

LIVING FOR THE SPIRIT | ROMANS 8:13-15

Note: notes from verses 13-15 were partially contained in session 22.

- Verse 13 –
 - Do not use this verse to build a doctrine of falling from Grace. Paul has already stated that his audience is **not in the flesh, but in the Spirit** (v. 9). Verse 13 is the scenario for a person who is not included in verse 9.
- Verse 14 –
 - The next verse again defines the Christian audience as having received the Spirit. Do not make a scenario which this verse does not teach, that of falling from Grace.
 - The emphasis is the *leadership* of the Spirit not the *followership* of the son.
 - Note that being **led by the Spirit of God** is dispensationally a new thing. Under the Law, the believer did not seek the leadership of the Spirit, but rather sought the will of the Law. The progression is as follows:
 - Under the Law - the Spirit was not active in the lives of individuals. See Gal. 5:18
 - Under Grace - the Spirit provides leadership.
 - Under the Theocratic Reign (in the millennium) - the Spirit will control the behavior of the Jewish citizen of the Kingdom (Ezek. 36:27).
 - Being **led by the Spirit** means constant warfare within our flesh. Compare Rom. 7:23, 8:25 and Gal. 5:17.
- Verse 15 –
 - This is the condition of the believer, and the reason that the believer ultimately desires to please God (even when he or she fails to always do so.)
 - The word **adoption** should not be understood in its English sense, but in its Hebrew sense. For an understanding of the term, compare Galatians 4:5-7, which makes it clear that the term refers to *gaining the rights of a full-grown son*.

JOINT HEIRS | ROMANS 8:16-19

- Verse 16
 - Having said we have come to the age of full-rights, Paul now also says that we are **the children of God**, that is, *born (again) into the family of God*. We are both *born* and *adopted*.
 - How does the Spirit bear **witness with our spirit** of our status? It would be dangerous to say because the Scripture doesn't answer the question. If we speculate, we are likely to put others under a spirit of bondage or doubt. For example, if we say...
 - When the Spirit bears witness, He removes all doubt
 - When the Spirit bears witness, He removes all temptation
 - When the Spirit bears witness, He energizes us toward Christian service
 - When the Spirit bears witness, He creates a spirit of generosity
 - We are saying things the Bible doesn't say, and creating doubt, bondage, or confusion.As the verse says, **ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear**.
 - We do know one thing: the *sword of the Spirit* is the Word of God (Eph. 3:16). We should safely presume that the Spirit would bear witnesses using the Word.

- Verse 17
 - **If children, then heirs**
 - This unbelievable spiritual reality is rarely fully comprehended (if it even can be). It says, without doubt, that *all that belongs to Christ belongs to us*. As farfetched as that sounds, Scripture backs it up: see 1 Corinthians 3:21-23.
 - How long does one have to be a believer to be a **joint-heir**? Ephesians 2:4-7 teaches that the result is immediate.
 - This is strong evidence (incidentally), that the church is not the *bride of Christ* but the *body of Christ*. We are not *sitting next to Christ* but *sitting within Christ*.
 - **if so be that we suffer**
 - The Greek construction of *if* (a conjunction with an indicative) would be, in English, *since*. For example, see the same word in the same form in Romans 3:30, translated **Seeing it is one God...**
 - It should not be claimed that we do not **suffer with him** if we live a prosperous and easy life. We suffer with Him because we are in Him. Even so, many of those in Christ do experience suffering of some type in their lives, especially in societies that reject a Judeo-Christian worldview.
- Verse 18 - For those who do suffer for Christ, it is doubtful that any could say their suffering surpassed what the Apostle Paul had already experienced by the time he wrote the book of Romans. See 2 Corinthians 11:23-28.
- Verse 19 - This beautiful statement tells us what to seek for: **the manifestation of the sons of God**. In this world we have either blessing or curses, but it all pales in comparison to **the manifestation of the sons of God**.

THE GROANING CREATION | ROMANS 8:20-22

- Verse 20
 - **Vanity** is *futility, emptiness, or fruitlessness*. This is what the **creature** (mankind) is **subject to**.
 - Because there is a **vanity** of existence, our goal should not be achievement of certain purposes but rather to fulfill the instruction of Colossians 3:17. Everything else will be meaningless.
- Verse 22 - The **creation groaneth** because it is under the curse. It is under the curse **for thy sake** (Gen. 3:17). How was it a benefit to Adam (and his descendents) to have the creation cursed? Perhaps so that he did not grow too comfortable with the blessings of creation, so that he would always long for more.