

Message Three
**Living in the Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity
by the Law of the Spirit of Life in Romans 8**

RA Hymns: 593, 1048

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:2, 10, 6, 11, 28-29; 12:1-2

- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.
Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

I. The key to being an overcomer is the law of the Spirit of life in Romans 8, a chapter for desperate seekers—7:24—8:2, 28-29; Psa. 105:4:

- Rom 8:1 There is now then no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.
Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
Rom 8:4 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.
Rom 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit.
Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
Rom 8:7 Because the mind set on the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, for neither can it be.
Rom 8:8 And those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
Rom 8:12 So then, brothers, we are debtors not to the flesh to live according to the flesh;
Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.
Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
Rom 8:17 And if children, heirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him that we may also be glorified with Him.
Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed upon us.
Rom 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.
Rom 8:20 For the creation was made subject to vanity, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it,
Rom 8:21 In hope that the creation itself will also be freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans together and travails in pain together until now.
Rom 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.
Rom 8:24 For we were saved in hope. But a hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what he sees?
Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly await it through endurance.
Rom 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
Rom 8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God.
Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.
Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
Rom 8:32 Indeed, He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?
Rom 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who justifies.
Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?
Rom 8:36 As it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we have been accounted as sheep for slaughter."
Rom 8:37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.
Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers
Rom 8:39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Rom 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?
Rom 7:25 Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh, the law of sin.
Rom 8:1 There is now then no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.
Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
Psa 105:4 Seek Jehovah and His strength; / Seek His face continually.

A. Romans 7 is the experience of being “in the flesh”; Romans 8 is the experience of being “in the spirit” (the divine Spirit dwelling in our human spirit and these two mingled together to be one spirit)—vv. 4, 9-10, 16; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Tim. 4:22.

Rom 7, 8 be omitted.

Rom 8:4 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.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

B. The enjoyment of the law of the Spirit of life in Romans 8 ushers us into the reality of the Body of Christ in Romans 12; this law operates within us as we live in the Body and for the Body—8:2, 28-29; 12:1-2, 11; Phil. 1:19.

Rom 8, 12 be omitted.

- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.
- Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

II. Romans 8 is the focus of the entire Bible and the center of the universe; thus, if we are experiencing Romans 8, we are in the center of the universe:

Rom 8 be omitted.

- A. In eternity past God purposed to enter into His redeemed people so that He could be their life and so that they could be His corporate expression; this is the focus of God's economy—Eph. 1:3-5.
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
- Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- B. Man is the center of God's creation because God's intention is to be expressed through man; man can become God's expression only by God entering into man to be man's life and content and to make man one with Him so that man may live by Him and even live Him out; in this way God is expressed from within man.
- C. Zechariah 12:1 says, "Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him":
- The spirit of man is ranked with the heavens and the earth because our spirit is the location where God desires to dwell—Eph. 2:22; cf. 2 Tim. 4:22.
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- The heavens are for the earth, the earth is for man, and man was created by God with a spirit so that he may contact God, receive God, worship God, live God, fulfill God's purpose for God, and be one with God.
- D. The central focus in the universe is that the processed Triune God has come into us and now dwells in us; this is the greatest miracle; nothing else in the universe could be more important than this—Isa. 66:1-2; John 14:23; 15:4.
- Isa 66:1 Thus says Jehovah, / Heaven is My throne, / And the earth the footstool for My feet. / Where then is the house that you will build for Me, / And where is the place of My rest?
- Isa 66:2 For all these things My hand has made, / And so all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. / But to this kind of man will I look, to him who is poor / And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- E. We should all be full of joy since the Triune God is indwelling us and is one with us; He is our life and our person, and He is making us His home—Eph. 3:14-17.
- Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father,

