

# Romans 6... 7... 8

DEVOTIONAL STUDIES FROM THE  
MEN'S MORNING FELLOWSHIP

**Romans 8:9** 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 8:10** And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

**Romans 8:11** But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Think of the birth of a baby. For months he has been in the liquid environment of his mom's womb. Starting in the third trimester, he makes the motions of breathing, and in this way moves amniotic fluid in and out of his lungs. The flow of amniotic fluid into the lungs is believed to be important in lung development.

Before birth, these breathing movements have nothing to do with getting oxygen. The baby gets his oxygen from his mother, through the placenta and umbilical cord. True breathing begins just after birth

When delivered he is thrust into a whole new environment. He is fully equipped for his new environment and his lungs take over so he can live in the atmosphere of the earth.

Probably the most common description of getting saved is that we are born-again. When a person is born-again he is (like a baby) delivered to a new way of living. We are given the Spirit of God and our own previously dead spirit is made alive. It's like taking our first real breath and entering a whole new world.

A human baby cannot later decide to go back into the womb. The cord was cut and there is no turning back. In our spiritual birth we *can* still fall back into the flesh and try to live without the help, aid, and guidance of the Holy Spirit. When we do we are out of our element struggling and failing.

**Romans 8:9** But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you...

“Like a fish out of water” would be a good title for these three verses. They describe a Christian who walks in the flesh as a person who is out of their element and therefore struggling. Think of a fish flailing about the bottom of your boat. He’s as good as dead though he holds out for a long time.

We commonly use the expression **in the flesh** to describe a believer who is sinning or otherwise not responding in a proper spiritual manner. That is not its meaning here. It means you are no longer living in the realm of the control of the flesh.

Instead you are walking in the realm of the control of the **Spirit of God**. You get into that realm when you are saved. The Holy Spirit takes up residence within you; He **dwells in you** from that moment forward.

**Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.** The reason for mentioning this here is to emphasize that a Christian need not give in to the flesh and walk in its lusts. We still do; but we are no longer in that realm and it is better to remain in the new realm of the Spirit.

**Romans 8:10** And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

Jesus **Christ is in you** by the agency of His Spirit. The Spirit exerts Jesus’ influence upon you.

**The body is dead because of sin.** Apart from the indwelling Spirit of God you are considered spiritually dead. It’s the Adam and Eve explanation I frequently give. God told them in the day they ate of the fruit they would most certainly die. And they did die:

1. They died spiritually. Their eyes were opened to their sin and they hid from God knowing that their fellowship with Him was broken.
2. They began to die physically.
3. They would have gone on to die eternally, meaning they would die and be forever separated from God.

When you yield to the flesh to walk in its lusts you are giving in to a dead entity. Remember, too, we saw last time that the flesh encompasses more than just sin. It involves adopting worldly ideas and ideals. It involves using the means and methods of the world and of having worldly, material priorities.

But the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. Spirit here refers to your spirit that was dead and not the Holy Spirit. Your spirit that was born dead comes alive when you are declared righteous by God at the moment of salvation.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...

This is one of those times *if* means *since*. It is stating a fact. Not only is your spirit made alive but the Holy Spirit indwells you.

The same Holy Spirit who had the power to raise Jesus from the dead dwells in you. This is a moment of realization that changes you forever. It's like a story in which a peasant realizes he is the rightful king. He might still have to fight those who would usurp his throne but he knows who he is and what he must do.

He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. You will be raised in a glorified physical body (unless we are raptured before dying). The indwelling Holy Spirit is a guarantee that the Lord will finish in you what He has begun.

But this is not about your future resurrection. It is about the indwelling Holy Spirit being available within you **right now** to live Jesus Christ's life through your mortal body. It is about realizing you have the empowering to obey God and to just say "No!" to the impulses and urges of the flesh.

William Newell puts these three verses in perspective:

Many sincere people are yet spiritually under John the Baptist's ministry of repentance. Their state is practically that of the struggle of Romans Seven, where neither Christ nor the Holy Spirit is mentioned, but only a quickened but

undelivered soul in struggle under a sense of 'duty,' not a sense of full acceptance in Christ and sealing by the Holy Spirit.

There are a lot of blonde jokes. Many of them involve blondes trying to use something, let's say a lawnmower, with no result. Then someone comes along and pulls the cord, starting the motor, and the blonde says, "What's that noise?"

Paul is pulling the cord, starting the motor. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead indwells us. What's that noise? It's the mighty rushing wind of the Spirit of God.

