

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:1-17 TITLE: "Spirit of the Gospel"

Intro: Steve Brown. Monday, updating phone, which I NEVER do. Call from a Florida number. Go to answer.
Restart! Later checked voice mail. "*I ghosted Steve Brown!*" Ah! He texted me. I sent screen shot to my wife and said, *I don't care what's going on at the time, I'm answering this call!* Well, thankfully he did. I didn't miss it, and it was an awesome 10 min. Convo. Opportunity meet w/ Jesus. Meet w/ Holy Spirit. And Meet with our Perfect Heavenly Father. I'm so glad you're here to meet with Him.

Thesis: "As a Believer in Jesus, You've got Resurrection in the Spirit, and are deeply loved by your Father in Heaven"

I. Believers are Spirit Led (1-8)

A. **Living in and with the Help & guidance of the Spirit:** better than living in flesh! Anxiety/Shame.

ILLUSTRATION: Flesh > Anxiety & Shame. Anxiety: not in control/future. **Shame:** Feel alone/unique

B. **No Condemnation.** We live in condemnation. Defensive. Reactive. Easily Offended. Guarded.

C. **Because Jesus paid it all.** Came in Flesh. REAL Human. (**Farted?**). Was condemned. Cross.

D. **He rose from the dead.** He conquered death, hell, Satan, sin, punishment, shame, etc.

E. **Just be in Him.** That's it! Don't have to do anything for Him. Believe & the Spirit leads you to him!

F. **It's actually because we struggle with sin,** and fight, that we are not condemned. Faith in Him.

ILLUSTRATION: I'm a foodie. Last Sunday: BEST DAY EVER! **Burgers. Cucumber salad.** "You just gotta trust me man." I know what I'm talking. Tried. GOOD! **Take it from someone first hand, sure. Walking in the Spirit is way better than walking in the flesh. Don't just take from me. Take it from anyone who's had a grace awakening. Mostly take it from God's Word.**

APPLICATION:

1. **What flesh are you still living in and stuck in and trying to leave alone.** What fleshly desires are your bound by? Fantasy. Pleasure. Notoriety. Comfort. Respect. Car. Scores. Teams. Clothes. Approval. Attention. Raises. Promotions. House. Upgrades. Phone. Friends. Sex. Money. Power. "Judge this person for their addiction?" Why? "We're no different." *You're not alone. Last week. Addiction & Grace:* Hangover Church. GUEST PARKING: Hot Box. Munchies? Buffet.
2. **We've prayed so much for people to experience** the power of living in the grace of the Holy Spirit. To be filled with Love. Peace. Grace. Forgiveness. Freedom. Joy. YOU there? **Praying PEWS/Pulpit.**

II. Believers are Spirit Filled (9-11)

A. **Great News.** Great Joy. Encouragement..

B. **9a: "If in fact..." 9b: "ANYONE who does not..." 10:"BUT...if Christ is in you..."**

ILLUSTRATION: "That's a pretty big butt." Well, this is a pretty big but. Paul likes big butts. Uses a lot.

C. **We have life!** Even if we think we're gonna die, feel like we wanna die, or we actually die.

D. **And we have Power!** Way more than you realize. You've got the Holy Spirit.

ILLUSTRATION: Elsa. Jack Jack. Thor. Wanda Maximoff. Cptn. Marvel. Gene X-men. They all either didn't realize they had power, or had way more power than they realized. It was until they realized they really needed it, they accessed it, used it; that they grew in it. And they got more powerful. Exact same thing is true for believers in Jesus. We have WAY more power than we realize! Not b/c we are powerful, but b/c the Holy Spirit is powerful in us. Parents, Child fear, spouse, employee, employer, Pastor.

APPLICATION:

1. **We've got Resurrection Power living in us.** It's the SAME Spirit! Same Power that made a dead Jewish man in the Middle East, 2,000 years ago come back to life. You have that same Spirit!
2. **Family members, friends, co-workers. church. "NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!"** Same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is in you and in this Church. How dare we say He's not capable.
3. **This can actually start to get people excited. Especially believers.**
4. **Ever feel purposeless?** Useless? Pointless? Powerless? Created for more? Meant for more?

III. Believers are Spirit Born (12-17)

A. **"I'm not spiritual."** Talking church and religion makes ppl uncomfortable. Good!

B. **"I'm not very religious."** GOOD! Jesus wasn't religious either.

C. **We have a loving Father.** We can CRY OUT! And run to him for rescue. We belong to Him.

ILLUSTRATION: Story of a man who toured Israel. Wailing Wall. "Abba! Abba! Abba!" FOUND!

