

ROMANS

THE PROMISE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS



SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

THE SPIRIT'S ROLE IN SPIRITUAL LIFE

ROMANS 8:5-11

JAN. 11, 2015

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some next steps to walk in this truth this week. Don't feel constrained to these but feel free to use them.

- Memorize Rom. 8:11 this week.
- Grow your understanding of the Holy Spirit by studying some of the passages on the back in the For Further Study section or by picking up a book from the Resources area at College Park.
- Encourage another believer this week with the reminder of the Spirit's nearness, help, and power in our lives.

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Confess to God any ways you've been walking in the flesh.
- Praise God for the new life he's given you in Christ and the power of the Spirit to live in you.
- Thank God for the blessings of the Spirit: including God dwelling with you, you belonging to him, new life, and a new mind.
- Ask God's Spirit to fill you and help you walk not in the flesh but in the Spirit.
- Ask God to change your thoughts and the desires of your heart away from the things of the flesh and to the things of the Spirit.

APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

Review: How did the beauty of "no condemnation" encourage you in your walk this past week?

1. What are some differences in your *thinking* and *desires* when you're living in the Spirit not your flesh?
2. **How does thinking about the Spirit's life-giving power—with the example of raising Jesus (8:11)—excite you to allow the Spirit to live through you? What are a couple of small ways this week you can live by the Spirit?**
3. Romans 8 informs our identity in Christ. We aren't condemned but are justified, freed, and liberated. We aren't in bondage to sin but are filled by the Spirit. We aren't unpleasing and hostile to God but belong to him. How does this passage help you understand who you are in Christ and how God views you?
4. Why is daily—or hourly—walking in the Spirit so central to the Christian life? How can your spiritual life include less of you (flesh) and more of God (the Spirit)?
5. **What are the things that tempt you to set your mind on the flesh? Discuss how this week you can set your heart and mind on the things of the Spirit.**
6. **What is something you heard in the message this week that you really want to lean into, whether it be something to believe or something to practice? How can others encourage you as you take steps in the right direction?**
7. How are you encouraged to seek after and obey God when you think about the fact that you belong to God as his beloved child?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- **The Holy Spirit as God:** Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2.
- **The Holy Spirit as personal:** John 14:16, 26; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 4:30.
- **The indwelling Spirit:** John 14:16-18; 1 Cor. 6:17-20; Eph. 5:18.
- **Belonging to God:** Rom. 1:6; 7:4; 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:17-20; 15:23; Gal. 4:1-7; 5:24; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:9.
- **Sanctification by the Spirit:** Rom. 15:15-16; Gal. 5:13-25; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; 1 Pet. 1:2.
- **Setting our mind on the Spirit:** Matt. 16:23; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:16-26; 6:18; Col. 2:23-3:1-5.
- **The Spirit gives life:** John 6:63; 1 Cor. 15:42-49; 2 Cor. 3:6.
- To help you grow in understanding "walking in the Spirit," purchase one of the books on the Holy Spirit now available in the Resource Area (next to Guest Reception and the coffee).