

The Indwelling Holy Spirit
Romans 8:8-12

The Indwelling Holy Spirit

Last week we studied Romans 8:1-8 and walking by the Spirit. That is a synonym of walking by faith and being filled with the Holy Spirit. It is something the Christian does – faith dependence on the Holy Spirit. It can be interrupted by choosing to sin, whether consciously or unconsciously.

When looking at Romans 8:8-12 there seemed to be a brick wall in front of me. Some prayer and examination of the Greek helped greatly. The English translation, for me at least, obscured the continuity of thought. The solution has to do with conjunctions...again. So let us first review the conjunction “γάρ” from Romans 8:1-8.

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1 Therefore there is now no punishment for those who are in Christ Jesus who do not walk after the flesh but after the Spirit (Revised)

[Why?]

2 **For** the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

[Why?]

3 **For** what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He punished sin in the flesh, (Revised)

[Why?]

4 so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

[Why?]

5 **For** those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

[Why?]

6 **For** the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

[Why?]

7 **because** the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God,

for it is not even able *to do so*,

8 and **in fact** those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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The conjunction acts like a traffic cop funneling our attention to answers to the implied question, “why?” It helps trace Paul’s argument.

In Romans 8:8-11+ a different conjunction is used, “δέ .” Biblehub.com has a useful explanation:

“Strong’s Greek 1161, δέ, appears approximately 2,810 times in the Greek New Testament. Though often rendered “but,” “and,” or “now,” its real force is to mark a transition—sometimes contrasting, sometimes sequential, always purposeful. Understanding its use helps modern readers trace the flow of biblical argument, narrative, and exhortation, revealing the inspired authors’ careful movement from one thought to the next.¹” (my emphasis)

Let me present the English translation, changed slightly, to highlight where “δέ” is used. Let us start with verse 8 which is connected to verses 1-7. I have used the English words “in fact” to translate this word. This is perhaps not the best word, but it serves the purpose here to highlight the use of “δέ .” It gets our attention.

Romans 8:8 **in fact** those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:9 **In fact**, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit,
if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.

In fact if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Romans 8:10 **If in fact** Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, **in fact** the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Romans 8:11 **In fact if** the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1 <https://biblehub.com/greek/1161.htm>

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I am only presenting through verse 11. The use of “δέ” goes beyond this. We will extend our discussion perhaps next week to include additional verses. But these are so packed with information it will be enough for this week.

Here there is the same type of repetition of a conjunction as in verses 1-7. But a different conjunction is used leading us to understand that the subject has changed slightly. Instead of the believer walking by the Spirit, here we now have the Holy Spirit “residing” in us.

This leads us to understand we have shifted from just walking by the Spirit to now include the fact that the Holy Spirit indwells us. There are two ministries of God the Holy Spirit presented here.

Let us start with verse 8. It is the conclusion of sorts from the first seven verses. But verse 9 is linked to it also. So it is a conclusion and also a transition.

Romans 8:8 in fact those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Here is the first “δέ.” Although it is the first “δέ” it is also a conclusion based upon verses 1-7. Something is about to change.

Please God. Pleasing is meeting a standard. To please God we have to fulfill the righteous requirement of the Law. From verse 4, we do this by walking according to the Spirit. So here is the point that Paul is hammering home in Romans 6-8. Walk by the flesh (Paul’s vocabulary for the sin nature) and it produces sin and death (operational death) in the believer. Walk by the Spirit (faith dependence on the Holy Spirit) and you receive (abundant) life and peace (lack of hostility between the believer and God) including the fulfillment of the righteous requirement of the Law of Christ. This is from last week’s lesson.

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Moving forward to the next verse.

Romans 8:9 (NASB 1995) However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

I include the Wuest translation so you see something that is closer to the Greek than the NASB 1995.

Romans 8:9 (Wuest) But, as for you, you are not in the sphere of the sinful nature, but in the sphere of the Spirit, provided that the Spirit of God is in residence in you. But, assuming that a person does not have Christ's Spirit, this one does not belong to Him.

The Greek is instrumental in emphasizing key words.

You. This is the first word in the Greek sentence. It is not needed since the “you” is included in the parsed verb “you are.” It is not needed yet included. This indicates it is emphasized. It is also the first word in the sentence which also emphasizes the word. It is like Paul grabbing us by the collar and saying “Listen, do you hear me?” The Wuest translation catches this emphasis by repeating “you.”

However. This is another conjunction. Last week we saw how Paul used the word “for” (Greek “γάρ”) to outline a response to our implied “why?” questions. This week Paul uses “δέ” to guide us through additional logic.

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You are. Present active indicative of *eimi*, the verb to be. It is a continuous on-going action. Plus the negative particle indicates that the believer is not in the flesh...if...*Present tense* indicates continuous action. Indicative is the reality of this.