D. **A lot of people who have been hurt by "religious Christianity" picture God like this.**

E. **Jesus came as a gift.** He was the gift of God's grace. He came willing, but He was given.

F. **Where does this Spirit come into play?** After Jesus came and died. And after resurrection.

APPLICATION:

1. **Flesh causes us to turn good things into sinful indulgences/idols.** Fantasy (**Hope**). Numb (**Peace**). Pleasure (**True Joy**). Lust (**Love**). Escape (**Heaven**). Cheap substitutes for eternal, spiritual promises of Gospel. Things we desire/need. But can only truly get through faith in Christ by the Spirit.
2. **All qualified. It's exclusive.** But totally inclusive. For ANYONE. **Do you believe? GOSPEL. JESUS!**

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:1-17 TITLE: "Spirit of the Gospel"

Intro: Last week I used an illustration of a guy named **Steve Brown**. In some circles. Pretty popular dude. Well known speaker, author, preacher, pastor. Really deep voice on Radio - YOU THINK ABOUT THAT. Well, I knew him in Florida. Lunch a few times. Called his ministry last Friday, not expecting anything. Monday, updating phone, which I NEVER do. Call from a Florida number. Go to answer. **Restart!** Phone back on. No number. Later checked voice mail. "**I ghosted Steve Brown!**" Ah man! I totally missed my opportunity! Never get another chance! He said he'd try again Wednesday. He texted me. I sent screen shot to my wife and said, I don't care what's going on at the time, I'm answering this call! Well, thankfully he did. I didn't miss it, and it was an awesome 10 min. Convo. Well, today, we've got an opportunity to meet with Jesus. To meet with the Holy Spirit. And to meet with our Perfect Heavenly Father. And I'm so glad you're here to meet with Him with us. What an opportunity. **We've been praying for you all month!**

Thesis: "As a Believer in Jesus, You've got Resurrection in the Spirit, and are deeply loved by your Father in Heaven"

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- A. **Living in and with the Help & guidance of the Spirit:** better than living in flesh! Anxiety/Shame.

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- B. **No Condemnation.** We live in condemnation. Defensive. Reactive. Easily Offended. Guarded.
C. **Because Jesus paid it all.** Came in Flesh. REAL Human. (**Farted?**). Was condemned. Cross.
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F. **It's actually because we struggle with sin,** and fight, that we are not condemned. Faith in Him.

ILLUSTRATION: I'm a foodie. Last Sunday: BEST DAY EVER! Spirit-Empowered service, people were weeping, we were on holy ground. Then Potluck after church and weather was amazing! Then Sunday nap. Then Men's group. More food! Fire, Pipes/Cigars, Potluck, Prayer. Best day ever! That night, told one of the guys how to "fix" his burger. Funny look. Really? You just gotta trust me man. I know what I'm talking. Try it. GOOD! **Take it from someone first hand, sure. Walking in the Spirit is way better than walking in the flesh. I know. But don't just take it from me. Take it from anyone who's had a grace awakening. But mostly take it from God's Word. He says it right here. So it's true. DEATH!**

APPLICATION:

1. **What flesh are you still living in and stuck in and trying to leave alone.** What fleshly desires are your bound by? Fantasy. Pleasure. Notoriety. Comfort. Respect. Car. Scores. Teams. Clothes. Approval. Attention. Raises. Promotions. House. Upgrades. Phone. Friends. Sex. Money. Power. "Judge this person for their addiction?" Why? "We're no different." *You're not alone. Last week. Addiction & Grace:* Hangover Church. GUEST PARKING: Hot Box. Munchies? Buffet.
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APPLICATION:

