

:: Summary

The Holy Spirit descends upon and fills every person who calls upon the name of Jesus for forgiveness and new life. By faith the very Spirit of God takes up residence in our lives, but not in a passive way. The Spirit instructs, reminds, illuminates and guides every person. So, Scripture calls us to live in “accordance with the Spirit.” To live this way, believers are called to “have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.”

:: Share

As children, our parents and other significant people in our lives shape our way of living in the world. Share a time where you were encouraged in your early years to “make up your mind” to do or achieve something. Who encouraged you? How? What was the result?

:: Explore and Discuss | Romans 7:14-21, 8:1-13

Note: Paul's teaching is very dense in these chapters. For this study, the goal is to engage and apply the overall flow of thought contained in these passages.

Read Romans 7:14-24, Galatians 5:17. Put into your own words the conflict that Paul is describing.

Why does Paul describe his state (and by implication, ours) as wretched?

Read Romans 8:1-4. This Good News describes the antidote to the wretchedness just identified. Name all of the joy-inducing declarations contained in this text.

Read Romans 8:5-11. Setting your mind involves your thoughts, interests, affections, and purpose. What therefore does it mean to have your mind “set on what the Spirit desires”?

:: Apply it to Your Life

What is being declared in verse 9a and how does that shape your understanding of the all-inclusive role of the Holy Spirit in daily life?

Read Romans 8:12-13, Colossians 3:5-8. How are you specifically called to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in your sanctification?

:: Pray

Praise God for delivering you out of your wretched state apart from Christ.

Ask God for greater enablement to set your mind on what the Spirit desires.

