

WOW! THE SPIRIT OF GOD LIVES IN US?



PSALM 65:1- 10 // ROMANS 8:1-11

MONDAY 7/17/23

PSALM 65:1- 10///1Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed. 2 O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

ROMANS 8 1-11///1Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

REFLECTION The word condemnation has a very harsh tone to it. It means villification, damnation, or disapproval. Everyone I know has a fear of being exposed and condemned for being foolish. Our fear lives in our minds and hearts. It seems to me we are born knowing right from wrong, good from bad. These instinctive laws of life must come from somewhere. I believe they come from one God who is our Creator. This God rules supremely over all of life. I, therefore have accept this God who is righteous and rules over all of life, my life. These truths caused me to take a hard look at myself. I accept God was right to tell me I'm a sinner. Being a sinner has caused me a lot of discomfort and emotional pain. So. I ask you this question. Should I feel discomfort for lying and or stealing being a bully mocking people and using their kindness for my advantage. Should I feel guilty or should I shrug it off. Should I not care about hurting others? God's Word tells me I should be uncomfortable and shamed. I am to love God and from His love, love others. When humanity lost God's Spirit at the Fall (Gen 3) we lost our ability to love God, ourselves and others. As a result we became instantly guilty, angry, defensive and shamed. Adam hid from God and we still hid from His purity. Even though God never stops reaching out to love us. As a sinner it seems to me I desperately miss being loved by God. I find I am in a contest between what I know is right and my own flesh betraying me. Truth is we are all constantly being attacked by caustic sin within our own hearts. We lash out at others, just like Adam does with Eve. We are cursed because we now, either receive destructive words or we give them out. All ending in the punishment of death. Maybe you have noticed death effects all our relationships with one another. Then, one day I hear this message: "the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." I stop and wonder could this be really true! And that is the point of being a Christian. We discover the mercy of God pardons us and forgives of all our sins past, present, and future. So, if you every get sick and tired of being condemned, ask God for help. He loves to regenerate our hearts minds and souls to accept a new life in Christ. Christ unleashes the power of the Holy Spirit which set us free from the curse of death. So, find a Christian and ask them to tell you their story of life with God. They the ones who dared to be loved by God.

PRAYER Praise you O 'God, of the heavenly city, for you continue to offer us your love and the miracle of new life in Christ. Praise your Holy Name. In Jesus Name Amen.

TUESDAY 7/18/23

PSALM 65:1- 10///3 When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions. 4 Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

ROMANS 8 1-11///3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

REFLECTION People, in general are a little confused about the purpose of God's law. First, and foremost, this ancient law has governed humankind from the beginning of time. The purpose of God's law is to show what pleases God. When the Fall (Gen3) happened we were condemned by turning our backs on our Creator's command. The disorder that comes from breaking the law of God has caused us to experience the bondage of sin. (Gen 4) We will always be exposed to the authority of the law. There is hope, and a resolution to the curse of the law. It is the wonderment and beauty of the Spirit of Christ. God's grace comes from heaven to restore our lives. Christ abolishes the law of sin in us. The Spirit guides us to seek God's love more and more each day. . When Christ's pardons us, we are buried with Him in death, but also are raised up to new life. This new "regenerated life" sets us free from sins bondage. By His gratuitous mercy, we are justified in Christ alone and granted eternal life.

PRAYER Blessed are you my God who choose to bring me near you, so I may dwell in your house forever! I will be satisfied with the goodness of your house, and the holiness of your temple for every and ever. Praise you my Savior Jesus for all His goodness. In Jesus Name Amen.

WEDNESDAY 7/19/23

PSALM 65:1- 10///5 By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

ROMANS 8 1-11///5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

REFLECTION I don't know about you but I get bogged down in my mind by the deceit and betrayal of people. I do my best to live above this, but I need help. That help comes from God's Spirit. Yet, I am still tempted to make harmful comments. My flesh still rises up. I blame my anxiety and stress as the reason. The truth is God is just showing me who I really am. But at the same time God is showing me His grace. My flesh is at odds with my spirit. Thanks be to God, for in Christ, I have a power to fight against my flesh. All Christians I know seek to be compassionate and forgiving. Yet we still not exempt from sinning which causes brokenness. None of us are adorned with so much angelic purity we are completely freed from the flesh. Each day we need to be reminded of His goodness. Eventually our lusts are curbed by submitting to the Spirit. Next time you want to belittle or be hurtful, stop for a second and remember whose you are. We should be aspiring after "celestial righteousness". Let us be on guard and devote ourselves to Christ centered relationships. Let us keep our "garden beautiful" with grace. Whenever the Spirit of love reigns in us, we will find clear evidence of God's love in the world.



PRAYER Heavenly Father you're grace is awesome and when I plea my case you answer me with your righteousness. O God, thank you for saving me from the tyranny of my sin. By your hand you give me eternal hope. In Jesus Name Amen.

