

2022 Theme - Extraordinary God + Ordinary People = Transformed Lives

Sermon Series - His Presence With Us

Sermon Title - What The Holy Spirit Does For Us Part 2

Sermon Text - Romans 8

Sermon Presenter - Pastor Larry

Full Sermon Notes

“I’m calling on the Holy Spirit, Almighty River come and fill me again, Come and fill me again” Folks, being filled with The Holy Spirit is not you getting more of The Holy Spirit it’s The Holy Spirit getting more of you! It’s you allowing The Holy Spirit to have access to every area of your life! In the same way God does not kick the door down to come into your heart in the first place, He will not kick the doors down to other areas of your life either. We have choices even after we’ve accepted Jesus as our Savior whether or not we will allow The Holy Spirit, who now resides in us, to bring God’s presence out and into our lives in a powerful way! Let’s pray and ask God to teach us about the amazing things He wants to do for us through His Holy Spirit! Pray!

A person who accepts The Holy Spirit’s invitation to come to Jesus is saved because Jesus becomes their Savior and enters their heart via The Holy Spirit. As you’ve heard me say many times, that’s a “one and done.” But we then begin a walk with God and must decide whether or not we will allow Jesus to be the Lord of our lives. That’s a “daily decision!” And as we make that decision daily we open the door for The Holy Spirit to work in our lives. Today we will continue our discussion of what The Holy Spirit, “God’s presence with us,” does for us. Last week we discovered that...

The Holy Spirit invites and He insures us!

The Father uses The Holy Spirit to draw us to Jesus and then He seals us by marking us as a child of God because we have God’s Spirit dwelling within us and He will never leave us or forsake us! The Holy Spirit continues working in our lives as He brings God’s presence into our lives in various ways. One of those ways is found in the fact that...

The Holy Spirit Infuses Us With Power for Life!

Our text is found in Romans chapter 8, and we’ll begin with Romans 8:10...

Romans 8:10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Romans 8:12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.

Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

The Holy Spirit Infuses Us With Power Over Our Past Life!

What did Paul mean when he said...

Romans 8:10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin...

When God put Adam and Eve in the Garden, He never intended for death to be a part of life! When sin entered the world through poor choices and decisions to distrust God and do our own thing, death became a part of humanity's reality. Our bodies are still subject to that consequence even though once we come to Jesus our spirit, our soul is saved. In fact the Bible says this...

Hebrews 9:27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,
Hebrews 9:28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

So while at some point, unless Jesus comes back first, we will all face the death of this mortal body! But what about our destiny after that to face judgment? If you have accepted Christ as Your Savior, you don't have to worry, because your judgment has already taken place. It took place when Jesus bore your sin and judgment on the cross. Our judgment was taken by Jesus and our past sins are covered with the righteousness of Jesus. In fact Paul went on to say in our text...

Romans 8:10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

Folks, this is so powerful. The Holy Spirit brings life to us spiritually in this world. Because Jesus lived a perfect life and was the perfect sacrifice for our sins, The Spirit can give us life because of the righteousness of Jesus! We are clothed in the righteousness of Christ when we are saved and our sins are forgiven and washed away! Paul put it this way in the beginning of Romans 8...

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
Romans 8:2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,

Romans 8:4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Now this doesn't mean that we live in sinless perfection. We make mistakes but we now have a heart and a motivation to live for the Lord. We have a desire put in our hearts by the Holy Spirit to walk in Christ. And when we do sin we are convicted of that sin by the Holy Spirit, not condemned by The Holy Spirit!

Remember The Holy Spirit convicts, Satan condemns

Satan reminds us of our past to condemn us. He seeks to tell us that we are not good enough, we've done too much bad, and that God is so mad at us and that there's no hope for us. Ever feel like "I can't do anything right?" Or "I'll never be good enough!" The truth is none of us could ever be good enough or do enough to earn God's grace, but we don't have to earn it or deserve it! Grace is a gift from God to sinners who call on His name. On the other hand, you do need to understand that if you are living in sin, The Holy Spirit will convict you of that sin and seek to draw you away from the things that will destroy your life and draw you back to a close relationship with The Father! He does so for our good, not to make us feel bad or to condemn us. He knows what God's best is for us and He knows what will destroy us! We must never ignore His conviction. We do so at our own peril. However, we are not the only ones hurt when we ignore the voice of God through the Holy Spirit. We hurt those around us and we hurt God! We hurt those around us because when we reject the council of the Holy Spirit, we will make decisions based on our own selfish desires. We hurt God by causing Him grief! That's right, grief. Paul said...

Eph 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Here's a practical way to know the difference between Satan's condemnation and The Holy Spirit's conviction...

