

BORN OF THE SPIRIT

Brought forth by God

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Greetings It is a blessing for me to come to you again, bringing you the Good News of Jesus Christ, the gospel of His grace, the powerful influence that He has on people. bringing forth the very life of the Father in us. It is an honor to minister to you today and just to give you this message of His love and His goodness. I'm excited about this message! The gospel has made me alive. It has brought peace to my heart, has brought joy to my heart and has brought life to me and my family. I'm very excited to share the gospel of good news, the grace message, with you again today.

The purpose of this message is to bring the gospel of God's grace to you. What that means is to bring the good news of God's influence on humanity wherein God, by His doing, brings forth His life that He's dreamt for you from before the world began. He brings it forth practically in you by His doing. So, the gospel is the good news of God bringing forth His life in you by His doing. And that is all that this message is about and that is all that this ministry is all about. It's all about His grace, the influence of God on humans, by the human Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, bringing forth life in us.

PRAYER: Father, I want to thank You for Your goodness and Your kindness. I want to thank You for Your love, Your grace, the powerful influence that You have upon humans, the life that You have come to bring us. Thank You that You have come to bring us understanding in Jesus, making the Good News simple, bringing the simplicity of the gospel where we have complicated it so much through our own works and efforts. Thank You for Your life! Spirit of God, thank You that You speak through me. Spirit of Christ thank You for empowered words that can impact people's lives. Amen and amen...

TODAY'S MESSAGE

We are in a series where I am going through Romans verse by verse. We are in Romans chapter 8 at the moment. Last week we spoke about ***Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.***

Today we are going to continue to speak along those lines and we are going to repeat a little bit of what we said last week. I want to get into what we skipped over last week which is Paul's concept of Spirit. What does it mean when Paul talks about the Spirit of God when he wrote in Romans and says that those who are led by the Spirit of God or when he talks about the Spirit of Christ. We are going to look at that and if we have time we are going to get into the relevance of the Resurrection message.

I've been asked many times, "Bertie, you preach on the resurrection and we know that we will be raised one day. That is something that God will do one day but, what is the relevance in the here and now since we have the Holy Spirit and since we have everything that we need? We are already the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. So, what is the relevance of cognitively, every day, being mindful of a physical human at the right hand of God which promises our physical resurrection?" That is something that we put on the sideline for another day. Then just knowing it will happen but we have a life to live here and now by the voice of God in us and so forth.

I am going to see if we can get into answering that question. We will definitely answer it next week. Even if we get into it a little, we will look at it again next week,

Traditionally we have believed that Romans 8:14 talks about how we must hear the voice of God as pertaining to sitting down, closing your eyes, and trying to hear the voice of God. Now, I do believe that when we are the sons of God, and when we are led by the Spirit of God, that there is something like a moment of brilliance wherein we find a brilliant thought on what to do right now in a certain situation when we sat down and prayed and heard the voice of God. I've heard the voice of God like that many times in my life and it has helped me many times. Many times, I went and I prayed about something and the Lord gave me immediate guidance by a feeling that came into my heart or a thought and I heard the voice of God in my inner man and the Lord guided me. So, I am absolutely for that.

I do believe that Jesus also heard the voice of God when He went and asked God His Father for advice in certain things. I believe that is how Jesus lived and that there was a way wherein you hear the voice of God. But what I want to say is this: Romans 8:14 does not talk about that. Romans 8:14 is not saying that those who every day cognitively go and have a quiet time with God and pray and so hear the voice of God so they can know what to do during the day and how to do business deals all the time or how to handle your boss or raise your kids. Where you every day go and say, "Lord, speak to me now." And then you hear the Lord say to you, "Do these five things." Then you obey those five things and so have success. I want to say to you that Romans 8:14 does not talk about that.

