

The Inside Job

Introduction

A. So far, we have learned that the Holy Spirit regenerated us and indwells us

B. This morning we will consider the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian—“the inside job”

I. The Holy Spirit baptized us into the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

¹²For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. ¹³For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

¹⁴For in fact the body is not one member but many.

A. The moment we were born of the Spirit, we became members of the Body of Christ

B. This is a reference to the “Church Universal”

C. Being a Christian means, “I am in Christ”

II. The Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are the children of God

Romans 8:15-16

¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...

A. First, “the Spirit of adoption” refers to the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit placed us into God’s family as **His adopted children**
2. We became God’s children when we were **born of the Spirit**

B. Second, as God’s adopted children, we address God as “Abba”

1. This is the Aramaic word of “**father**” and “**daddy**”
2. This word implies **close family relationship**
3. This is our special relationship with God—**He is our dad**

C. Third, the Holy Spirit “bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God”

1. This is the **internal witness** of the Holy Spirit **assuring us** that we are God’s kids
2. We can know that we know that we know that we are the children of God
3. This is **assurance of salvation**

III. The Holy Spirit seals us as a guarantee of our redemption in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

A. Paul tells us that we are “sealed” with the Holy Spirit

B. The act of “sealing” was a familiar concept for Paul’s Ephesian audience—

Ephesus was a major seaport in Asia. Merchandise would come through Ephesus from everywhere in the world. Caravans would come from the East bringing their goods. Merchants from Rome would go there to purchase goods and bring them back to Rome for distribution throughout the Roman Empire.

The great port of Rome was Puteoli. The merchants would purchase the goods in Ephesus and pack them for shipping to Puteoli.

Once they were packed for shipping they would *seal* them by putting a wax seal on the merchandise and putting the imprint of their signet ring upon the wax.

This was their mark of ownership. The goods would be placed on the ship and sent to Rome.

When they would arrive at Puteoli the servants of these merchants would go to the docks and *identify* their masters’ goods by means of the *seal* that was upon them.

C. For us, being “sealed” with the Holy Spirit means two things:

1. First, the Holy Spirit **certifies** the authenticity of our acceptance by God as being real—genuine

2. Second, the Holy Spirit **protects** and **preserves** us until we reach our inheritance in Heaven

IV. The Holy Spirit leads us

Romans 8:14

¹⁴As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

A. One of the characteristics of someone born of the Spirit is he being led by the Spirit

1. The Spirit wants to lead us, and we want to follow

2. Think of the Spirit's filling a Christian's life this way—"when the wind fills up a ship's sail and moves it in the direction it's moving"

B. The Spirit leads us in four specific areas in life:

1. First, He leads us in our **devotional life**

a. In **worship**—

Ephesians 5:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

b. In prayer—

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

c. In doctrine—

John 16:13

¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth...

2. Second, He leads us in our day-to-day life

a. This is evident in the life of Christ in the Gospels

Luke 4:1-2

¹Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ²being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

b. This is evident in the life of Christ's apostles in Acts

Acts 16:6-10

⁶Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. ⁷After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. ⁸So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

c. This should be evident in **our day-to-day lives** as well

3. Third, He leads us in our **testimony life**

Matthew 10:16-20

¹⁶“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. ¹⁷But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. ¹⁸You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

4. Fourth, He leads us in our **pursuit of a holy life**

Galatians 5:16-18, 24-26 (NLT)

¹⁶I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses...

²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

V. The Holy Spirit enables us to be victorious over sin

Romans 8:2

²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

A. The Holy Spirit set us free from the “law of sin and death”

B. The “law of sin and death”

1. The “Law of sin” says, “Everyone must sin because they are sinners enslaved to sin.”

2. The “Law of death” says, “Everyone must die because they are sinners deserving eternal punishment in hell.”

C. Here, in Romans 8:2, Paul writes about the “Law of the Spirit”

1. The Christian who lives in the Spirit is free from the “law of sin and death”

2. A new and greater principle has replaced the principle of sin and death—“The life of the Spirit”

a. Example: the “law of gravity” rules until a greater law replaces it—the “law of aerodynamics”

i. What keeps a jumbo 747—with all of its passengers and cargo—up in the air?

ii. The “law of gravity” says, “The plane must come down”, but when the “law of aerodynamics” replaces it, the plane stays up in the air

b. The “law of the Spirit” of life is greater than the “law of sin and death”

i. The “law of sin” says, “You must sin.” The “law of the Spirit” says, “In Christ, you do not have to sin.”

ii. The “law of death” says, “You must die.” The “law of the Spirit” says, “In Christ, you will live forever.”

