

# "Being aware Holy Spirit"

## Romans 8:1-11

**8** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

As you read these verses carefully, I assume you notice these verses mentions the words "Flesh" nine times in here Roman chapter 8 which was written by Paul.

The Japanese Bible and the English Bible is talking about "flesh" right here, and according to the Greek, which is NT original words, the flesh is SALKUS (Σαρξ) in Greek, and when SALKUS is used in the NT, that also means our

weakness, powerless and unreliable. These things are our nature of resistless to our trials and temptations. Yes, the SALKUS is the meaning of our sinful nature.

And as we had seen last Sunday, Paul describe the flesh mankind as he revealed his mind plainly in previous chapter, Romans 7, and in that chapter, he mentioned first personal pronoun "I" 31 times, and the chapter expressed his inner struggling by saying; "For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"

But turn our eyes to whole **chapter 8, Paul mentioned about "Spirit" twenty one times**, so chapter 7 and chapter 8 is pretty contrasted by "Flesh" and "Spirit".

Indeed Romans 7 write about Paul's cry "For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?", and chapter 8 begin with "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus", and the last was concluded with "neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

Namely Paul teaches us how can we defy our greed, and Paul said that is done **only by the works of Holy Spirit.**

When we think about spirit in our mind, we remember ghost or spook but in the Bible, Spirit is most likely about Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the Spirit of God. Of course, we cannot see the Spirit, but surely the Bible said the Holy Spirit is always with us. Therefore, I would like to share about the introduction of the works of Holy Spirit today. The reason why I said "Introduction" is because the works of Holy Spirit is so many, so I am going to also preach about the Holy Spirit next week.

Some people consider Jesus as one of the greatest religious leader, but when we compare Jesus and other religious or philosophical leader by their "promise" to their disciples, we find very interesting thing. For example, the founder of Buddhism, Buddha said to his disciple "to be light of your own"

on his last days. When Socrates drunk poison, his disciple cried "we will be orphans". These religious and philosophical leader could not make promise like "I will not leave you alone" to their disciples when they have to leave them.

But interestingly, Jesus never let his disciple alone even though he had to leave. Jesus said in John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Moreover, Jesus made promise at his last moment with his desciples in Acts 1:8; "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Namely Jesus' promise "I will not leave you as orphans" will be accomplished by "Holy Spirit".

Furthermore, the evangelist, Billy Graham once said All of us has spiritual thirst. One of the thirst is the thirst to pursuit goodness. We are seeking that goodness no matter we are conscious or unconscious.

God already responded the thirst which was to pursuit goodness. God does not want us to live with disappointment or failure after we came to Jesus with our faith.

And to make that possible, God gave us Holy Spirit. Namely the Holy Spirit is our source of power to release from our miserable weakness and failure like Paul mentioned Romans 7.

If we live in our world and live our life with victory, we need the work of Holy Spirit which take place within us.

If we believe in Jesus Christ and rely on the promised power of Holy Spirit, we will gain the strength to change our marriage, family and work relationship, child-rearing and any incident which happen in our life.

But unfortunately, for most of the time, we ignore, misunderstand and misuse the power of Holy Spirit. We have to regain the power of Holy Spirit.

Our life will be different by knowing or not knowing about the works of Holy Spirit. Without knowing the works of Holy Spirit is just like we do not know there is an engine in the car and because of that we just remain in the unmoving car. We will miss many possibility because we just do not know that.

Therefore, let us know the works of Holi Spirit and pray the Spirt will involve in our daily life. Our life will be changed when Holy Spirit is taking the initiative of life.

Today I talked about the introduction of the works of Holy Spirit. This is one of the most important message in the Bible, and I cannot explain that works by just one message, so I will continue next Sunday. Let us pray.

Heavenly father, we thank your promise which is Holy Spirit. We thank too Holy Spirit who always teach us, encourage us and guide us. May we rely our life on Him? We pray these things in precious Jesus name, amen.

Translated by Makoto Okura