When Paul says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God", it does not talk about cognitive sitting down trying to hear the voice of God as what was traditionally believed. Maybe you have never done it this way, but you know I've had a very powerful influence in my life through the Charismatic Pentecostal system where the prophet played a big role where he hears the voice of God. The man of God tells you this, he tells you that and he just kind of knows the future. And from that knowledge of the future, he has better actions right now. So many of us so wish that we could know the future. I mean how many of us if we could know exactly. You just need to know fifteen minutes into the future, fairly accurately, and you will be able to get a lot of money from the stock exchange. Then you will be able to feed the hungry and the poor and all those kinds of things. But, it's almost as if God doesn't work with us that way.

It is not as if God is coming telling you all the time what is going to happen in the next two hours or in the next day. We find that we don't build our lives on hearing the voice of God on what is going on in the next hour or in the next week.

I've spoken to several of my friends and I said to them that this is how I live every day. It is I know that I am under the jurisdiction of God's life shining in the face of the man Jesus Christ. I'm under that rule of life and that rule of life brings in me thoughts and feelings and things which are very natural. It is so natural that you think that it is yourself, and from there, I live. I find that when I look back at my life that I see the life of God. I see the jurisdiction of His life and I measure that by things like love, peace, joy, contentment, in my life where I see the fruit of the Spirit in my life. Glory to God!

I'm just going to push on this a little bit more. I think the Apostle Paul didn't put great relevance in how he lived every day in all the time knowing what is going to happen tomorrow. The prophets came and told him that the owner of this belt is going to be bound up this way in Jerusalem. The Bible says, by the Spirit, told him not to go. Paul still went. Now, I do believe that if Paul was, all the time, actively looking for a prophetic word on what to do tomorrow, he would have yielded to those people saying that he is going to be bound up and all those kinds of things. They, by the Spirit, asked him not to go. But what did Paul do? He went!

Some theologians argue that he was disobedient that he didn't hear God and that is why he went into that great suffering. He didn't really accomplish a lot there. But in the long term, we see what it has accomplished. We see how God spoke to him in the jail and how God was with him and how God helps people. We see that. You know, you can argue and say that maybe he was hearing God and maybe he didn't hear God. But what I want to take out of this is that Paul didn't put the greatest value on, "Are you hearing God's voice today with the five steps on what you need to do today?" That's not how he lived. He lived from the passion that was burning in his heart through the revelation of the resurrection of Jesus and the hope of humanity in that resurrection. He knew that as you believe upon that, it shapes your life today. The shaping of his life, he just felt was, "Let me preach the Gospel! Let me be good to people." That will change and look different in different people's lives. In a mother it would be, "Let me raise my children in the ways of the Lord telling them the Good News."

Yesterday somebody sent me a picture where their child wrote: "I had a dream that Jesus returned. And He came and lived with all of us." Now, isn't that amazing? So, we find a father and a mother, maybe not preaching the Gospel everywhere, but they have a belief in the resurrection of Jesus. They tell their child about these things and God comes and confirms this Word through, through their child, in a dream where they dream Jesus returns and lives with humans on the earth. Isn't that glorious! The point I am making is this: I believe that Paul's main emphasis was not to try to hear the voice of God for the day. Paul's main emphasis was to continue to have his mind on the resurrection and from there, God, by the Spirit of life, brought forth a life in him. This was basically seen as a very natural life. Yet, Paul knew that it wasn't him that lived but Christ who lived in him.

Romans 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

Last week we said that if we say that we are a son of God, it means that we are born of a certain being, which we call, God, our Father. This God is the self-existing one, the one who is without beginning or end, the Creator of all things, this sovereign God. If we say that the sovereign God, who has no beginning, who has no end, who is full of love and compassion, and goodness, and of all that, is our Father, or we are His sons, what we are saying is, "This life, without beginning and end, this Creator, the sovereign One, will therefore bring forth, who and what He is, in us." When we say that we are the sons of God when we are led by the Spirit of God, we are actually saying that God is bringing forth God Himself, in us, by His doing. That is what "led by the Spirit" is.