The order of the Greek words is “You however not are in the flesh...” The context was set in verses 1 & 4 with “those who are walking by the Spirit.”

Dwells in you. Uh Oh! Paul has now introduced the indwelling Holy Spirit in addition to the filling of the Holy Spirit. These are two different ministries of the Holy Spirit but interrelated. Here are some introductory points on this.

Introductory Points on the Indwelling Holy Spirit

1. There are two ministries of God the Holy Spirit presented in Romans chapter 8. Verses 1-8 present “walking by the Spirit” specifically verses 1 & 4. Verse 9 presents the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Remember that Paul already presented another of the ministries of the Holy Spirit, Baptism of the Holy Spirit, in chapter 6.
2. From God’s perspective there is one all-encompassing ministry of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that He and God the Father would send the Holy Spirit. John 14:16, 26, 1 John 2:27. But from a human perspective we need a categorization of individual effects the Holy Spirit has on us. Last week, there was a list of ministries of God the Holy Spirit accomplished at the point of salvation. This week we deal with one of those ministries: the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is something that starts at the point of salvation (or justification in Paul’s vocabulary) and continues with no end.

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3. Walking by the Spirit is something we “do.” But our “doing” is limited to faith dependence on God the Holy Spirit. Paul here calls it “walking according (κατα) the Holy Spirit. It has already been stated that walking by faith, is equivalent to being filled with the Holy Spirit and faith dependence on the Holy Spirit.
4. Starting in Romans 8:9 we encounter the Holy Spirit “doing” something: dwelling in the body of the believer. The conjunction changed. The subject changed. The verb changed. That is a red flag to get our attention.
5. The ministry of God the Holy Spirit is unique in the Church Age. There was no Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. There was no indwelling of the Holy Spirit. There was no filling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came upon certain Old Testament people for specific tasks. For leadership. For skill to a workman. But the Holy Spirit was not given to fulfill the Law, for spirituality.
6. “The indwelling is for the purpose of making the body a temple for the indwelling of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:19, 3:16) and setting the believer apart bodily in this life from unbelievers. There are no sacred buildings in the Church Age, only the human body.²” From Robby Dean.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple (ναός) of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Perhaps next week is a better to spend time on the indwelling of Christ in the temple of the Holy Spirit. Important to note at this point is that “temple” is from “naos” (ναός) which is a reference to the Holy Place in the Jewish temple. This word comes from a word meaning to abide or

² <https://deanbible.org/dbmfiles/slides/2010-Romans-085b.pdf>

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live. In other words, the Holy of Holies is where the Shekeinah Glory, the pre-Incarnate Christ dwelt in the Old Testament temple. So in the New Testament each believer has the indwelling Holy Spirit as a temple for the indwelling Christ. Again, let us wait until next week to delve deeper into this.

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

Destroys. According to Robby Dean, this word is closer to “defiles.”

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1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Dwells in you. *Present active indicative* of the word derived from the Greek word for “house.” John uses a word for “abide” derived from the word to stay. The verses in 1 Corinthians also use this word based upon “house.” This is not a temporary dwelling. You now have a house in which the Holy Spirit resides to provide a temple.

My desire is to spend next week on the so called “Shekeinah Glory” or the indwelling of Jesus Christ in the temple of our bodies.

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Romans 8:10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

If. First class condition: it is assumed to be true for this argument. But there is a word left out of the translation: δέ. Let's translate that as "in fact"

Is. The verb is not in the Greek, but it is assumed. Interesting that the NASB 1995 does not put "is" in italics to show that.

sin/spirit. Paul continues the contrast between the body which contains the sin nature and the Spirit. According to the Wuest translation, this reference to "spirit" is a reference to the human spirit.

Righteousness. This is the theme throughout Romans: righteousness.

Christ is in you. Uh Oh. Another indwelling.

Romans 8:10 (Wuest) But, assuming that Christ is in you, on the one hand the body is dead on account of sin, but on the other hand the [human] spirit is alive on account of righteousness.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

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Chart from Robby Dean³:

Two Types of Believers in Romans 8		
TWOs	SUCCESSFUL	FAILURES
2 Lifestyles, 8:4	According to the Spirit	According to the Sin Nature
2 Ways of Thinking, 8:5	Doctrine DVP	World HVP, Paganism
2 Results, 8:6	Life & Peace	Emptiness & Death
2 Attitudes Toward God, 8:7	Please God Priority 1	Complacent Hostile
2 Sons, 8:14,16	Sons indeed	Children
2 Heirs, 8:17	Of God & Christ	Of God

³ <https://deanbible.org/dbmfiles/slides/2010-Romans-085b.pdf>. DVP = Divine Viewpoint; HVP = Human Viewpoint