

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Praise & Worship
April 7, 2019
Setting Your Mind on the Indwelling Spirit - Romans 8:5-11
Tom Singer

Romans 8 Series – Move in the Power of the Spirit!

The purpose of this series on Romans 8 is to help us enter more fully in the life of the Spirit (grace) with a renewed mind, into our sonship or daughtership with renewed hope, and into revelation of the glory of God even in our suffering because God is so good so wise and mighty!

The goal of this talk is to understand what it means to set our mind and decide to live by the indwelling Spirit!

1. God gave us the Holy Spirit so that we could live a victorious life!
2. We decide to set our minds on the Spirit, not the flesh.
3. We live out of the indwelling Spirit which we have from our Baptism.

1. God gave us the new law of the Holy Spirit so that we could live a victorious life!

The good news is that God gave us the Holy Spirit so that we could live a victorious life!! Christ Jesus, out of true love for the Father and for us came as a man and rescued us from the power of sin and put that sin to death for us. The power of the Holy Spirit that raised him from the dead is now available to us because we are now members of his body, adopted as sons and daughters. God is always doing something new! He is always creating life. He is always loving his people! Now there is a new sheriff, a new lawman in town! It is not the old way of doing things – like condemnation, getting down on my faults or my shortcomings. Tonight we are going to talk about entering in more fully to this new law of the Spirit by setting our minds on the Spirit!

“I will put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts.” Jeremiah 31:33

“A new heart I will give you and a new spirit I will put within you... and I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk to walk in my statutes.” Ezekiel 36:26-27

“If anyone thirst let him come to me and drink; he who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow streams of living water’. Now this is said about the Spirit... John 7:37-39

- **Fr Cantalamessa:** The Spirit himself is being defined as being the law; the law of the Spirit” means in fact, “the law, which is the Spirit” (*Life in Christ: A Spiritual Commentary on the Letter to the Romans, p.117*)

The law means something. When the speed limits were increased to 65mph on highways it changed the way of life in America. For me it meant that I could travel faster particularly when I went to Ohio. Spiritual laws are a little different; they are not always easy to perceive and obey. The law of the Spirit calls me to forgive, empowers me to forgive and to love my brother.

- **Fr Cantalamessa:** This new law is the love he has poured into our hearts through Baptism, through the Holy Spirit, (Rom 5:5)... in short it allows us to walk according to the Spirit in obedience to the Gospel. (*Life in Christ, p. 118*)

The law of the Spirit is going to give us the desire to love God and keep his commandments. (ref. John 14:23)

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Praise & Worship
April 7, 2019
Setting Your Mind on the Indwelling Spirit - Romans 8:5-11
Tom Singer

2. What does it mean to set our minds on the Spirit?

5 *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 set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*

When we set our minds on the Spirit, then we walk or live according to the Spirit. Scott Hahn says the best way to understand the difference between the flesh and the spirit is to view it in the classical “two ways’ of Jewish thought as seen in Psalm 1: the blessed righteous man who follows the law versus the wicked man who does not.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches in paragraph 1704: “The human person participates in the light and power of the divine Spirit. By his reason, he is capable of understanding the order of things established by the Creator. By free will, he is capable of directing himself toward his true good.”

Romans 12:2 says: *Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewal of your mind!* When we set on our mind on the things of the Spirit, we allow God to transform us! How can I cooperate with God to set my mind on the Spirit?

To set our minds means to set my intention for the day or the life I want to live. So in the morning when I awake up I set my mind on the Lord and the Spirit by consecrating or dedicating my day to the Lord. There are many ways and prayers to do that and I use a prayer of consecration. Then throughout the day I can return to the Lord to see if my mind is set on the Lord or if I getting lost in my own unspiritual habits. If I am going to set my mind on the things of the Spirit at the beginning of the day, and check in with the Spirit throughout the day, then I must review how I have done at the end of the day to see my results. At the end of the day the church has always encouraged me to examination of conscience to review my day. This has always been a struggle for me. I don’t want to review my day because I know that I have failed, but my motivation is to see the goodness of the Lord in my life as well as my weakness. This is the wisdom of the Examen prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

It is also good to review our lives on a weekly or monthly basis as well. For Catholics, this can be done in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It can also be done with a spouse, a good friend or a spiritual adviser. The challenge for us is to be able to examine our lives regularly and see how my life in the Spirit, my vocation as a Christian is progressing! I was reading a book called *The Normal Christian Life* by Watchman Nee. In Chapter 8 of that book he tells a story of a man who was stuck and not able to move forward in the Holy Spirit. This particular fellow fell in love with a woman and the Lord told him not to marry her but he was not able initially to submit. Finally he acknowledged the Lordship of Jesus over this area of his life and he was set free for ministry. Recently I was personally struggling to yield to the Lord in an area of my family life. It was only when I was able to say yes to the Lord that I was free to love my family.