Let us look at the word, Father. If we call God, our Father, or we call ourselves His sons, then we have to say that God is the Father of our life as well. So many times, we see God as Father just from the mere standpoint of creation. God made us. Therefore, He is our Father. Or, we accepted Him as our Father, therefore we are now His children. That is basically what we think but Paul had a deeper thing in mind. When we look at Thayer's Greek definition, I mean this person who has written a Greek/English dictionary, he found that the scriptures talk about something else. Thayer says that the word, Father, simply means one who infuses His own Spirit into others who actuate and govern their minds. One who infuses His Spirit into others who then actuates, or brings to life, and also governs their minds.

Can you see if you say that God is your Father, it is not you, every day, trying to govern your mind. So many times, in how we traditionally heard the voice of God, it was a cognitive, willpower, guiding of our own minds into trying to think whatsoever is good all the time. Now I do believe the Scripture says that whatsoever is good and noble, of good report, meditate on these things. There is a place where we go and meditate on whatsoever is good and Paul having in mind the death and the resurrection of Jesus. As we meditate upon these things, we find that the Spirit of God is infused into us and we then find that He even guides our cognitive thoughts wherein our thoughts are guided by Him. It's almost as if Jesus will save us one day but we must save our own thoughts from that thought and not making God the Father of our thoughts where He can bring forth good thoughts in us by us simply thinking and meditating on the resurrection of Jesus.

Let's get back to the point here. God is our Father. He is the one who infuses His own Spirit into us and He actuates and governs our minds and our thoughts. If we say that we have God as our Father, according to Thayer's definition, we have to say that God is the one who infused us with His Spirit and that we are being animated by the very life of God in Himself, Him governing our thoughts, our emotions and our feelings, Him bringing forth life in us.

Before we get to Spirit, let us just go to page 3 in our notes, where I am going to talk about being led by the Spirit, and just recap on that. When we are led by the Spirit, that word, leading of the Spirit, again, I don't believe it is, "Lord, where are You leading me today? Although I do believe that we can pray about something.

Just yesterday, I prayed about something and I said, "Lord, I don't know what decision to take here. I have a general inclination knowing Your Spirit and the life and the passion inside You is bringing me to do a certain thing but I don't know exactly what direction to go here. Thank You that I can just say that even in this area I am under Your rulership where You will bring it forth in me." I went to bed and the next day I woke up and I just knew what to do and I did it. So I do believe there is that praying so please don't say that I say that we cannot be led by the Spirit in a prayer and cognitively God just brings it forth to you.

But led, according to Paul, when he says, "Those who are led by the Spirit", talks about those who are being brought forth by the Spirit or actually born by the Spirit. And we find that use of the word, led, means the following: to lead by implication; to bring or to drive or to induce. So, can you remember the word where we say that God is our Father? He comes and He actuates our thoughts. He brings forth His thoughts in us. It is one who infuses or induces His thoughts and actions into us. So, when we are led by the Spirit, the Greek word for that word, led, when you are led by the Spirit was to be induced or to be brought forth. That word is used many times in the New Testament. I'm going to read some examples of it.

Matthew 10:18 *And you shall be brought (led) before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.* That word, brought, means led. It doesn't have a lot to do with being led in this sense of a free will leading. It has a lot to do with the power of the government or of the army that will take you and then present you before governors, or kings or whatever.

Mark 11:7 *And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him.*

The colt was brought. Jesus said, "Go and take that colt and bring that colt to Me." Jesus was seated and then the colt was then brought before Him."

Acts 5:

25 *Then came one and told them (They were brought and they told Him these things.), saying, Behold, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.*

26 *Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence.* They took them. The Bible says that those who are led by the Spirit are those who are brought forth by the Spirit or born of the Spirit. They are the sons of God.

How are we born from the Spirit? What is the Spirit that Paul talks about? Now we are getting into the crux of the message today.