- Eph 3:15 Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named,
 Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
 Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- F. The Triune God has been processed through incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension to become the law of the Spirit of life installed in our spirit as a “scientific” law, an automatic principle; this is one of the biggest discoveries, even recoveries, in God’s economy—Rom. 8:2-3, 10-11, 34, 16.
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
 Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
 Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
 Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
 Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
 Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
- G. The Spirit of life, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, Christ Himself, and the indwelling Spirit in Romans 8:2, 9-11 all refer to the compound Spirit who gives life—cf. Exo. 30:22-25; Phil. 1:19; 1 Cor. 15:45b:
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
 Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
 Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
 Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
 Exo 30:22 Moreover Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
 Exo 30:23 You also take the finest spices: of flowing myrrh five hundred shekels, and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred fifty shekels, and of fragrant calamus two hundred fifty shekels,
 Exo 30:24 And of cassia five hundred shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil.
 Exo 30:25 And you shall make it a holy anointing oil, a fragrant ointment compounded according to the work of a compounder; it shall be a holy anointing oil.
 Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
1. In the expression *the Spirit of God, the Spirit* and *God* are in apposition, indicating that the Spirit and God are one—Rom. 8:9.
 Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
 2. Similarly, *the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead,* and *the Spirit of life* in Romans 8 indicate that the Spirit is Christ, the resurrecting One, and life; therefore, since the Spirit indwells us, all three of the Triune God are in us as life—vv. 9, 11, 2.
 Rom 8 be omitted.
 Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
3. The Spirit in Romans 8 is the all-inclusive Spirit as the ultimate consummation and the reaching, the application, of the Triune God to us.
Rom 8 be omitted.
4. The Triune God as the all-inclusive Spirit is within us for us to experience and enjoy by taking Him as our life and our person; we are the container of the Triune God—2 Cor. 4:7.
2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- H. When we received the Lord by believing into Him, He functioned as the law of the Spirit of life to dispense Himself as the divine, uncreated life of God (Gk. *zoe*) into our spirit; we all need to see the great revelation that at least one part of our being, our spirit, is *zoe*; when we set our mind on the spirit, our mind, which represents our soul, becomes *zoe*; also, *zoe* can be imparted through the operation of the law of the Spirit of life into our mortal bodies; in this way we become men of *zoe* in our entire tripartite being for us to become the city of *zoe*, the New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:6; 22:1-2, 14.
Rev 21:6 And He said to me, They have come to pass. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give to him who thirsts from the spring of the water of life freely.
Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.
- I. Ultimately, this life will prepare us to be the bride of Christ, which will cause the Lord to come back and usher us into the next age; for this reason the crucial focus of the Bible and the universe is in Romans 8.
Rom 8 be omitted.

III. Romans 8 reveals that the processed Triune God as the law of the Spirit of life gives the divine life to the believers for their living; this is the experience of the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—vv. 2, 10, 6, 11, 28-29:

- Rom 8 be omitted.
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- A. The processed Triune God as the life-giving Spirit installed into our spirit may be likened to electricity; God's operation as the law of the divine "electricity" within us requires our cooperation to "switch on" this law by prayer—Col. 4:2; Eph. 6:17-18; 1 Thes. 5:17; cf. Matt. 24:27 (see the last two sentences of footnote 1).
Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
 Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
 1 Thes 5:17 Unceasingly pray,
 Matt 24:27 For just as the ¹lightning comes forth from the east and shines to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

last two sentences of footnote 1

Hence, the Lord's coming like a flash of lightning will be a sign of the end of the Lord's parousia (see note 33). This implies also that the Lord is like electricity.

B. While we remain in the touch with the Lord through prayer, staying in contact with Him in our spirit, the law of the Spirit of life works automatically, spontaneously, and effortlessly within us—Heb. 11:1, 5-6; 2 Cor. 4:13; Matt. 8:3, 15; 9:20-21, 29; 14:36; 17:7; 20:34; John 4:23-24; Phil. 2:12-13; Rom. 8:2, 4, 6, 13-16, 23; 1 Thes. 5:16-18.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For before his translation he obtained the testimony that he had been well pleasing to God.
 Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
 2 Cor 4:13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,
 Matt 8:3 And stretching out His hand, He touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed! And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
 Matt 8:15 And He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served Him.
 Matt 9:20 And behold, a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years approached from behind and touched the fringe of His garment,
 Matt 9:21 For she said within herself, If only I touch His garment, I will be healed.
 Matt 9:29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, According to your faith, let it be done to you.
 Matt 14:36 And they begged Him that they might only touch the fringe of His garment. And as many as touched were completely healed.
 Matt 17:7 And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, Arise, and do not be afraid.
 Matt 20:34 And Jesus, moved with compassion, touched their eyes, and immediately they received their sight and followed Him.
 John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
 John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
 Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
 Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
 Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
 Rom 8:4 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.
 Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
 Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.
 Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
 Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!
 Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
 Rom 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.
 1 Thes 5:16 Always rejoice,
 1 Thes 5:17 Unceasingly pray,
 1 Thes 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- C. The meaning of prayer is for us to absorb God; the more we contact God, the more we will absorb Him; and the more we absorb Him, the more we will enjoy Him as our light and our salvation—2 Kings 19:30; Isa. 37:31; Matt. 6:6; Psa. 119:15:

