

“Life In the Spirit”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

The StoryFormed Way series has led us to encounter the redemptive narrative that is threaded through the bible from Genesis to Revelation. We saw how God created everything for His glory and how humanity, the pinnacle of His creation, was to bear His image in all the world and multiply worshippers. Adam and Eve, the first humans, however failed to obey God and turned their back on His commands. They decided to make their own rules and live life on their own. Adam and Eve’s rebellion turned all of creation on its head and brought about sin, sorrow, sadness, and ultimately death into the world. However, God in His love, grace, and mercy chose not to destroy what He had made. Rather He chose to redeem it.

The rest of the Old Testament story is about how God set out to bring redemption to fallen humanity. This redemption ultimately came through the Person of Jesus, the Messiah. Apart from Jesus we would stand before God and ultimately be judged for our sin. However, God in His grace, gave His Son as a substitute for our sin. God condemned His Son so we could become justified in God’s sight through faith in Jesus Christ.

But once a person has been made right with God, how are they to live? Are they made perfect, never again to sin? Or do they continue to live life the way they always lived? The Apostle Paul gave instruction on this very issue. In giving His Son as a substitute for our sin, God also gave us His Spirit to live inside those who put their trust in Jesus. Because of this we have new life in the Spirit. But what does this new life consist of? The answer is found in Romans 8.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine Romans 8:1-13 again. Review the sermon points and search your heart regarding your life and whether or not you are living in the Spirit. Does your life in Christ bring with it a new nature with new appetites, desires, attractions, inclinations, and attitudes? Are you killing sin in your life or has your life not really changed at all since coming to faith in Christ? Do you have a sense of God’s presence by His Spirit? Think through these and other questions that maybe the Spirit is bringing to your mind and be prepared to discuss what it means to have life in the Spirit!

Message Outline

Life in the Spirit means we have been set free from...

1. The Penalty of sin. (1-4a)
 - In the flesh the penalty is death.
 - In the Spirit the reward is life.
 - Where we failed Christ obeyed.
 - Yet Christ received our condemnation and we received His righteousness.
2. The Power of sin. (4b-11)
 - The Flesh cannot please God. (6-8)
 - The Spirit awakens in us...
 - A new nature.
 - Abundant life.
 - Real peace.
 - The Spirit guarantees us resurrected bodies.
3. The Practice of sin. (12-13)
 - A life controlled by sin will endure eternal judgment.
 - We are responsible to the Spirit to kill sin.
 - Holiness is...
 - The Standard by which we live.
 - The Goal for which we strive.
 - The Destiny we will achieve.
 - Holiness is accomplished...
 - only through the Spirit.
 - not by our own unaided effort.
 - not by the Spirit apart from our participation.

Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Romans 8:1-13:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

Weekly Prayer Focus

• **Church:**

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

• **Local:**

- Pray for Gospel impact during Easter Season 2016.
- Pray for the Storyformed Way, a 10-week journey through the Story of God. Pray for open and receptive hearts and for God to use this journey to draw people to Himself.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

• **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.