

Resurrection: One More Time!

Text: Romans 8:9-14

By Bob Young

What if Easter came more than once a year? What if the celebration of resurrection that we have just seen and experienced were available more often? How would it change our lives? What would be different? Would it be better, or worse?

In the early church, the celebration was continuous. The declaration of resurrection was weekly in the Supper. The doctrine of the church focused on new life, transformation, constant renewal. God's continuing power for continuing resurrection is the Holy Spirit—living according to the Spirit, thinking of the things the Spirit desires, controlled by and led by the Spirit, submitting to God as we hear the words of the Spirit.

Today I want to flesh that out. But we have to begin by understanding the context of our specific text.

After describing the powerlessness of the law to enable human beings to escape sin and find newness of life (Chapter 7), Paul comes in Chapter 8 to news that is indeed "Good News" (8:1-2). That Chapter 7 is indeed a description of the law, beginning with the illustration of 7:1-6, is made clear in 8:3.

[Release from the law (7:6) is essential because the law brings sin to life (7:8). Apart from law, sin has no power, indeed apart from the law, sin is dead. In one sense, the law was not the problem because the law was spiritual; because of human passions and unspiritual desires, sin found occasion where law existed. The solution is never in a more intense struggle against sin hoping to meet the requirements of the law, because we humans have already failed in that endeavor. Hopeless! (7:24-25)!]

8:3-4. Christ fulfilled the requirements of the law on our behalf, so that we are those who live not according to the law focused on our unspiritual desires; rather, we live according to the Spirit.

In 8:5-8, Paul describes what it looks like when one lives according to the Spirit—which brings us to our text.

8:9-14. Easter continues. Resurrection runs through the life of the disciple continuously. Control has been handed off from human/fleshly desires and thinking to the Spirit of God indwelling the believer.

- The presence of the Spirit controls us.
- The presence of the Spirit declares that we belong to Christ.
- The presence of Christ (through the Spirit, in the context) makes us spiritually and righteously alive. Even though the body will still die, we live eternally in the Spirit. Resurrection is secured!
- Even sweeter, our mortal bodies will have life through the Spirit living in us. The resurrection of our bodies is promised, because of the Spirit.
- Therefore, we live in newness. The law is never sufficient to overcome the misdeeds of the body (sin), but the Spirit allows us to put sin to death.
- We live, because the primacy and priority of the Spirit of God, summarized as leading, declares that we are like God, sons of God.

What does being led by the Spirit of God mean in this context? It summarizes—freedom from the law of sin and death, living according to the Spirit, thinking about the desires of the Spirit, controlled by the Spirit (in the mind), submitting to God and his will, indwelt by the Spirit, belonging to Christ, spiritually alive, anticipating the final resurrection of our mortal body (physical to celestial), putting to death the misdeeds of the flesh—that is, overcoming sin, sons and daughters of God.

One week after Easter! Must resurrection wait another year? Will resurrection be largely out of sight for another 51 weeks? For the child of God, the answer is clearly "no."

The presence of God's Spirit, leading us as he controls us, declares our allegiance, makes us spiritually alive, declares our righteousness in Christ, promises resurrection, leads us in newness, empowers us as we struggle against and overcome sin, declares our sonship. This is not something mysterious. This is clearly knowable—are you led by the Spirit of God? The words of the Spirit are the words of Jesus are the words of God. When the Spirit guides us, the results are clear. Changed lives, changed actions, changed priorities, changed allegiance, changed status, changed thinking. You can know that God's Spirit is leading you when by the presence of the things described in today's study! A text studied in context—what is God's Spirit calling you to do in this moment?

Facebook Summary

The week after Easter! Will resurrection be mostly out of sight for the next 51 weeks? The Bible answer is “no.” The resurrection story is not for one Sunday each year! Resurrection constantly runs through the life of a disciple. Resurrection is celebrated weekly—regeneration, renewal. Often missed: the continuing power of Easter resurrection in our lives is the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:9-14 says at least the following: indwelt by the Spirit, living according to the Spirit, thinking about the things of the Spirit, controlled by and led by the Spirit, submitting to God through the words of the Spirit, daily overcoming sin.

Who are those led by the Spirit? Look at Paul’s list—freedom from the law of sin and death, living according to the Spirit, thinking about the desires of the Spirit, mentally controlled by the Spirit, submitting to God and his word, indwelt by the Spirit, belonging to Christ, spiritually alive, anticipating the resurrection of our mortal bodies, victorious over sin, sons and daughters of God.

This is not mysterious. This is knowable—are you led by the Spirit of God? The words of the Spirit are the words of Jesus are the words of God. The Spirit-inspired Word guides us; the results are clear. Changed lives, changed actions, changed priorities, changed allegiance, changed status, changed thinking. You know that God’s Spirit is leading you when your life lines up with the Bible description.