

Intro to Theology

Assemblies of God; Indiana School of Ministry

Level 1 Class

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5 Pneumatology

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πνεῦμα

- Creation (Gen 1:1-2)
- Inspiration (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- Regeneration (John 3:5-6)
- Illumination (John 14:16-17, 26)
- Conviction (John 16:8)
- Empowerment (Eph 3:16)

This is the rule of our faith, the foundation of the building, and what gives support to our behavior ...God the Father uncreated...The Word of God, the Son of God...The Holy Spirit, through whom the prophets prophesied, and our forebears learned of God and the righteous were led in the paths of justice, and who, in the fullness of time, was poured out in a new way on our human nature in order to renew humanity throughout the entire world... Irenaeus (AD130-200)

Life in the Spirit

Romans 8:1–11 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. **3** For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the righteous requirement of

the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

What does Paul mean by flesh, law, and the Spirit?

Flesh:

Law:

The Spirit:

What does Paul mean by saying "The law, weakened by the flesh..."?

To be human is to love, and it is what we love that defines who we are. Our (ultimate) love is constitutive of our identity.

James KA Smith

The Spirit is given to us so that God's work may be done through us. God intends that the Spirit will declare that the world is in the wrong – but it is we who, tremblingly but in the power of the Spirit, will make that declaration.

NT Wright

Not only do Christians have the verdict of “no condemnation” when they convert, they are also empowered by the vivifying presence of the Spirit to walk in newness of life. The Spirit does not merely convey the Good News. The Spirit enacts that news in the believer.

– Ben Witherington w/ Darlene Hyatt, *Paul's Letter to the Romans*, p219

... deliverance from the tyranny of sin, effected through the atoning work of Christ, as an experienced ongoing reality, is the work of the indwelling, life-giving Spirit.

– Gordon Fee, *God's Empowering Presence*, p528

What does life in the Spirit look like?

How do we live by the Spirit?

Christian formation is a conversion of the imagination effected by the Spirit, who recruits our most fundamental desires by a kind of narrative enchantment—by inviting us narrative animals into a story that seeps into our bones and becomes the orienting background of our being-in-the-world. Our incarnating God continues to meet us where we are: as imaginative creatures of habit.

James KA Smith: *Imagining The Kingdom*

*...It's not so much that we're intellectually convinced and then muster the willpower to pursue what we ought; rather, at a precognitive level, we are attracted to a vision of the good life that has been painted for us in stories and myths, images and icons. It's not primarily our minds that are captivated but rather our imaginations that are captured, and when our imagination is hooked, **we're** hooked... Thus we become certain kinds of people; we begin to emulate, mimic, and mirror the particular vision that we desire. Attracted by it and moved toward it, we begin to live into this vision of the good life and start to look like citizens who inhabit the world that we picture as the good life.*

James KA Smith: Desiring The Kingdom

Spiritual disciplines

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Baptism in the Spirit

Abiding in Christ.

Other aspects of the Spirit's ongoing work in the New Covenant: