

“LIFE IN THE SPIRIT”

Romans 8:14-17

Message 1872

I believe all of us want the best in life. We all are looking for that. In the Christian life we all should desire to live in the Spirit because that is where God’s greatest blessings are. We must remember that God has provided for us. We do not need to struggle for this, for God has provided for us. It is possible, my friend, to live in the Spirit.

You see, we are made to fellowship with God. Our whole nature is composed of three parts: the body, the soul and the spirit. The spirit is where we meet with God. God is a spirit and in our spirits we connect with God. It is wonderful that we mortals living in these bodies in time can have fellowship with God the Spirit who is eternal.

Let us be instructed about LIFE IN THE SPIRIT. But until we live in the Spirit we are not really complete and as long as we are in these bodies we are still not really complete. But I want to challenge you now to aspire to really desire life in the Spirit. Here are great words, words of God, by the Apostle Paul from Romans 8:14-17.

14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

17. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

In these four verses there are four great BLESSINGS I wish to share with you as I reflect upon life in the Spirit.

THE WALK WITH THE SPIRIT is the acting blessing of the sons of God. Consider verse 14: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” The walk in the Spirit is the walk of a follower. We are followers when we are led by the Spirit. We need guidance, everybody does. Those that are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God, sons of God. The Spirit will lead us. Our walk with the Spirit is a walk of following the Spirit.

The evidence of being a child of God is being led by the Spirit. Yes, make sure that you understand exactly what verse 14 tells us, “As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

What a blessing it is to know we can walk with the Spirit. We can follow the Spirit. We do not go alone. He is able and willing to guide us. That is a great blessing for those living in the Spirit.

THE WILL OF THE SPIRIT is the reviewing blessing of the sons of God. Now concentrate on verse 15: “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” The will of the Spirit is to release us from bondage, the bondage of sin and fear. The Spirit wants to release you from fear. He wants to release you from sin and restore you and me as children. He wants to bring us into the family of God.

So we have not received the spirit of bondage but we have received the Spirit of adoption. God has

chosen to bring us into his family and the Spirit is the one who does that. It is the will of the Spirit that we should be children in the family of God.

Then He provides us with fellowship. Think of what that means. I know what that means. Do you know what it means to be able to talk with God, our heavenly Father? We can cry Abba, Father. Let me explain this word, "Abba." It is the Hebrew or the Aramaic word for father. It is an endearing word. Abba is a word of intimacy, a word of strong and blessed fellowship. We cry Abba, Father, as adopted sons for the Spirit has provided for us.

It is the will of the Spirit to release us from bondage, to restore us as children and to provide us with fellowship. What a blessing it is to experience the will of the Spirit.

THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT is the confirming blessing of the sons of God. Verse 16 reads: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." The Spirit confirms our position as children of God by witnessing to our spirits. Now the Bible tells us that by the testimony of two or three witnesses every word will be established. So when the Spirit witnesses with our spirit then we have two witnesses. We must make sure that our witness corresponds with His witness because His witness will always be true. He will tell us whether or not we are really the children of God. He will bear that joint testimony with our spirits. We must make sure that we are the children of God so the Spirit will bear that testimony, you see.

What a blessing it is to know the witness of the Spirit and to be assured in our hearts that we are the children of God.

THE WEALTH OF THE SPIRIT is the sharing blessing of the sons of God. Look now at verse 17: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." I hope I can lead you into a deep understanding of this verse. As children we are then heirs by divine right. By the very fact that God has brought His believing ones into the family of God means we are heirs of God. We have that divine right to share in the inheritance of God.

Now notice further not only are we heirs of God but we are joint-heirs with Christ. That means that we stand along side of Jesus in His inheritance. We are going to share with Him. He will share with us because we are adopted into the family of God. As children of God we will share in the glory Jesus inherited for we are joint heirs with Christ. I do not believe anybody on this side of glory can understand fully what that means. Someday we will understand, but right now let us rejoice in the fact that we are joint-heirs with Christ and we will be glorified with Him.

If we suffer with Him, the Apostle tells us then we will also be glorified together. I remember Jesus said to the disciples one time, He was going away to prepare mansions for them. "If I go away, I will come again so that where I am," He said, "there ye may be also." That's wonderful! What a blessing it is to have the wealth of the Spirit. All that Jesus will inherit He will share with us.

These blessings are for everyone who truly lives in the Spirit: the daily walk with the Spirit is to be led by the Spirit; to enjoy the will of the Spirit, we can cry unto God as our Father; the witness of the Spirit assures our hearts that we are children of God; and then we will share the wealth of the Spirit as a joint-heir with Christ. What wonderful blessings are provided for the sons of God.