



Study Guide: The Holy Spirit in the Believer's Life (Romans 8)

This study guide provides a review of the core concepts presented in the lesson on the Holy Spirit, focusing on the scriptural foundation of Romans 8 and its theological interpretation. It is designed to test and deepen understanding of the believer's relationship with God through the Spirit, covering themes of sanctification, adoption, and divine assurance.

Short Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in two to three sentences, drawing exclusively from the provided lesson materials and scripture.

1. According to the lesson context, what is the significance of the Apostle Paul's writings in relation to the doctrine of the Holy Spirit?
2. Explain the dual meaning—both forensic and practical—of the phrase "no condemnation" for those in Christ Jesus, as described in the commentary.
3. Why was the Mosaic law "weak," and what was God's solution to this inability?
4. Contrast the mindset of those who live "after the flesh" with those who live "after the Spirit." What is the ultimate outcome of each mindset?
5. What does it mean for the Spirit of God to "dwell in you," and what is the consequence for someone who does not have the Spirit?
6. What obligation do believers have regarding the "flesh," and by what power is this obligation fulfilled?
7. How does the "Spirit of adoption" change a believer's relationship with God and free them from fear?
8. Describe the two witnesses that confirm a believer's status as a child of God.
9. What are the full implications of being "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ," according to Romans 8:17?
10. How does the Spirit help believers in their weakness, particularly in prayer?

Answer Key

1. The Apostle Paul wrote about 25 percent of the New Testament, yet his letters contain nearly half of the New Testament's references to the Holy Spirit. This demonstrates that the person and work of the Holy Spirit was a vital doctrine for him and is therefore crucial for believers to understand.
2. "No condemnation" has a forensic (legal) force, meaning believers are justified and have a secure legal standing with God. It also has a practical force, indicating that the

dominion of sin is broken, enabling a life of godliness and freedom from the rule of sin and death.

3. The law was "weak through the flesh," meaning it could make demands but could not overcome the sinful human nature. God's solution was to send His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, condemning sin in the flesh.
4. Those living after the flesh have their minds set on fleshly things, a mindset that is hostile to God, cannot submit to His law, and results in death. Those living after the Spirit are concerned with the things of the Spirit, which results in life and peace.
5. For the Spirit to "dwell in you" means the Spirit of God lives in believers, applying the fruits of Christ's redemptive mission. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in them does not belong to Christ.
6. Believers are debtors, not to the flesh, but to God; their obligation is to "mortify the deeds of the body." This is not accomplished by determination alone but "through the Spirit," who provides the necessary power.
7. The "Spirit of adoption" replaces the "spirit of bondage" and fear, establishing a new family relationship with God. It enables believers to cry out "Abba, Father," signifying an intimate and secure status as God's real children, not slaves.
8. The first witness is the believer's own redeemed spirit. The second witness is the Holy Spirit, who "beareth witness with our spirit" and confirms the reality that we are indeed the children of God.
9. Being joint-heirs with Christ means believers will inherit God's possessions and share in Christ's future glory. The verse specifies that this inheritance is linked with the willingness to "suffer with him" as a prelude to being glorified together.
10. The Spirit helps believers in their weakness when they do not know what to pray for. According to Romans 8:26-27, the Spirit intercedes for them with groanings that cannot be uttered, in accordance with God's will.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Formulate detailed responses to the following questions, synthesizing information from all provided source materials.

1. Drawing from the commentary on Romans 8, analyze the distinct roles and titles of the Holy Spirit (e.g., "Spirit of life," "Spirit of God," "Spirit of Christ," "Spirit of adoption"). How does each title illuminate a different aspect of His ministry in a believer's life?
2. Explain the ongoing conflict between the "flesh" and the "Spirit" in the life of a believer. How does the doctrine of mortification, as described in Romans 8:13, provide the practical path to sanctification?
3. Discuss the concept of adoption as a central theme in the lesson. Integrate the introductory story of Chris and Mark, the theological explanation of adoption from the commentary, and the concluding section on "God's Real Children" to build a comprehensive view of what it means to be fully integrated into God's family.
4. The commentary states that justification is the "basis and starting point for sanctification." Elaborate on this statement by explaining how the assurance of "no

condemnation" (justification) empowers a believer to live a life "after the Spirit" (sanctification).

5. Explore the relationship between suffering and glory as presented in Romans 8:17. How does being "joint-heirs with Christ" redefine the purpose and perspective of a believer's suffering?

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Abba, Father	An Aramaic term for "Father" used by Jesus in prayer, combined with its Greek equivalent. As used by believers through the Spirit, it signifies an intimate, secure family relationship with God.
Adoption	A declarative and forensic act of God that gives believers a permanent legal standing as His children. It establishes an objective status, bestowing both His name and Spirit, and makes them heirs.
Carnal Mind	The mindset of the unregenerate person, characterized by hostility toward God and an inability to submit to His law. This mindset ultimately leads to spiritual death.
Condemnation	A state of guilt and judgment. The declaration "no condemnation" in Romans 8:1 has both a forensic meaning (legal freedom from guilt through justification) and a practical meaning (freedom from the dominion of sin).
Flesh (Sinful Nature)	A term used by Paul to denote the unregenerate state and the sinful human nature, which is inherently weak, hostile to God, and the source of sinful deeds. Believers are no longer "in the flesh" but must still contend with its influence.
Heirs / Joint-Heirs	A status granted to believers as adopted children of God. It signifies that they will receive an inheritance from God and will share in Christ's future glory, which is linked to sharing in His sufferings.
Incarnation	The act of God sending His own Son "in the likeness of sinful flesh." This phrase carefully affirms both the true humanity of Christ and His sinlessness.
Intercession	The act of intervening on behalf of another. The Holy Spirit intercedes for believers in prayer when they are weak and do not know how to pray, communicating with God on their behalf.
Justification	A foundational Pauline doctrine referring to the act by which God declares a sinner righteous through faith in Christ. It is the basis for "no condemnation" and the starting point for sanctification.
Law of the Spirit of life	A figurative term for the principle of the Holy Spirit's operation, which is characterized by certainty and regularity. It brings supernatural life and frees believers from the "law of sin and death."
Law of sin and death	A figurative term for the enslaving principle of sin's operation in a person's life. It functions with certainty and regularity, leading inevitably to spiritual death.

Mortify	To put to death. In Romans 8:13, it refers to the believer's constant obligation to put to death the "deeds of the body" (the works of the sinful nature) through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Pneuma (Spirit)	A Greek word for "spirit." In the context of Romans 8, the commentary argues strongly that <i>pneuma</i> , when contrasted with "flesh," refers to the Holy Spirit rather than the redeemed human spirit.
Sanctification	The process of a believer growing in grace and conformity to Christ. It is a necessary part of the Christian life, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and follows justification.
Spirit of adoption	A title for the Holy Spirit emphasizing His role in bringing believers into God's family. This Spirit removes the bondage of fear and enables the intimate cry of "Abba, Father."