn't mean we lose our salvation.

We can't lose our salvation. But there are times when we can lose that sense of assurance. But most of the time we have that sense of assurance of belonging.

And it's the Holy Spirit that does that. And I believe that it's essential for us in order for that spirit of assurance to be cultivated.

It's essential for us to be in the word and to be in prayer. We cannot expect to be full of assurance if we're not speaking to the Lord. If we're not hearing what the Lord says.

[18 : 22] And that's why it's so important to go to the Lord's table. You know if once we come to faith. I believe that coming to the Lord's table is something that will.

It so strengthens our faith and deepens our assurance. Because I know one of the great fears that people have that keep them back from the table is.

What if I go and I shouldn't have gone? And sometimes people who should be at the table don't go because of this. But you know something once you go and you partake of the Lord's Supper.

And you eat that bread and drink that wine. And you become part of that family. It gives you a strength. It strengthens. It's something that really assures.

And I would encourage. Although we don't have a communion. Just come here up just now. But any of you who believe that the Lord is worth in your heart.

[19 : 16] Despite all the fears and uncertainties you may have. It will do you the world of good. It gives you a new sense of the belonging.

Of that sense of assurance. And then verse 17 goes on to show us that if we're children. Then we're heirs. Heirs of God. And fellow heirs with Christ.

And you know what? What a wonderful future is ahead of us. That we're heirs. That's what it says. That we are heirs of God. And fellow heirs with Christ.

Provided we suffer with him. In order that we may also glorify with him. As you live out your days. Do you think of what's ahead? Not of what's ahead tomorrow.

But of what's ahead in glory. Of where you're going. Because I think that's very important. You will find that the New Testament writers all speak a lot about this.

[20 : 19] Paul was one of the most practical men. One of the most down to earth people that you've ever met. And Paul had a passion for living. And a passion for serving the Lord here.

But he also had a great longing for glory. In fact his longing for glory was so great that he was saying I'm in a kind of a dilemma. Part of him he wants to stay here and serve the Lord.

But there's a huge part of him he wants to decide. The great desire to depart and to be with the Lord. Which is far better. And so there's no question but that Paul lived a lot of his life in the light of eternity.

And so should we. Because we're only here for a short time. A very short time. And the time we have left is far far less than the time we've already had.

Well certainly for most of us. The time that has already gone by. And time is moving so so quickly. But that makes a world of difference for the Christian.

[21 : 20] Because the non-Christian. They don't have this anticipation. This excitement about the future. The Christian does. Because they know where they're going.

They know what's. They don't understand the whole process. They don't know. We don't look forward to death. That's not something I'm saying I'm looking forward to the day I die. Nobody's saying that. But we're looking forward to what follows death.

Even the Apostle Paul wasn't looking forward to death. He writes about that. But he looked forward to departing to be with Christ. He writes about this whole thing.

That he's not looking forward to becoming unclothed. In other words of the whole process of dying. Of the body. You know. And all that. But he looked forward to what followed on from that.

And so should we. And you know this. I believe it's one of the greatest witnesses. And testimonies in this world. Is to see people who are living in the light of eternity. And looking forward to it.

[22 : 21] You know there's so much gloom in this world today. And so many people are so. Down at heel. And worried. And what. It's a wonderful thing. To have the calmness.

And the composure. And the day that we're living in. We're also living with an excitement. And an anticipation of what is ahead. I believe that Mary. Who followed the Lord Jesus.

In New Testament times. I believe she was one of the greatest witnesses. That the Lord had. The greatest. Her life was a living testimony. I've never subscribed to the theory.

Where you hear people say. Oh he or she is too heavenly minded. To be of any earthly use. I believe the more heavenly minded. That person is. The more. They serve Christ.

The more they. They witness for Christ. The more that Christ shines through them. As living epistles. It's a wonderful thing. So.

