

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 15th August 2021
Sermon Title: The Disciples Battle Against Sin: life in the Spirit (2)
Bible Passage: Romans 8: 14 - 39

Recapping the Preach

Take time to read the passage from a few different translations.

- What stood out to you from this passage?
- Are there any questions you have from the text?
- How would you summarise the main theme of the passage?

Stu began by reiterating that it is impossible to live the Christian life without the fullness and empowering of the Holy Spirit. He stressed that the Spirit is the promised gift given to every child of God and we should seek to go on being filled with the Spirit.

- One commentator has remarked, *'the Christian life is essentially life in the Spirit, that is to say a life which is animated, sustained, directed and enriched by the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, true Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, indeed impossible'* Would you agree? How have you experienced this?
- How would summarise the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?
- Why do you think Paul stresses that we should go on being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18b)?

Stu then highlighted that it is vital we know we have and to go on being filled with the Holy Spirit for 4 reasons, because: 1) the Spirit helps us endure the tension (vs.23-25) 2) the Spirit testifies and witnesses to our spirit that we are God's children (vs.14-17) 3) the Spirit aids us in our prayer (vs.26-27) and 4) the Spirit gives us a rich assurance (vs.28-39).

- Which of the above is most important to you and why?
- Theologians make a distinction between the 'now and not yet' of the Christian life. The kingdom of God has broken in and is present through the ministry of Christ (Mark 1:15) but there is still a fuller expression to come (Revelation 21:2). In what way do you feel this tension as Romans 8:23 suggests?
- 8:15 says that our adoption has been brought about by the Spirit but 8:23 that we are 'eagerly awaiting our adoption to sonship'. How would you explain the difference here?
- What does it mean that the Spirit intercedes for us through wordless groans?
- How have you experienced the Spirit helping you in prayer?
- vs.28-39 is all about our security in Christ: the promise of vs.28, the evidence of God's work in vs.29-30 and the questions in vs.31-39. Is there one of these in particular that stands out?
- How can we walk consistently in the fullness of the Spirit - individually and corporately together as a church?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that we would persevere in the battle against sin.
- Pray and ask God to fill you afresh with the Holy Spirit.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>