If you are involved in an activity that you know to be sin and feel convicted that it is wrong, that is the Holy Spirit of God attempting to pull you out of and away from something that is hurting you, and grieving God! If you have done wrong, asked for forgiveness and are no longer involved in that sin, but you still feel unforgiven, unworthy, and guilty, that is not the conviction of the Holy Spirit but the condemnation of Satan.

Paul stated it this way in his letter to the Ephesians...

Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

Ephesians 2:2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

Ephesians 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

Ephesians 2:5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

By God's grace, undeserved mercy, our soul is saved and cannot be destroyed, but our lives here on this earth are vulnerable! Satan knows that and once we give our hearts to Jesus, Satan begins trying to destroy our lives, our witness, our joy, our purpose and our meaning in life by seeking to pull us back into sin. In fact Peter warned us...

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 Peter 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

And how does God restore us, make us strong, firm and steadfast? Here's how...

The Holy Spirit Infuses Us With Power for Our Present Life!

Look back at verses 5-6...

Romans 8:5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Romans 8:6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

We used to live according to the flesh and had our minds set on those things, but Jesus not only forgave us of our past mess ups and mistakes, He has given us the power to live a new life in Him! We don't have to keep making the same old mistakes over and over again! And the power to do this is not based on our own ability to live righteous lives, but on our ability to live righteous lives through the power of The Holy Spirit! Our minds are now governed by The Spirit of Life and peace! We are raised from spiritual death to life. We are no longer bound by the darkness. No longer do we have to live in the chains of bondage to sin. Satan no longer has power or dominion over us unless we choose to let him. We still have the choice to sin, but the question becomes, why would we? Why would we continue to do the things that cost us dearly and caused us such grief and pain in the past and cost Jesus so much grief, pain and suffering on the Old Rugged Cross? Paul put it so powerfully back in Romans chapters 5 and 6...

Romans 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man (Adam) the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man (Jesus) the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

Romans 5:21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

Romans 6:2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Romans 6:3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

Romans 6:7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Romans 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

The law exposed the gravity and the tragedy of our wickedness, but it also exposed the willingness of God to be gracious to us and forgive anyone who is willing to admit their sins, confess them and repent. God's Word is clear on this...

1 John 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Once we see our sin, and realize how much it hurts us and how much it hurt Jesus and we ask for forgiveness, we realize that our old self was crucified with Jesus and we no longer have to be slaves ruled by sin! The Holy Spirit, who actually dwells within us, brings us the power to live a new life through the righteousness of Christ! Remember what God's word says in Galatians 2:20? I want to share this verse with you in the Old King James Version because it's just pretty cool...

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

There was an old school worship song we used to sing with this verse when I was a teenager. It goes like this...

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life that I now live...I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. Who loved me, who loved me, who loved me and He gave Himself for me. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me!

And how does Christ live in me? By way of His precious Holy Spirit! And how exactly does Jesus live His life in us through His Holy Spirit? Here's how that happens: if we allow Jesus,

through His Holy Spirit that lives in us, to be Lord of our lives, our decisions, our choices, our priorities, our attitudes, our actions, our everything, then we experience life that has meaning, and purpose and people will see Jesus in us! They will see the change in us from the way we used to live! We will have divine power available to us. Paul said this...

Rom 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the power behind our hope, our joy, our peace. He is our power to overcome all obstacles the enemy might put in our path. He is our strength. He is God's presence with us! Ok, you've convinced me. I need the power of the Holy Spirit in my life. But how does that happen? You need to be filled with the Holy Spirit! Paul said...

Eph 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise,

Eph 5:16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Eph 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not you getting more of the Spirit, but the Spirit getting more of you.

As we know, receiving the Holy Spirit happens when you accept Jesus into your heart and life. Being filled with the Holy Spirit happens daily as you turn control of different areas of your life over to His Spirit's leadership. Once again, your thought life, your attitude, your desires, your goals, your actions, your possessions, your career, your everything. It is very much a matter of trust. You cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit if you do not trust God's will for your life. Why? Because in order to be filled with His Spirit you must open the door to every room in the house. The Bible tells us that our Body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, but some of us have Him locked out of certain rooms. Certain areas of our lives have been made off limits to the Spirit of God's control! Back in the Old Testament the presence of God was confined to the Holy of Holies, behind the heavy curtain of the tabernacle, but God wanted to fellowship with us so when Jesus died the veil of the temple was torn so we could have access to God's presence through His Holy Spirit. Now it's time for us to tear down the walls we've built to keep God's Spirit out of some of the areas of our lives! God has granted us full access to His presence by way of His Holy Spirit and we need to grant Him full access to every aspect of our hearts, minds and lives! Is it that we are scared of His will for our lives? Are we scared He will mess up our own plans? Here's a question for you to answer: Do you want life and peace? If you do, you need to follow God's will for your life. Let God's presence flow into your life by way of His Precious Holy Spirit! He will fill you. He will empower you. He will encourage you. He will sustain you. He will guide you. He will bring to you God's amazing love and will bring Christ to live in you and through you! Sounds good Pastor Larry but I need some tangible, practical examples of how Christ lives in me and through me by His Holy Spirit! What does that look like?