- [23 : 20] To belong to the family of God. To be part of the family of God. It's just. It's just a wonderful thing. What does that mean for us? Well. When you think. If you're. If you were an heir.
- You're an heir. That's what it tells us here. That we're heirs. Heirs of God. And fellow heirs with Christ. Well. Again. We've often heard. These things said. There's nothing original in this.
- But. If a. If a person is an heir. To. A great inheritance. That. Person. Who is the heir. Will be.
- Really looked after. Very carefully. Because. Everything is going to be handed over. Everything is going to go to this person. And so. There will be. A kind of a special attention. Given to this person.
- And that's what God is doing for you. And for me as well. Because we are heirs. Of salvation. We are heirs. Fellow heirs. Imagine. Fellow heirs.
- [24 : 17] Joint heirs. With Christ. Fellow heirs. I find that quite extraordinary. We are going to share in his kingdom. And so it's inevitable.
- That the father. Is going to be looking out for you. Looking after you. And an heir is somebody. Who is being prepared. For the inheritance.
- That they are to receive. And that's what. The father is doing for you just now. He is preparing you. He is preparing you. And all the troubles. And the knocks.
- And the difficulties. And things that are coming into your life. And you are saying. Oh if only. If only I didn't have this. If only I didn't have that. And the Lord is saying. If only you could see. What I am actually.
- What I have for you. But I am preparing you for that. Through these things. As the word says. Our affliction. And in terms of the light affliction.
- [25 : 15] This is very much a contrasting. Of the glory. Our light affliction. Which is but for a moment. And right now. You might be going through an affliction. And you are saying to me.
- Saying to yourself. It is anything but light. And it is not for a moment. It has been going on and on. But when we contrast it. Or compare it to eternity. Our light affliction.
- Which is but for a moment. Worketh in us. A far more exceeding. And eternal weight of glory. That is what is happening. God is working in you.
- For what he has prepared for you. And so. This is a wonderful thing. Of being an heir. An heir is somebody who is brought in. Again we have often heard this.
- An heir is somebody who shares in family secrets. You are going to be the heir to this estate. Well there are certain things you need to know. And that is how our heavenly father is working for us.
- [26 : 13] The Holy Spirit is ministering to us. Revealing things. The deep things of God. Are being revealed. And mysteries are being revealed.
- Not that we know all the mysteries. Not at all. So much we don't know. But that is why. An heir of an inheritance.
- Will know things about the family. That people outside won't know. And that is true. With regard to you as well. That you will know things about the kingdom of God.
- That those who are outside the kingdom. Won't know. And people don't understand. So a lot of people today. Will not believe.
- That as you go to church. That you go there. With anticipation in your heart. With a hope. That you will be nourished. And strengthened.

[27 : 11] And built up. A lot of people. As they see you go to church. Will think you are going there purely. Out of duty. That it is something you do. That you. Somebody. This is one of the things that you do.

You just go to church. That you are the type of person. You go to church. It is that duty. There is nothing else. They don't realize. That it is a spiritual exercise. That you are there to worship God.

That your heart is engaged in that worship. That it is real. It is meaningful. It is by faith you are doing it. And that at the same time. You are receiving into your soul.

That you are being built up. You are being strengthened. That you are going to church. That it is not just as a duty. Yes there is a duty attached to it. But it is what you want to do.

It is what you need to do. And so that is why outside. Sometimes people do not understand. What really. What it is all about.

[28 : 10] So we see here that. For all who are led by the spirit of God. Are sons of God. So we are being led by the spirit of God.

And of course when we are led. We are being taken down. Different roads and different paths. For all who are led by the spirit of God. Are sons of God.

And one of the things that happens. Is that we are. When we are being led. By the spirit of God. Excuse me. We are being led in a particular way.

There are two sides to this leading. We are being led to glory. Yes. But we are being led into battle. Led into what we would term. Mortifying.

The deeds of the body. And that is the spirit's great work. As we said before. Is to make us more and more like Christ. You see. At the end of the day.

[29 : 06] There are two forces. And two powers at work. There is a spirit. And there is a flesh. And either the flesh dominates. And holds court within our life.

Or else the spirit does. Now when the spirit comes into our life. That doesn't mean that the flesh is eradicated. It means that there is a war. There is a conflict.

Because the flesh. Does not like that the spirit has come in. The flesh wants to regain control. The flesh has been in control. And doesn't sit happily.

