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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Bereans “received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.”

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ACTS 17:11

*Romans 8-1-4
Lesson #13
Walking by the Spirit
08/24/2025*

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Hard Questions

Are we justified by faith or by works?



Martin Luther

James' epistle “is really an epistle of **straw**, compared to these others, for it has nothing of the nature of the gospel about it.”



John Calvin

The Spirit enables real obedience (though imperfect) through **LOVE** which comes through the Spirit of Christ.



St. Augustine

“Law was given that grace might be sought, grace was given **that** the law might be fulfilled.”

3

Romans 8

“1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law (**principle of operation**) of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law (**principle of operation**) of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 **in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who walk, not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”**



Does our salvation rest on the believer's “walk” by the power of the Spirit?

4

Four responses to the faith and works issue

Jewish	Roman Catholic	Many Protestants	Radical Grace
Good works are all that matters	Good works are an expression of faith	Good works are a necessary marker of faith	Good works are the normal fruit of faith
Faithfulness	Faith	Faith	Faith
=	+	/	>
Faith	Faithfulness	Faithfulness	Faithfulness

5

Authentic (saving) faith is not a work nor is it a superficial confession.

Romans

3:28 “For we maintain that a man is **justified by faith** apart from works of the Law.”

4:5 “But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith is reckoned as righteousness,**”

11:22 “they were broken off by their unbelief, **but you stand by your faith**”

Last week's lesson on James 2:14-26

Faith is a lifestyle of values, attitudes, & behaviors that are **USEFUL, VISIBLE, & NATURAL** for the believer.

6

Romans 8

"1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law (**principle of operation**) of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law (**principle of operation**) of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 **so that the requirements of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**"

7

Romans 8

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A summary of Paul's letter up until this point.

1. All humanity is under the principle of sin and death as prescribed by the Law. ch.1-3
2. Jesus fulfills the Law "for" us, placing the benefits "in" us by faith. ch.3-7



**But where does that leave us?
How does that change us?**

8

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Romans 1-3:20 What the Law is revealing ABOUT us (unrighteousness through sin)	Romans 3:21-7 What Christ has done FOR us (righteousness through faith)	Romans 8 What the Spirit is doing IN us (rest with a "renewed mind")	Romans 12-16 What the Spirit is doing THROUGH us (fruitfulness through love)
Under wrath with no peace	Positional (legal) peace	Psychological (inner) peace	Public (outer social) peace

Help

Thanks

Wow

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Romans 8

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- **The Spirit is mentioned only once (in 5:5) before this chapter. He is mentioned 17 times in this chapter.**
- **The emphasis in Rom.8 is on what the Spirit does **IN US** by giving **assurance** to believers of what Christ has done **FOR US**.**
- **This is not to say that the Spirit will not also manifest godliness **THROUGH US**.**

10

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Tutor (Mirror)  The Law	Surrogate (Substitute)  Jesus	Paraclete (Comforter)  The Spirit
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11

Romans 8:4

"in order that the **requirement** of the Law might be **fulfilled** in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

"requirement"

Galatians 5:14

"For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word,...
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

"fulfilled"

has the sense of **"made complete"** in that the purpose of the Law is revealed in Love, which we are called to experience and express.

12

Romans 8

"4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled **in us**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

"in us"

could have the sense of either **"for us"** in that the righteousness demanded by the law is ours
by faith in the imputed holiness of Christ,

or **"through us"** in that the Spirit **empowers us to live holy lives by the grace of God**
and thus fulfill the law of love.

13

Romans 8

"4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled **in us**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

This is best understood as "for us" with its benefits being "through us."

1. Paul is speaking of the finished work of Christ on the Cross in verse 3.
2. "Might be fulfilled" is passive in the Greek text.
3. The whole argument of Romans, up until this point, makes little sense if in the end WE can fulfill the law.
4. No person has ever lived a life that completely fulfills the law save one (Jesus). The Gospel is the good news that only one person had to.

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Ephesians 2

"8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 **not as a result of works**, that no one should boast.

We are saved BY the imputed good works of Christ FOR us by faith.

We "in Christ".

10 For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that **we should walk in them.**"

We are saved FOR good works THROUGH us as we walk in the Spirit of Christ in us.

Christ "in us".