2 Corinthians 3:

17 *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

18 *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

We find here that Paul says in Romans 8 that we shouldn't give ourselves to the flesh but to the Spirit for those who are led, or brought forth by the Spirit, they are the sons of God. Those whose holy life is brought forth from the law, they are sons of Moses, or sons of the flesh or children of the law. But those who are brought forth, whose lives are brought forth by the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, they are called the sons of God. If we live by the law and have a holy life, we cannot say that this birth originates from God. If you live a holy life by the law, the holy life you live, you are the father of your life and not God. But Paul says that those who are led by the Spirit, and we are going to get to what that means, those who are brought forth by the Spirit, they can have the right to say, "My life is not brought forth by myself but by God.

For preachers, I want to say it this way: When it comes to our ministries and it comes to money, the size of our ministry, and all those kinds of things, there are many things we can do to get money. There are many things that we can do to grow our ministries, very effective things. We can just go to the people in the world, advertising companies and all of that. They will help you very well in how to grow your church. You don't have to know God to grow a church. There are certain things that you can do. You can know how to conduct your services. You can know how to do the music. You can look at the group of people that you are targeting, what they like. You can provide that there. You can give a meal afterwards and free coffee and nice fellowship. And it doesn't matter what you preach. You'll find the thing will grow and it will be growing. But then you will have to say that the advertising company is the father of your church. You cannot say that God is the Father of that church.

I'm not saying that you cannot have a nice cup of coffee and fellowship. That's not what I am saying. Should that be born from a compassion, a love, inside your heart and a revelation of the Good News wherein God then infuses those thoughts into you and it is born from the revelation of the resurrection of Jesus, when you've got an expectation of co-resurrection bodily with Him, if it is born from there, then you can say it's born from God.

But, as a church, we need to be careful that we are not so driven by big and being successful that we start to use the world's system to bring forth these things. Like money.... If you look at the income and start to teach about tithing and the sowing and reaping principles of being blessed and those kinds of things, through the lust for more, or the fear of not having, you are infusing fear into people or you are stimulating their desire for more. From there the church benefits and then, when you look back and you have been very successful financially, you can say this, "Yes, we've had a lot of money. Yes, we've even given to the poor. But, our giving to the poor doesn't have its root in God that has birthed generosity in people, who, free from obligation, free from being stimulated to have a lust for more, free from a desire or a fear of not having, or those kinds of things, you will not be able to say that free from those things, "God gave birth!" No, you will not be able to say that. You have to say, "Well, my system brought this forth and although we've even given to the poor, the giving to the poor was also now born of, "Well, if you give to the poor, then God is going to bless us." You cannot say that anything you've done was born of God. It was born of man.

Man, by his own will power, can do many good things. Do you think that many atheists don't do good in this world? There are many of them that do good and they even verbally, boldly, reject God, like Richard Dawkins. He's being led by his hatred for Christianity and religion. This my opinion, my judgment, and then from there, he's going to do very good things to other people because, I do believe that humans also have some good in them. And I think in this case, in many atheists' case, they will do good also to say that Christians can't come and tell them, "You see, we do good because of God!" They can say, "Well, we also do good." I've listened to many of his debates online and I think I have a little bit of knowledge about that, but the point that I am trying to make is, preachers, our ministries cannot be born from anything else then God!

If I look back at Dynamic Love Ministries and I look at what has happened in this ministry, I can say, and it's not because I am anything, but this I can say with a pure conscience, and I want to say as what Paul says, "You are witnesses of that." You that know this ministry was not born out of manipulation. It was not born out of control. It was not born out of the willpower of a man that must drive something. It was born of God. And the beauty of it is that if God brought it to where it is and it was born from a revelation of grace, the resurrection, and just a love that God pours out into my wife and my heart, as well as other people around us, who will maintain it? The very One who infuses and governs our thoughts and our lives by the power of His resurrection.

So, for preachers, this can really help you. And you will know in your heart what it going on and how you drive your things. Go to God. Speak to God. You will see how God loves you out of things that can destroy your life.

Paul says in **2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit:** So, if you are born of the Spirit, led of the Spirit, having God our Father, how does that take place? The Lord Jesus is that Spirit! What does that mean?