2 Kings 19:30 And the remnant of those who have escaped of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

Isa 37:31 And the remnant of those who have escaped of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

Matt 6:6 But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Psa 119:15 I will muse upon Your precepts / And regard Your ways.

1. In Psalm 27:1 David says, “Jehovah is my light and my salvation”; he contacted and absorbed God by beholding Him as beauty (v. 4); thus, he was enlightened and received salvation within.

Psa 27:1 Jehovah is my light and my salvation; / Whom shall I fear? / Jehovah is the strength of my life; / Whom shall I dread?

Psa 27:4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple.

2. There is a hymn that says, “Just as I am” (*Hymns*, #1048); this means that we should come to God just as we are without trying to improve or change our condition; we received Christ in this way, and we should walk in Christ in this way—Col. 2:6-7a.

Hymns, #1048

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
- 2 Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot;
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt;
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind;
Yes, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 6 Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Col 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,

Col 2:7a Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, ...

3. To pray is to come to the Lord just as we are; when we come to the Lord, we should lay our inner condition before Him and tell Him that we are short in every matter; even if we are weak, confused, sad, and speechless, we can still come to God; no matter what our inner condition is, we should bring it to God.
4. Instead of caring about our condition, we need to enter into God’s presence to contact Him by looking to Him, beholding Him, praising Him, giving thanks to Him, worshipping Him, and absorbing Him; then we will enjoy God’s riches, taste His

sweetness, receive Him as light and power, and be inwardly peaceful, bright, strong, and empowered; we will then learn the lesson of staying connected to Him when we are ministering the word to the saints—1 Pet. 4:10-11; 2 Cor. 2:17; 13:3.

1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

2 Cor 2:17 For we are not like the many, adulterating the word of God for profit; but as out of sincerity, but as out of God, before God we speak in Christ.

2 Cor 13:3 Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.

- D. The meaning of prayer is also for us to express God; in Psalm 27:4 David says that he desired not only to behold the beauty of Jehovah but also to “inquire in His temple”; to inquire is to let God speak within us so that the words spoken to Him in prayer are actually God’s speaking within us, God’s expressions:

Psa 27:4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple.

1. Real prayer is our coming to God, letting God speak within us, and expressing to God what He has spoken back to Him: “When You say, Seek My face, / To You my heart says, Your face, O Jehovah, will I seek” (v. 8).

2. When we really touch, contact, and absorb God, He will speak within us; then we will pray according to His inner speaking; to pray is to go to God, meet Him, draw near to Him, commune with Him, and absorb Him so that He can speak to us inwardly; when we pray to Him with His words to us, our prayer expresses God—John 15:7.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

3. During the first aspect of our prayer, we enter into fellowship with God, who then anoints us with His burden for the work and reveals His intention to us; the second aspect of our prayer is to then inquire of the Lord by petitioning Him concerning His will and His burden for the work; then we carry out the purpose of prayer by coordinating with God to be God’s co-worker—Isa. 62:6-7; 45:11; Ezek. 22:30; Dan. 9:2-4; 1 Sam. 12:23; 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1a.

Isa 62:6 Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, / I have appointed watchmen; / All day and all night / They will never keep silent. / You who remind Jehovah, / Do not be dumb;

Isa 62:7 And do not give Him quiet / Until He establishes / And until He makes Jerusalem / A praise in the earth.

