

From the message on July 23

Pneuma - The Holy Spirit makes Christ clear to me.

Text Romans 8:1-17, 26-28

From the Sermon

As we learned last week, the core activity of the Holy Spirit is to make Christ clear. We discover this week that the Spirit makes Christ's presence in us clear to us; he applies the benefits of union in Christ and his indwelling presence to us. In what ways does the Spirit make Christ clear to our awareness and experience? Romans 8 is one of the most-well known chapters in the New Testament. Everything in our life is fresh and strengthened because of the Spirit's work in our hearts.

Opening Interaction. Did you ever go to summer camp? If so, what was your favorite part?

Read the passage and Discuss

- In the passages in this study, what details seem important? What jumps out at you?
 - What is the Bible communicating to its audience about the Spirit?
 - What do these passages teach us about God?
1. Read Romans 8. List the various ways that the Spirit influences and impacts the believer's life. In what different ways might people respond to these actions? Choose two of these ways and share how you have experienced the Spirit? Has your connection to the Spirit changed through various stages of life?
 2. There are two types of people in Romans 8—the nonchristians whose perspective or mindset is on the flesh and the Christian whose perspective and mindset is on the Spirit. Two patterns of conduct arise from these different mindsets. As well, two different spiritual experiences and states—i.e. death versus life, and enmity versus peace—result from these different mindsets. Therefore our mind—i.e. our perspective, commitments, and thoughts—plays a key role in our conduct and legacy. How is a mind set on the flesh different from a mind set on what the Spirit desires?
 3. Read Romans 8:26-27 again. How do you understand the Spirit's intercession for believers? The apostle Paul told us that both creation and the Christian "groans" because of various aspects of our fallen world. Since the Spirit is not imperfect or sinful, the Spirit must groan with our prayers in the sense that he understands and identifies with our struggle, looking forward to the future fulfillment of the gospel's promises. The Spirit desires our freedom in life and final freedom after death. What does this mean to your experience? In what ways can you pray so as to partner with the Spirit's intercession?
 4. What do these verses reveal about the Trinity? In what ways does this chapter about the Spirit improve, strengthen, and stretch your understanding and walk with both the Father and Son?
 5. What do you appreciate about the Holy Spirit's work as it's described in Romans 8? Why?
 6. In what ways can you pray for each member of your small group's spiritual growth from this chapter?