15

Imputed righteousness is by faith in Christ's work **FOR us not **IN** or **THROUGH** us.**



16

Romans 8

"4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not **walk** according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

"walk"

usually describes a **"way of life"** that starts with a **"worldview"** or way of thinking

and extends to **"character"** and **"conduct"** or way of behaving.

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Ephesians 4

"17 This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you **walk** no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their **mind**, 18 being darkened in their **understanding**, excluded from the life of God, because of the **ignorance** that is in them, because of the **hardness of their heart**; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be **renewed in the spirit of your mind**, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

18



19



20

Illustration

A man & wife own a business and have an adopted child.

The child is an heir to the business by virtue of his legal status as an adopted son.

It is natural for the son to have a vested interest in sacrificially supporting the family business,

not because of a need to gain his inheritance or fear losing it, **but because he is a part of it.**

21

Romans 12

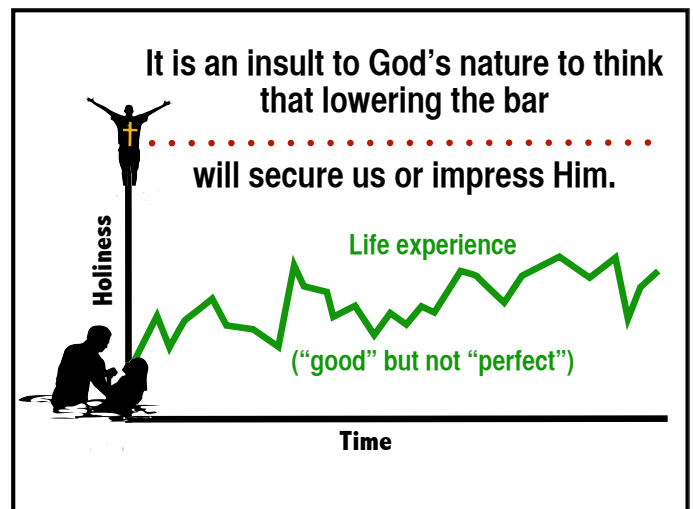
"¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your **reasonable service** of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove (show) what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

22

Ephesians 1

"¹⁸ **I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know** what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His **inheritance** in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His **power** toward us who believe."

23



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What does “walking” in the Spirit or the flesh mean?

It is best understood as actively embracing, experiencing, and expressing a worldview - either of God's kingdom or the world's.

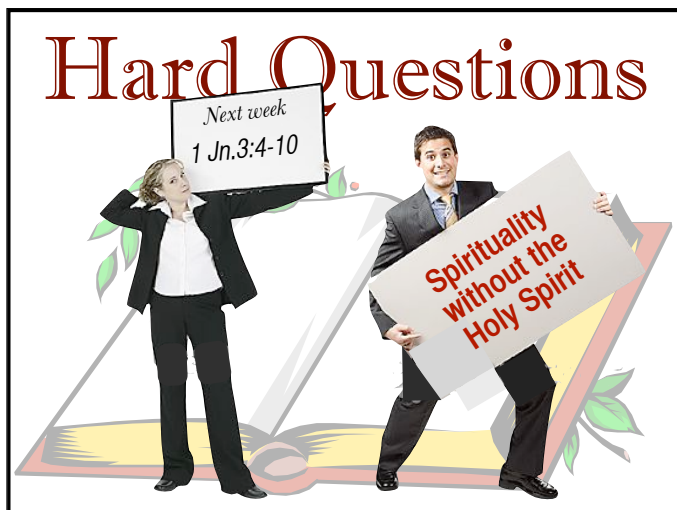
1. It starts with a **renewed mind (way of seeing)** life that comes from the infilling of Christ's Spirit as a result of a positive faith response to the Gospel.
2. It continues with an inner experience of a **changed heart and attitude** toward virtually everything.
3. This should naturally be expressed in one's **character, values, priorities, and behavioral response** to the circumstances of life.

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So what are some take home lessons from this passage?

1. Read the O.T. through the lens of the N.T.
2. Resist the temptation to blend grace & law.
3. Walking in the Spirit starts with facing in the right direction, with the right mindset.
4. View all circumstances as opportunities to develop or demonstrate Godly wisdom in response.
5. Seek wisdom and shun whining.

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