"...and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." What Paul thinks in his mind when he says this, I believe is he says that the force of life that comes forth by the fact that the man Jesus has conquered physical death...that is the Spirit. So, the fact that Jesus, as a man, is Lord over sin and death, the life that He has received is the Spirit or the force that gives us life.

And now he is talking about how that birth takes place... how we are the sons of God by the spiritual birth.

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 4

:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Now, what is Paul saying? These are very complicated words but this is what he is saying: He says, "When we are beholding the glory of God, we are beholding the glory of God meaning the immortal God. We are beholding His glory in the face of a man, in the face of Jesus Christ. As we behold and we see a human has been raised from the dead, a human shines with a glory of the self-existing one, the one who has no beginning or end. The fact that God could bring forth a human into that point and He is now Lord over the earth and over me, as I am beholding that truth, the Spirit of that truth, the power of that truth, the fact that Jesus is bodily raised, then changes me. So, the Lord Jesus is that Spirit. The Spirit whereby I am born of God is the fact that Jesus is physically resurrected at the right hand of God.

Now let's make it very practical for everyday life. You might say, "Bertie, how does that work for me in everyday life?" When we see Jesus raised from the dead, bodily, it has a spiritual effect on us. It affects us spiritually. It affects the source from where we live. If Jesus died and was still in the grave and we had to look at the law, we would see the law and commandments and it would have an effect on us.

The other day there was a video on YouTube about somebody who abused a child until the child died. You know, that affects me. When I look at that, when I see that here is somebody that has taken cigarettes and burned a child, beaten a child, put a child in a cupboard until the child dies, it is something physical that has happened. But that physical thing that happened and the truth of it, affects me. It actuates my thoughts. It has an effect on me right now. It governs my life, to a certain extent, right now. How much more if we can realize that the man Jesus was bodily raised from the dead and when we can (and this is how the change takes place, how we are born of Him), if we with open face, behold the Spirit of the Lord as the fact that the glory of the immortal God is shining in the face of Jesus. If we are seeing that, the effect that that would have on us, is changing us into the very same image. Can you see that?

So, when Paul comes in Romans and he says that those who are led by the Spirit, it means that those who are brought forth, by the revelation, that Jesus Christ was bodily raised from the dead and they are looking at the concept of the physical man Jesus is immortal and He is Lord. Those who believe that, the effect that that has on your life is that it brings forth the same kind of a life in you by the revelation of the bodily resurrection and the belief that I will be bodily raised in the same way! Glory to God! This is how this thing works! This is what Paul says.

He says it so beautifully: "But we all with open face as in the mirror are beholding this. We have this treasure in an earthen vessel."

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels....

What is the treasure? We have the knowledge that a man was bodily raised and that bodily resurrection includes us. And now, although we are not seeing bodily resurrection right now, we have the treasure of the knowledge that this truth is true about us and we are formed and shaped by it every day and even when ***we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed!***

I am going to leave it there and that will be a good springboard for explaining the relevance of the resurrection and knowing our bodily resurrection in everyday life. We will preach about this next week.

Let me summarize: When Paul writes, **Romans 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

“As many as are led by the Spirit of God”, simply means that those who are brought forth by the Spirit, who is the Lord, who is the physical man, and the effect that the bodily resurrection has on your life, they are the sons of God. Those who are led by the Spirit, or brought forth by the power of the Resurrection, as we behold it, they are now owing their birth to God. To as many as are brought forth by the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of God, the revelation of the bodily resurrection and your hope that it is true about you where you don't have to live by the law. Those who have a holy life, born from that revelation, they can say, “God is the Father of my life!” How we hear the voice of God is, we behold the Resurrected Jesus and then we see His Word create a new life in us. That's how it works. Amen and amen...

Thank you for allowing me to serve you again today as we are talking about the effect of the Resurrection on our lives.

Father, I want to thank You so much that we can gather around the truth of the Resurrection and that we can know that You bring forth life in us and it is not our own works. Amen