D. Application:

1. This reality **does not** mean that Christians will no longer fight and struggle against sin—this battle will last a lifetime on earth

Galatians 5:17 (NIV)

¹⁷...the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

2. This reality **does** mean we can be victorious over sin if we choose to be

a. The Holy Spirit enables us to put to death the deeds of the flesh—

Romans 8:12-13 (NLT)

¹²Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

b. The key to overcoming sin is to be “in-step with the Holy Spirit”—

Galatians 5:16

¹⁶I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

When you're doing what the Spirit wants you to do, you will not be doing what your sinful nature wants you to do

VI. The Holy Spirit prays for us

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

A. The Holy Spirit aids us in our times of “weakness”

1. “Weakness”—when we do not know how to pray, or what to pray for
2. “Weakness”—there arises times of deep emotional and circumstantial difficulties where it seems impossible to express to God how we feel through our own words
3. “Weakness”—to be understood in the context of “suffering” (see Romans 8:18)

B. The Holy Spirit “intercedes” (to pray for the need of others) for us through “groanings that cannot be uttered”

1. In Romans 8:34, Paul tells us that *Jesus* is praying for us
2. Here, in Romans 8:26, Paul tells us that the *Holy Spirit* prays for us
3. Application:
 - a. It is so comforting to know that God the Spirit prays for us in our most difficult times in life

b. Here are two reasons why the Holy Spirit is more than qualified to pray for us:

i. He searches the hearts of those He helps—*He knows all that's in our hearts*

ii. He *always* prays the will of God; therefore, all His prayers are answered (see 1 John 5:14-15)

c. Let this point encourage you this morning

VII. The Holy Spirit teaches us and leads us in truth

John 14:26

²⁶The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:13

¹³When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...

A. The Holy Spirit teaches us and leads us in truth with the **Bible**—

1. In John 17:17, Jesus said to His Father, “Your word is truth”

2. The Bible is the revealed truth of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit

B. The Holy Spirit teaches us and leads us in truth with **Bible teachers**—

1. Ephesians 4:11 tells us that God commissioned specific people in the Church to teach others the truth of God—the word of God

2. The Holy Spirit equips these people with the spiritual gift of “teaching” (see Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28, and 1 Peter 4:11)

VIII. The Holy Spirit helps us testify of Christ in the world

Acts 1:8

⁸...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

A. In Acts 1:5 Jesus called this experience “The Baptism with the Spirit”

B. This is a distinct work from salvation in which God empowers us to be effective witnesses for Christ in this world

C. God is reaching out to lost sinners in this world through Spirit-empowered people proclaiming a Christ-centered Gospel

D. Lord willing, we will revisit this subject in lesson 06

IX. The Holy Spirit equips to function as members of the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

⁴There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*:

Romans 12:4-6

⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*:

1 Peter 4:10-11

¹⁰As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

A. Each of us is a member in the Body of Christ, and possesses spiritual gifts to serve and benefit others

B. The Holy Spirit equips us to be active and effective in our place in the Body of Christ

C. Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 and 1 Peter 4:10-11 lists some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit

D. Lord willing, we will visit this subject in lesson 07

X. The Holy Spirit transforms us into the likeness of Jesus

2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸...we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

A. This is God's glorious plan for our lives—to conform to the image of Christ

Romans 8:28-30 (ESV)

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

B. The Holy Spirit is **in the process** of transforming us from one degree of glory to the next

C. This is demonstrated by the **Fruit of the Spirit**—the character of **Christ**—being produced in our lives (see Galatians 5:22-23)

D. In the end, **we will be just like Jesus**—God will complete the **job** (see Philippians 1:6 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

E. Lord willing, this will be our topic next week