

Morning Sermon October 11, 2015

“Weakness Replaced by Wings!” Romans 8:3-17

*Imputation of Christ’s righteousness to us makes us legally righteous in the sight of God. Once, we are legally righteous, God is at liberty to be gracious to us. His great grace is manifest in His giving us the Holy Spirit! With the giving of the Holy Spirit, we have Christ’s LIFE infused into us. The passage we will consider today focuses on the Holy Spirit, and the influence He has on us, taking us from Law to Love in our relation with God!*

*“Run John RUN, the Law commands but gives me neither feet nor hands  
Better news the Gospel brings; it bids me fly and gives me wings”  
John Bunyan, Author of Pilgrims Progress*

I. *The weakness of the law, sinful flesh, sarx –*

<sup>3</sup> **For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:3-4 NKJ)**

“... The flesh, denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God”  
Bible Works Dictionary Definition

*Without God’s Spirit we are according to Corrie Ten Boom, like a glove without a hand in it, we can do as Christ says in John 15:5 “nothing”*

*Our sinful flesh is weak, not only does it not give us feet or hands, but it leaves us without eyes as well, note how Jesus speaks to the Pharisees:*

<sup>16</sup> **“Woe to you, blind guides (Matthew 23:16 NKJ)**

<sup>17</sup> **“Fools and blind! (Matthew 23:17 NKJ)**

<sup>19</sup> **“Fools and blind! (Matthew 23:19 NKJ)**

*They missed the mark in multiple ways, the misunderstood the law; how could they NOT MISS? They were trying to keep the law in the power of the flesh and were like blind men trying to drive a car through fast moving traffic ...*

<sup>24</sup> **“Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!**  
*They were fastidious about little things but missed big things...*

<sup>25</sup> **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. They were careful about outward things but neglected filthy, corrupt hearts - <sup>26</sup> “Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. <sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup> “Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (Matthew 23:24-28 NKJ)** *Part of the weakness of the flesh is spiritual blindness, it leaves us unable to SEE spiritual / Heavenly things, much less to “mind them” or “walk” according to them as Paul will speak about here –*

*To one of the Pharisees who eventually was saved, Jesus said - Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he **cannot see** the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3 NKJ)*

*We need the New Birth which is by the power of God’s Spirit; it is not something natural to us or of the FLESH at all. With the new birth we have an infusion of God’s Holy Spirit -*

II. *Our wings are the Holy Spirit, and what He gives us –*

*Generally, He gives us is an ability to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law –*

<sup>4</sup> **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:4)**

*God is NOT divorcing us from the law’s requirements:*

A. *He saved us from the law’s penalty – Romans 8:1*

B. *He gave us the Spirit to oppose sin’s power – Romans 8:2*

C. *Here we are given feet to walk, and run, and wings to fly - Romans 8:4; Isaiah 40:31*

<sup>31</sup> **But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NKJ)**

*We do not keep the law in order to be saved, but we will keep the law because we are saved ... Our salvation includes the Holy Spirit and the wonderful spiritual things He gives us:*

## What are those things, which the Spirit gives us?

### 1. A new spiritual mind & mindset – see also 1 Corinthians 2

<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.* <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded *is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* <sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind *is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.* <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:5-8 NKJ)

### 2. Resurrection power and life –

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. <sup>10</sup> And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, brethren, we are debtors-- not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Romans 8:9-13 NKJ)

### 3. A new relationship with God as our Father / Abba / Daddy / Pa-pa, where we are His dear children –

<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

<sup>15</sup> For 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."

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (Romans 8:14-16 NKJ)

“We sense that we really are God’s sons! So intense is the reality of our adoption that we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” The Aramaic word “*Abba,*” which means “Dear Father” in the sense that we might say “Dad” or “Daddy,” was never used by the Jews to address God, nor do they use it today. Jesus alone used it, and this was no doubt considered scandalous by his enemies. He used it in Gethsemane when he cried, “*Abba, Father ... everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will*” (Mark 14:36). We believe it was the word he used in the Aramaic original of what we call “the Lord’s prayer.” And here in Romans the Holy Spirit compels us to cry, “*Abba, Father!*” Galatians 4:6 says, “Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘*Abba, Father.*’” It is not a reasoned cry, but a reflexive one, the cry of children.” R. Kent Hughes

“You sum up the whole New Testament teaching in a single phrase, if you speak of it as a revelation of the Fatherhood of the Holy Creator...

“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he does not understand Christianity very well at all. For EVERYTHING that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament NEW, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctly CHRISTIAN as opposed to merely Jewish; is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. ‘Father’ is the Christian name for God.” J.I. Packer

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD *is the beginning* of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever. (Psalm 111:10 NKJ)

*Our Christian life begins with the fear of God, but in Christ, in the Spirit, it is not meant to continue there -*

<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup> We love Him because He first loved us. (1John 4:18-19 NKJ)

*Our Lord Jesus presents our Heavenly Father as one Who runs to the repentant prodigal –*

<sup>20</sup> "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. (Luke 15:20 NKJ)

### 4. An incorruptible, eternal inheritance –

<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

(Romans 8:17 NKJ)

A. *The spiritual mindset enables us to see eternal rewards*

B. *Resurrection power lifts us up above spiritual and moral muck and mire, out of sin and up to Christ’s Life!*

C. *As by God’s grace we are made more like Christ, God’s dear beloved Son, as God’s dear children, this is God’s purpose for “all things” that happen in our lives –*

<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:28-29 NKJ)

*Arnold A. Brevick*