1. **We've got Resurrection Power living in us.** It's the SAME Spirit! Same Power that made a dead Jewish man in the Middle East, 2,000 years ago come back to life. You have that same Spirit!
2. **I have people tell me about their family members, friends, co-workers. Invite them to church.** Maybe the Spirit will meet with them. Maybe Jesus will become real for them. "No. Not the same with this one. I've tried that before. You don't understand." **"NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!"** The Same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is in you and in this Church. How dare you say He's not capable of bringing a sinner who's sin looks different than yours to saving faith and repentance unto life! I'm learning more and more, the people who think like that, are the ones who haven't experienced it for themselves. They haven't needed, tapped in, accessed, applied, experienced, and grown in Spirit's power. So pray. And tell Him, I'm going to say something. I'm going to invite. Help me not care. Help me not be ashamed or embarrassed. And then, help them say yes. And then help them believe. The problem is you and I try to this in our own strength instead of Spirit's power far too often.
3. **This can actually start to get people excited. Especially believers.** If you're sitting there thinking there's goes another hype preacher, talking about this strange spiritual power. Then just give it, He might get a hold of you at some point too. And we'll keep praying for you to really believe. B/C, I've been there. Believers get excited about this kind of stuff. Even non-charismatics/pentecostals. (And if we're not careful, some of our guests might think we are. But that's ok! :-)) But this kind of stuff get us excited. But it can get unbelievers, agnostics and skeptics excited too. Start to make you curious. You know why? B/c I know that you know there's something more than all this. All this flesh stuff. All this stuff the world tries to sell us and tell us will fulfill and make life better. Followers, Likes, Raises, Promotions, Recognition, Success, Accomplishment, Affirmation, Being Attractive. There's got to be more than the the ladder climb, daily grind, the 9-5 and the bottom line. Gotta be more than scrolling endless, numbingly and mindlessly, binge watching.
4. **Ever feel purposeless?** Useless? Pointless? Powerless? Created for more? Meant for more? That's because you were! You were meant for a relationship with Jesus. You were meant to be indwell by the Power of the Holy Spirit! You were meant to great things, but not in your own power for your own glory, with the Spirit's power for the good of yourself and others and for God's glory. And that's what He's doing in the life of believers! Giving us His Resurrection Power.

III. Believers are Spirit Born (12-17)

- A. **"I'm not spiritual."** Talking church and religion makes ppl uncomfortable. Good! That's a good sign. Maybe the Spirit is working on you. You feel guilty? Weird? Out of place? Humbled? Out of control? Weak? Insecure? Incompetent? Great! Because as believers in Jesus, we've all been there. And sometimes we still end up there. When faced with the depth of our own sin. But when God's grace shows up through the loving power and grace of the Holy Spirit. It's more powerful.
- B. **"I'm not very religious."** GOOD! Jesus wasn't religious either. In fact, He had a really hard time with the religious people of His day. Christianity isn't about being religious, it's about being loved. "I didn't ask where you went to church." Or how often. Just how's your relationship with Jesus. :-)
- C. **We have a loving Father.** We can CRY OUT! And run to him for rescue. We belong to Him. And the Spirit's job is to keep reassuring us of the Father's Love.

ILLUSTRATION: Story of a man who toured Israel. Wailing Wall. "Abba! Abba! Abba!" FOUND! Loved. Tears of fear and tears of joy! That's our God! That's our Father.

- D. **A lot of people who have been hurt by "religious Christianity" picture God like this.** The Father is the angry one, edgy, grumpy, unhinged, ready to explode with His Hellish wrath on all the awful sinners in the world. I can't believe I even created these people and I can't wait to punish them! Or He's cold, distant, distracted by all those other people's problems, and I can take care of myself, and I'm gonna try to live my life in a way that doesn't cause Him heartburn, or inconvenience. Some of our own experiences with our Fathers has caused us to picture God like this. The way we think when Jesus came, it's because He felt sorry for us. Was scared of what the Father might do. So He came and died to make the Father happy. Ok. Fine. But that's not it at all!
- E. **Jesus came as a gift.** He was the gift of God's grace. He came willing, but He was given. And He was given as a gift of the Father's love. The Father doesn't love us because Jesus died for us, Jesus died for us, because The Father loves us.
- F. **Where does this Spirit come into play?** After Jesus came and died. And after resurrection. He made a promise to never leave us. To always be with us. To teach us. Love. Empower us. So JESUS AND THE FATHER, sent the Holy Spirit - as the Spirit of Adoption - to us - to show us, and grow us and teach us more and more about the Father's love through Jesus Christ His Son. The Spirit Assures us of HIS love! He's the gift of the Father's love to us! A gift from Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the engagement ring! Because He loves us, He's sealed us with the SPIRIT.

APPLICATION:

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2. **This is all qualified. It's exclusive.** But it's also totally inclusive. It's for ANYONE who believes. Must be in Christ, and Christ must be in you. In Spirit, Spirit in you. **Do you believe? GOSPEL. JESUS!**