

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

Pentecost Sunday. May 31, 2020



Opening question

1. How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work lately?

Going Deeper Questions

Read Romans 8:1-17 together:

1. The power of Romans 8 is only good news when we read it in the context of Romans 7 (specifically vs. 14-17). Can you relate to Paul's reflection on sin here?
 - a. How do people become "slaves to sin"? What are some examples?
 - b. Paul makes some pretty strong statements about sin in vs. 5-8. What do you make of these statements?
2. The dominant emphasis of this passage is that a) we are freed from the consequences of sin through Christ and b) we are no longer controlled by the power of sin because the spirit of God lives in us (vs 9).
 - a. What are the benefits that come with receiving the Holy Spirit?
 - b. What are some ways that we know that God's Spirit lives in us?
 - c. Imagine a Christian friend shares the following with you: *"I've been a Christian since I was a little kid, yet I feel like I'm making very little progress in my faith life. I'm stuck in the same habits of sin that I've had for years. How do I know that the Holy Spirit is at work in me? How would you respond?"*

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3. In vs. 12-13, Paul emphasizes that we have an obligation to put death the misdeeds of the body. How do you fit together the promise that the Spirit will transform us with the ongoing obligation to actively put to death the sinful nature?

4. The context to Romans 8 is that many Christians struggled to believe that they really belong in God's family, and that they have just as much share in God's inheritance as any other Christian. Do think this is a relevant issue today? Can you relate to this struggle?
 - a. What is the fear that Christians have been delivered from in verse 15?

 - b. A key ministry of the Spirit is bringing us into new levels of intimacy with the Father. How have you experienced this in your journey of faith?

 - c. How do we deepen our sense of identity as a God's beloved children?

5. As you reflect on this passage as a whole, how do you sense God speaking to you?

Close in Prayer

BLESS Rhythms Summary: (modified)

BLESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying groceries for someone, banging pots at 7pm to show your thanks, checking in with your neighbour). *Who have you blessed this week?*

LISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

E-mail/Text/Video Call. This is the practice of reaching out to someone that comes to your mind while you are in prayer this week. *Who have you connected with this week?*

SPEAK: This is the practice of speaking our faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

SABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*