

## THE WORD "SPIRIT" AS USED IN ROMANS 8

Text: Romans 8:26

INTRO: In this lesson we will look at the use of the word "spirit" in Romans, chapter 8. Does this passage teach that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we pray? Does the context teach a Personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Does Paul indicate that the Holy Spirit leads us or guides us in some way distinct from the instructions of the written word?

A word of caution. We need to be careful NOT to draw conclusions nor make assumptions that are unwarranted by the text and its context. Gr. scholar W.E. Vine lists 18 separate definitions for the Gr. word PNEUMA. I cannot distinguish all of these, but I can clearly recognize that the word sometimes means wind (JN 3:8) or breath, (2 Thess. 2:8). It can be used of the Holy Spirit, the human spirit, of an angel or a demon. It frequently means an attitude, frame of mind, or disposition. In Rev. 1:10, it means to see a vision. It is a BIG mistake to assume that the word always means either the Holy Spirit or the human spirit (immaterial part of man).

Another thing to keep in mind is that capitalization of the word spirit means no more than that the translators THOUGHT the reference was to the Holy Spirit. Nothing in the Greek determines that any more than when it is translated into English. The CONTEXT is the determining factor -- not "something" in the Greek.

### I. MOST OF ROMANS 8 IS PART OF A CONTRAST PAUL BEGINS TO MAKE IN ROMANS 7:14.

A. The inner struggle of every human being. An inclination to be better and do better -- and at the same time, certain desires, that if given in to, will make us worse instead of better. **READ ROMANS 7:14-25.**

B. Going into chapter 8, note the contrast between FLESH and SPIRIT. The word "spirit" in this contrast is NO the Holy Spirit and the word "flesh" is not used literally of the meat on our bones. Verses 5-6 are the key verses **READ ROMANS 8:1-6.**

II. LET US LOOK THROUGH CHAPTER 8, CENTERING IN ON THE VERSES THAT USE THE WORD "SPIRIT." Note that the terms "Spirit of God" and "Spirit of Christ" MAY be talking about the Holy Spirit, and have reference to the indwelling, that is NOT the thrust of the passage.

**READ ROMANS 8:6-10**

III. VERSES 11-16.

IV. VERSE 26-27.

- A. Go back to verses 5-6, the key verses.
- B. Verse 23 tells us who groans.
- C. Verse 34 tells us Who searches our hearts & makes intercession for us at the throne of God.

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

V. THE SAME BASIC CONTRAST IS MADE IN GAL. 5:17-26.

- A. The struggle, vs. 17-18
- B. The works of the flesh, vs. 19-21
- C. The fruit of the spirit, vs. 22-26

Gal 6:8, For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

CONCLUSION: The spiritual-minded person walks & lives in the spirit-- and the spirit of life in Christ Jesus makes him free from the law of sin & death. The carnal-minded man walks & lives in sin, and will of the flesh reap corruption. He loves the things of this world (too much) & the love of the Father is not in him. But, perhaps most miserable of all, is the person who is caught in the middle, trying to be a spiritual success but unwilling to turn away from the pull of the flesh. A double-minded man, unstable in all his ways, James 1:8.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, March 3, 2002  
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, May 15, 2002 (meeting)  
Dexter, ME, August 6, 2002 (meeting)  
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 28, 2005 (meeting)