THURSDAY 7/20/23

PSALM 65:1- 10/// 6 The one (God) who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might. 7 who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

ROMANS 8 1-11///6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

REFLECTION From our birth we act out our sinful nature. As we move into early childhood developmental we become more aware of turmoil in our lives. We love being loved by our mothers who protect us and shelter us, but eventually we are sent off to school to be with total strangers who end up threaten us. This self actualization brings us to a new place in our lives. Our lives shift by focusing on our relationships outside our family system. Are we liked and accepted by others? We naturally have lots of self doubts. Am I too fat, or too skinny, am I handsome, beautiful, etc. We start to do things that suppose to be cool and become more defiant. Things, like lying or cheating on a test. We become aware of something new going on in us. We are naturally experiencing a war between right and wrong, heart against mind. These two opposing characters can cause depression and confusion and often sadness. St Paul even says he troubled by his behavior. : "I do what I do not want to do". Our family system plays a huge part in our initial development. I grew up in a Christian home which has a certain set of principles. But like every family, we learn to deal with the invasion of sin into our family relationships. It reeks havoc. The family system is sort of the "petri dish" where we cultivate a culture of God's grace and forgiveness. None of us come from a perfect family. We all come from dysfunctional families. The "perfect life" of Adam and Eve was filled with God's Spirit and they had beauty of the flesh and the Spirit of God's love. Unfortunately it was snatched out from them and replaced with the curse of sin and death. Our hope now is to be "perfect" once again. That happens when we join the family of God. That happens when we are renewed in Christ. When that happens we find peace with God. "Peace" in the Hebrew language means every kind of happiness. Now we live in the family of Christ and have peace of mind and filled with joy.

PRAYER O' God of purity, strength and righteous you have established the mountains, and instilled the roaring of the seas. Who can ever comprehend your power and glory. Thanks be to your loving Son, my Savior Jesus Christ, who has revealed this to me . In Jesus Name Amen.

FRIDAY 7/21/23

PSALM 65:1- 10///8 So that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

ROMANS 8 1-11/// 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

REFLECTION The sooner we accept our lives are governed by our lusts, the sooner we are able to be set free. Our willingness to submit our lives over to God's authority is a difficult first steps. The reason I was slow to this action I was ashamed of my sins. As I was forced to be humbled before God I learned I was loved by Christ and not condemned. This love is the renewing of our souls by God's Spirit. At the core of this self-awareness is the idea of letting go of our own egos and begin to have peace with our Creator. We do not have the right tools in our tool box to find peace. By admitting we are one of the broken sinners we are almost immediately exposed to God's love. When we are honest about ourselves before God we are asking for forgiveness. Forgiveness is a powerful act. Forgiveness is one of the first "fruits of life" which Christ anoints us. Christ has come to take away the curse of the law and give us peace with God. As a Christian each day we are exposed to Jesus encouraging us to strive after newness of life. Have you heard this Bible verse: John 4:13-14 "Jesus said: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Let us not profess the name of Christ in vain. Professing Christ is the surest mark of identify as a true children of God. We are distinguished from the children of darkness, by the light of God's Spirit renewing us. This inward power of the Spirit not only gives new life to the law, but also our minds begin to understand the "celestial gifts" of God. These gifts are the tools that help purge our lusts. We are "the Sacred living among the Secular"

PRAYER Heavenly Father, Father of my Lord and Savior, blessed are you who give "celestial gifts" to set me free. Fill me with your Spirit of truth and wisdom so I may shout for joy morning, noon and night. In Jesus Name Amen.

SATURDAY 7/22/23

PSALM 65:1- 10///9 You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. 10 You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

ROMANS 8 1-11/// 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

REFLECTION When I was "running with wild horses" I did not think much about God. Nor did I see the affect of sin on my life. It was not until I had a transcendent event that I was convinced I needed God's love. Transcendent (spiritual events) moments in are like a door being flung opened in which we experience a new reality about God. In the Bible, in every transcendent event people fall down and submit to the reality of God. This action of submission is the first act toward accepting God's plan of redemption. Moses at the burning bush, Abraham meeting God, St Paul being blinded and hearing the voice of Jesus, Peter, James and John on the mountain seeing Jesus being tranfigured. When these events happen we have a new truth of seeking to know God. A good example of a transcendent moment is found in John 9. Jesus heals a blind man who was born blind from birth. The Jewish authorities throw this man out of the Temple. Jesus finds thim and say's to him. John 9 35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you. 38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him." The miracle of healing drives him to ask the question who is Jesus. It was the healing of the blindness that demonstrate Jesus's power. This transcendent moment also opened his eyes and his heart to accept Jesus as his Savior.. We too are invited to know the Son of Man. Each Sunday we have the freedom to gather to worship Him and sing praises to His glorious name.

PRAYER Lord Jesus, you are the Son of Man who came down in the flesh to visit us on earth. I praise your name for you have blessed me and enriched me by givng me new life. Your Spirit flows upon the earth everywhere. Your love is abundant and by it you soften the world. In Jesus Name Amen.