For starters, He will give you the power to forgive those who have wronged you! That doesn't mean you give them a free pass to keep wronging you or put yourself or your loved ones in harm's way, but you come to realize they may be under the control and influence of Satan and may be a lost soul. You make a decision that you desire for them to realize their sin and their need for God and to get saved and to come to you and genuinely ask for forgiveness. Not so you can gloat over their humiliation but so you can rejoice that another soul has been saved and set free from the snares of Satan! Down through the years I have had people who refused to forgive me for things. Certainly before I got saved there were times when I intentionally hurt people by saying hurtful things. I was lost. And there have been times since I've been saved that I've hurt people unintentionally. Sometimes it's in the course of doing what I feel like is right. And while I have tried to do things in love, it wasn't always taken that way. And I've asked for forgiveness for those unintentional hurts. But sometimes people refuse to give forgiveness and they live with hate and bitterness. Sometimes I'll have a dream that I see someone who hasn't spoken to me in years and I let them know how much I care about them and wish for reconciliation and in tears we hug, but then I wake up realizing it was sadly just a dream. But I need you to know that the Holy Spirit gives the power to forgive others even when they will not forgive in return or accept your offer of forgiveness to them. When Jesus was on the cross he forgave the very people who had spit on him, mocked him, beat him and nailed him to the tree. He knew their sin had blinded them and he was heartbroken for them so he cried out to the Heavenly Father for them. In the midst of such terrible injustice and suffering Jesus still had a spirit of love, a spirit of forgiveness, a spirit of caring, and a spirit of concern! All of which was in fact His Holy Spirit! And because of His extraordinary act of mercy and grace we read these verses...

Luke 23:47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

How about that? The guy who was in charge of the crucifixion of Jesus, the one who had barked out the orders for the horrible abuse and unjust treatment of Jesus hears Jesus pray for Him and begins praising God and confesses that Jesus was a righteous man! The Gospel of Mark records this...

Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

And I want to give you a list of other practical examples of how Christ lives in you and through you by His Holy Spirit!

When you're facing a loss of a loved one, He's there. Helping you cope and find hope!

When you're facing unemployment, He's there. Providing for you until He shows you your next assignment!

When you're facing a personal crisis, He's there. Giving you strength to make it through another day and giving you wisdom to navigate through and find your way!

When you're facing a financial crisis, He's there. Letting you know that the greatest treasures in life are not monetary or momentary, but lasting relationships!

When you're facing a final exam, He's there. Helping you pass the most important tests in life by finding the answers that matter most!

When you're facing a relationship crisis, He's there. Letting you know you're not alone as long as He's holding your hand and walking beside you.

When you're facing a temptation, He's there. Showing you the many reasons why you should walk away from sin and heed the Holy Spirit's voice from within!

When you're facing a health crisis, He's there. Giving you the peace of mind to know that no matter the condition of your physical body, as long as He's still got a work for you in this world He'll give you all the health and strength you need to accomplish His purpose and when that purpose is finished that your Good Shepherd will get you safely to your eternal home in Glory!

And speaking of our eternal home in Glory...

The Holy Spirit Infuses Us With Power for Our Promised Life!

Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

Romans 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Folks, you need to understand that when God adopts you and you become a child of God, a co-heir with Christ, you are sealed by The Holy Spirit and He secures you for all eternity! When Jesus defeated death and the grave and rose again, He did so to insure that we too will rise again and we will have eternal life! In fact listen to the confidence the Psalmist had in Psalm 23...

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

And then in verse 6 he says...

Psalm 23:6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

When Paul wrote his letter to the Romans, from which we've read today, he had yet to go there. But later on he would make it to Rome but not as a free man. And from a Roman prison he wrote these words to the Philippian Church...

Philippians 1:18 ... Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,
Philippians 1:19 for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.
Philippians 1:20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.
Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

How could Paul have such confidence? I believe it was because The Holy Spirit had confirmed in Paul's life that he was a child of God and that regardless of his past sins, which was quite a laundry list of sins, that he was indeed forgiven and adopted into the eternal family of God! In fact listen to what Paul said about his former life and then his confidence of forgiveness and eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.
1 Timothy 1:13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.
1 Timothy 1:14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.
1 Timothy 1:16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.
1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

And speaking of that eternal life which The Holy Spirit infuses us with Paul said these amazing words...

Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
Philippians 3:21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

What is that power? Or should I say Who is that power? I believe that power is none other than The precious Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Son of The Living God! The very Holy Spirit that infuses us with power over our past life, power for our present life, and power for our promised life in glory! Let's pray!