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Praise & Worship
April 7, 2019
Setting Your Mind on the Indwelling Spirit - Romans 8:5-11
Tom Singer

6 *To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life & peace.*

Galatians 5:16 says to 'walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. Do you see the two ways? In Gal. 5:19 Paul enumerates what the desires of the flesh are: immorality, idolatry, sorcery, selfishness, envy, anger, jealousy, drunkenness... In Gal. 5:22 Paul lists the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

3. We live out of the indwelling Spirit which we have from our Baptism!

9 *But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

Fr. Cantalamessa: Christ's Spirit, when it is poured into a believer through the sacraments, the Word, and all other means to our disposal, in the measure in which it is welcomed and listened to, (*i.e. ongoing conversion*) is finally able to change the interior state that the law was unable to change. (*Life in Christ, p. 118*)

This is a real encouragement for us. Because of our Baptism into the new life of Jesus, we are now in the Spirit! The old life and power of sin is now rendered powerless as was mentioned in Romans 6 that we died to the power of sin in our Baptism. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says in paragraph 1274 and 1280: "Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign, the character, which consecrates the baptized person for Christian worship. The Holy Spirit has marked us with the seal of the Lord for the day of redemption." This is the basis of my daily consecration to the Lord. So when I was baptized I was set aside for God to live in the new law of the Spirit, not the old law of the flesh.

Living in the Body of Christ, living in Christian community is a challenge for all of us. We have many personalities, peculiarities, unique styles etc. Sometimes I struggle with all of our different personalities and I believe the Lord showed me that each member is essential for the body of Christ. I can't love the way my brother can or I don't have the compassion that my sister has. This Lent has been a lesson in fully appreciating the Body of Christ for who it is rather than what I think it ought to be.

10 *But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness.*

Because Christ is in you we have this tremendous power (grace) inside of us. Much of the time we are not aware that we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us!! *For it is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. II Cor 4: 6-7*

We are called to live from the inside (indwelling Spirit) out. What does this mean? There are two aspects of this. One means when indwelling Spirit is present we are called to proclaim the Gospel. In Acts 3, the man lame from birth approached Peter and John he asked for alms. Peter and John responded to the man with "We have neither silver nor gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise and

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Praise & Worship
April 7, 2019
Setting Your Mind on the Indwelling Spirit - Romans 8:5-11
Tom Singer

walk.” I would bet that before Pentecost, Peter and John would not have responded that way. They were now very conscious of the indwelling Spirit within them. They did insult or ignore him. Something new was in their heart. I ask myself tonight, is something new in my heart tonight because of the Holy Spirit?

This also can mean that during the day many circumstances, events, people and situations are going to happen to me and my most likely response will be to retaliate with my words, emotions or actions. When I say something to someone who aggravated me, or get upset emotionally by an event, or see something that makes me want to hit someone literally or figuratively – that is living from the outside in. Something happened to me that I didn’t like and I responded naturally (in the flesh). To live from indwelling of the Spirit out means that something happened to me but my reaction is to check with my spirit (enlivened by the Holy Spirit) and respond in Christ.

11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Let’s look at this verse very closely. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in me, this is a life changer! This is the same Spirit that hovered over the waters at the beginning of creation. This same Spirit of God that came upon the apostles at Pentecost! And this same Spirit wants to transform us. Even though we are only baptized once, the Apostles experienced several releases of the Holy Spirit in several different chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. In your prayer expect to hear from the Lord!

Often the place where I experience the Lord transforming me is when I am in his presence in the Holy Eucharist in a chapel dedicated to that. It is what a former beloved member of the community – Mary Lou Hainsworth called radiation therapy. God looks at me and I look at him and I am transformed by just being in his presence. Yes I have to work on the relationships in my life, but there are times when God just wants me in his presence quietly to let him transform me by his presence.

Closing

1. God gave us the new law of the Holy Spirit so that we could live a victorious life!
2. We decide to set our minds on the Spirit, not the flesh.
3. We live out of the indwelling Spirit which we have from our Baptism.

“Christian, recognize your dignity and now that you share in God’s own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God.”
St. Leo the Great

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body! *1 Cor 6:19-20*

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Praise & Worship
April 7, 2019
Setting Your Mind on the Indwelling Spirit - Romans 8:5-11
Tom Singer

Scriptures:

Colossians 3:2 *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are of earth.*

Colossians 3:12ff *Put on as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, meekness....*

Galatians 5:16-17 *But I say walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh.*

Ephesians 5:22-23 *Put off the old man that belongs to your former way of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new man, created after the likeness of God....*

II Peter 1:4 *He has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature.*

Questions

1. How are you experiencing the new law of the Spirit in your life? What victories are there?
2. How can you resolve today to set your mind on the things of the Spirit? How can you increase your awareness of what God is doing in your life?
3. Do you know as a baptized into Christ that you are a treasure in the Church? Are you receiving from the Lord and giving to the Lord and others?