With the spirit. As the flesh would see it invading. And so there is this conflict. This ongoing collision. In Galatians chapter 5.

You know how it tells us here. About the fruit of the spirit. And the works of the flesh. And it tells us this. That you have. For I say.

[30 : 10] Walk by the spirit. And you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh. Are against the spirit. And the desires of the spirit. Are against the flesh.

For these are opposed. To each other. To keep you from doing the things. You want to do. You see. The flesh naturally wants. To break God's law. To go against God's law.

Now the works of the flesh. Are evident. And then there is this list. Of sexual immorality. Impurity. Sensuality. Idolatry. Socially. Enmity.

Strife. Jealousy. Fits of anger. Rivalries. Dissensions. Divisions. Envy. Drunkenness. Orgies. And things like that. The fruit of the spirit.

Is love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-control. Two totally different things. I heard of a.

[31 : 04] I remember my father telling me. He was at a communion. Late Peter Chisholm. Was fencing the table. And one of the things. As he read there. He said. Nobody. He said.

Should come to the table. Who does not know. Both. Of these things. The works of the flesh. And the fruit of the spirit. Hammering against each other.

Within their heart. That the table is not just for those. Who know the fruit of the spirit. The fruit of the spirit. But they know. The work. The works going on. Within.

Which are battling against. And trying. But the fruit of the spirit. Is in control. The fruit of the spirit. Is that which is subduing. These things.

And so. That's what. What we have here. So we're being led. By. The spirit. Now the actual. There are different. Words. For. This word.

[31 : 59] Led. By the spirit. But here. It's got the. Kind of the idea. Of. Of. A force. Of a. Power within. Of where you are. Being taken over.

And that's what the Holy Spirit. Is doing. The Holy Spirit. Has come. Has come. Into your life. And he's leading you. Powerfully. In a particular way. And as we say.

That is where the conflict. Has come. But even although. The Holy Spirit. Has come in. To our heart. And is at work. We are still the ones. That have to walk.

You and I. Are the ones. We have to walk. We don't just sit back. And say. Oh well. That's the spirit. And now. I don't have to do anything. Yes we do. We have to battle. We have to fight.

We have to run. And we are the ones. Who are. Who are. Engaged in this. And making our. Making our way. And so. We have this.

[32 : 55] Great heavenly father. A heavenly father. Who provides for us. That's what fathers do. That's what parents do. Isn't it? What do parents do? Well. They make provision.

They will clothe their children. And so. That's what. Our heavenly father. Has done. He has clothed us. With a garment. Of salvation. With a robe. Of righteousness. Earthly.

Earthly. Parents. Will. Will. Feed their children. So does our heavenly father. He feeds us. That's what he's doing today. That's what he's doing. As we sing his word.

And read his word. And preach his word. He's feeding us. Nourishing us. Earthly parents. They instruct their children. That's what our heavenly father.

Does as well. He is teaching us. In the way to go. I will instruct thee. And teach thee. In the way that you shall go. I will guide you with mine eye. What a privilege.

[33 : 51] It is. To have. The living and true God. As our God. As our heavenly father. If there's anybody here today. Who does not.

As yet. Have Jesus. As your savior. You know. You're missing out. Big style. It's not. You know. Some people look on the gospel. As simply an insurance policy.

It's far. Far more than that. To have Christ. As your own savior. To have him. As your lord. Your master. To have. God.

The father. As your great provider. As your sustainer. As your feeder. As your instructor. Your protector. Your guide. Is to have everything. I urge that every one of us.

Will know. This lord. As our own. Let us pray. Oh lord. Our god. We give thanks for all the opportunities. And privileges. And blessings. That we have.

[34 : 50] In and through. Your word. And we pray lord. That you will encourage us. As we go on. Day by day. As we live out our days. In this world. We face.

Many challenges. Many obstacles. Along the way. But we give thanks. For your sustaining grace. And as the psalmist says. And by my god. And by my god.

Assisting me. I overleap a wall. And may we. Overleap all the walls. That come against us. And that we might know. Your help. And your strength. And your grace.

Be with us every day. Take us to our home safely. And forgive us our sin. In Jesus name. Amen.