

Romans 8:11-19
Good Shepherd, March, 2023

Children of God come in all ages, and they have worries and doubts. Children fear being away from their parents, seeing a spider on the wall and hearing sirens that mean a storm is coming. Adults worry about job security, affordable healthcare, losing money on their retirement accounts, or suffering from loneliness or sickness.

God's children, no matter how old they are, need to be assured that being members of God's family gives them real security for this life and the next. The three top home security systems are ADT, Protect Your Home, and ProtectAmerica. But all systems of security invented by human beings will always be uncertain – and that causes anxiety! But you and I have something better “**Spirit-Security!**”

People who live without Christ are ruled by sin and death. But Christians are no longer controlled by our sinful nature, but by the Holy Spirit. Since the Spirit is now working in us, we are raised from spiritual death and have new life. Our new life strengthens our resolve to not live for sin, but to live for Christ!

In fact, the amazing power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is constantly giving life to our mortal body! That same powerful Holy Spirit helps us put **sin** to death when it pops up in our life.

Christians do not want to sin, we want to live, loving our Lord for what He has done for us. If we live according to the sinful nature, we will die, but if we live by the Holy Spirit, we will live. Just think. Beneath my skin, blood is constantly circulating throughout my body. Within our bodies the Holy

Spirit is working all the time to create in us a desire to love God and please Him because Jesus has rescued us from spiritual death.

The beginning of Romans 8 says There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. It ends by saying nothing in all creation will ever separate us from His love. We live each day amazed at the love God has for us!

The Holy Spirit helps us to see sin when it pops up in our lives and then He works in us the desire to get rid of that sinful temptation. The Holy Spirit gives each Christian a stubbornness that says, “I don't want to sin!” When an infection enters your body, the body goes into attack mode. It sends white corpuscles to surround and destroy the infection. The Holy Spirit sends you into attack mode when temptation pops up in your life.

Picture an elite soldier behind enemy lines. The snapping of a twig, the rustle of a leaf, a shadow in the darkness and he is ready to pull the trigger. We are soldiers of the Lord Jesus, equipped by the Holy Spirit to take immediate action against the temptations of the devil. A gardener cannot permit weeds to take root in the garden. Those weeds have to die today. So it is with sin!

Thank the Holy Spirit for your “Spirit Security.” Thank the Holy Spirit every time you are upset when you fall into sin. Thank the Holy Spirit that you have the desire and the power to take a big club against temptations and put them to death, all because of your faith and love for your Savior.

The Holy Spirit keeps reminding us that we are children of our heavenly Father. Our text says, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

- *The Holy Spirit leads us to see our sin.*

- *He warns us of the judgment to come.*
- *The Spirit then leads us to Jesus.*
- *Our eyes of faith see our sins placed upon Jesus.*
- *We watch as Jesus is punished in our place.*

The devil likes to hold a mirror up to us and say, “How could God ever love you? Why would God want to forgive you? You mean nothing to Him!” The Holy Spirit holds up a mirror before us and says, “Look, God loves you! He forgives you because of Jesus. You are a child of God!”

Because of the Lord Jesus we were adopted into His family! Jesus died so we could be the Father's child. The Holy Spirit always reminds us who we are!

And when life gets difficult we can cry out to our heavenly Father for help. *Dad, Daddy, Papa, or Pops!* These are terms of endearment children use when talking to their fathers. We love our heavenly Father and He loves us even more! Everyday is an opportunity to speak to the One who loves us best!

The Holy Spirit also reminds us of our future glory. Our future is filled with uncertainty. But no matter how uncertain life may be, the problems we will face are nothing compared to the glory, peace, and joy that lie in our future.

Christians are secure in knowing that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will always be there to help us at all times of life. Our Lord promises, I will never leave you or forsake you!

We suffer from sickness, job loss and financial woes. There are also the struggles we endure because we want to follow Jesus and serve Him. We know that our present troubles are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us one day!

A woman had cancer and went to her pastor to plan her funeral service. She had picked out hymns for the congregation to sing and Scriptures she wanted the pastor to read.

She told the pastor that during her viewing, a fork would be in her right hand. The pastor asked, “Why a fork?”

The woman said, “When I was a little girl, I loved church suppers. And when the ladies were cleaning up an older woman would whisper to her, “Save your fork!” The little girl knew that something really good was coming: apple pie, lemon bars, blueberry cobbler or chocolate chip cookies. At my funeral, I want people to ask, “Why the fork in her hand?” Then pastor, you can tell them that when Jesus is your Savior, there is always something better coming in our life!”

Our Spirit-Security assures us that we are the Children of God. It tells us God is in control and everything will work out for our good. That's God's promise!

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