

Message Three

Our Cooperation and God's Operation in Romans 8

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8

I. The Triune God passed through the processes of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection to be installed into our spirit as a “scientific” law, the law of the Spirit of life—Rom. 8:2-3, 10-11, 34:

- A. The Triune God operates within us as a law, an automatic principle; this is one of the biggest discoveries, even recoveries, in God's economy.
- B. The law of the Spirit of life, the compound Spirit, frees us from the law of sin and of death, solving for us the problem of sin and death—v. 2; Phil. 1:19.
- C. The processed Triune God as the life-giving Spirit installed into our spirit may be likened to electricity; God's operation as the law of the divine electricity within us requires our cooperation—2:12-13.

II. We need to cooperate with the inner operating Triune God as the law of the Spirit of life by “switching on” this law in the following ways:

- A. We need to walk according to the spirit, live in the spirit—Rom. 8:4, 16; cf. 1 Cor. 2:14:
 - 1. The secret of experiencing Christ is to be in Him, the One who empowers us to do all things, and the secret of being in Him is to be in our spirit—Phil. 4:12-13, 23.
 - 2. The practicality of living in Christ is for us to live in our spirit; in the book of Romans, the apostle Paul stressed that whatever we are (2:29; 8:5-6, 9), whatever we have (8:10, 16), and whatever we do toward God (1:9; 7:6; 8:4, 13; 12:11) must be in our spirit:
 - a. In order to live in our spirit, we need to take time to behold the Lord, praying to fellowship with Jesus to bathe in His countenance, to be saturated with His beauty, and to radiate His excellence—2 Cor. 3:16, 18; cf. Mark 1:35; Matt. 14:23.
 - b. In order to live in our spirit, we need to pray without ceasing—1 Thes. 5:17; cf. John 20:22; Lam. 3:55-56; Rom. 10:12-13.
 - c. In order to live in our spirit, we need to remain in the fellowship of the divine life to walk in the divine light—1 John 1:2-3, 6-7.
- B. We need to mind the things of the Spirit, setting our mind on the spirit—Rom. 8:5-6:
 - 1. We need to take heed to our spirit, paying attention to the sense of our spirit, in order to not grieve the Spirit and not quench the Spirit—Mal. 2:15-16; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thes. 5:19.
 - 2. We can set our mind on the spirit by setting our mind on God's words, which are spirit and life—John 6:63; Isa. 55:8-11.
 - 3. To set our mind on the spirit, to mind the things of the Spirit, is also to be one with the Lord to care for the church with all the saints in the inward parts of Christ Jesus—Phil. 2:21; 1:8.

- C. We need to put to death by the Spirit the practices of our body—Rom. 8:13; Zech. 4:6; Gal. 5:16:
 - 1. We must allow the Spirit to inhabit and reside in our inward being—Rom. 8:9, 11.
 - 2. We need to remain in the church life where the God of peace crushes Satan under our feet—16:20; 12:1-2, 11.
- D. We need to be led by the Spirit as the sons of God—8:14:
 - 1. To be led by the Spirit is to take care of the inner anointing, the moving and working of the indwelling, compound Spirit—1 John 2:20, 27.
 - 2. To be led by the Spirit is to care for the rest in our spirit, to be led as a captive in Christ’s triumphal procession—2 Cor. 2:12-14; 7:5-6.
- E. We need to cry to the Father in the spirit of sonship—Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6:
 - 1. When we cry, “Abba, Father!” (Rom. 8:15), “the Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God” (v. 16).
 - 2. To cry, “Abba, Father!” expresses the sweetness of our intimate relationship with our God—cf. Matt. 18:3.
- F. We need to groan in the interceding Spirit for our full sonship, which is the redemption of our body—Rom. 8:23, 26-27:
 - 1. In our groaning the Spirit groans also, interceding for us.
 - 2. The interceding Spirit prays for us that we may be conformed to the image of Christ as the firstborn Son of God—vv. 28-29.
- G. We need to love God and be constrained, restricted, motivated, compelled, impelled, and propelled by the love of Christ to more than conquer in all things—vv. 31-39:
 - 1. By loving God we participate in all the riches contained in God—1 Cor. 2:9-10; cf. 2 Tim. 3:2-4.
 - 2. We need to be constrained by the love of Christ to love God and the saints with Christ as our love—2 Cor. 5:14.

III. The processed and consummated Triune God as the spontaneous and automatic power of the law of the Spirit of life accomplishes the following things within us:

- A. This power inclines our heart toward God—Prov. 21:1; Psa. 119:36.
- B. This power makes us submissive toward God—Phil. 2:13.
- C. This power causes us to do the good works which God has ordained for us that we may live the church life and bear the testimony of Jesus—Eph. 2:10.
- D. This power causes us to labor for the Lord with all of our heart and strength—1 Cor. 15:10; Col. 1:28-29.
- E. This power causes our service to be living and fresh—Rom. 6:4; 7:6; 2 Cor. 3:6.

IV. Our enjoyment of the indwelling Spirit as the automatic law of the divine life is in the Body of Christ and for the Body of Christ with the goal of making us the same as God is in life, nature, and expression but not in the Godhead—Rom. 8:2, 28-29; 12:1-2; Phil. 1:19-20.