Isa 45:11 Thus says Jehovah, / The Holy One of Israel and the One who formed him, / Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons, / And concerning the work of My hands, command Me.

Ezek 22:30 And I sought a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the breach before Me for the sake of the land so that I would not destroy it, but I found no one.

Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.

Dan 9:3 So I set my face toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Dan 9:4 And I prayed to Jehovah my God and confessed; and I said, Ah, Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments,

- 1 Sam 12:23 Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I would sin against Jehovah by ceasing to pray for you, but I will instruct you in the good and right way.
- 1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.
- 2 Cor 6:1a And working together with Him, ...
4. Inquiring prayers honor God; David knew how to pray because he often inquired of Jehovah (1 Sam. 22:10; 23:2, 4; 30:8; 2 Sam. 2:1; 5:19, 23); after God spoke to David through Nathan the prophet, David "sat before Jehovah" (7:18) and told the Lord, "Do as You have spoken" (v. 25b); he then told the Lord that, because of His speaking, "Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You" (v. 27).
- 1 Sam 22:10 And he inquired of Jehovah for him and gave him provisions, and he gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.
- 1 Sam 23:2 And David inquired of Jehovah, saying, Shall I go and strike these Philistines? And Jehovah said to David, Go and strike the Philistines, and save Keilah.
- 1 Sam 23:4 So David inquired yet again of Jehovah. And Jehovah answered him and said, Rise up; go down to Keilah, for I have delivered the Philistines into your hand.
- 1 Sam 30:8 And David inquired of Jehovah, saying, Shall I pursue after this band? Will I overtake them? And He said to him, Pursue, for you will certainly overtake them, and you will certainly deliver them.
- 2 Sam 2:1 And after this David inquired of Jehovah, saying, Shall I go up into one of the cities of Judah? And Jehovah said to him, Go up. And David said, Where shall I go up? And He said, To Hebron.
- 2 Sam 5:19 Then David inquired of Jehovah, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand? And Jehovah said to David, Go up, for I will certainly deliver the Philistines into your hand.
- 2 Sam 5:23 And David inquired of Jehovah, and He said, You shall not go up; go around behind them and come upon them opposite the balsam trees.
- 2 Sam 7:18 Then King David went and sat before Jehovah; and he said, Who am I, O Lord Jehovah, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?
- 2 Sam 7:25b ... and do as You have spoken.
- 2 Sam 7:27 For You, O Jehovah of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed to Your servant, saying, I will build you a house; therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You.
- E. We must cooperate with the indwelling, installed, automatic, and inner operating God as the law of the Spirit of life by conversing with Him in order to maintain our fellowship with Him—Rom. 10:12-13; Gen. 13:18; 1 Thes. 5:17; Eph. 6:17-18; Phil. 4:5-7, 12-13; Psa. 62:7-8.
- Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;
- Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
- Gen 13:18 And Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to Jehovah.
- 1 Thes 5:17 Unceasingly pray,
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- Phil 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.
- Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
- Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
- Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
- Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
- Psa 62:7 On God my salvation and my glory depend; / The rock of my strength, my refuge, is in God.

Psa 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; / Pour out your heart before Him; / God is a refuge to us. Selah.

IV. When we take heed to the inner sense of the spirit, the law of the Spirit of life is activated within us; the secret of our Christian life that we all must learn is found in Romans 8:6, which is the most important verse in the Bible related to our spiritual experience of Christ as the law of the Spirit of life—“the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace”:

A. To set the mind on the flesh means to take sides with the flesh, to cooperate with the flesh, and to stand with the flesh; to set the mind on the spirit is to take heed to the spirit, to take sides with the spirit, to cooperate with the spirit, and to stand with the spirit, that is, to pay attention to our spirit—Mal. 2:15-16.

Mal 2:15 But did He not make them one? And the remnant of the Spirit was His. And why the one? He sought the seed of God. Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one be treacherous to the wife of his youth.

Mal 2:16 For I hate divorce, says Jehovah the God of Israel; and he who does it behaves in violence, says Jehovah of hosts. Take heed then to your spirit, and do not be treacherous.

B. When we take heed to the inner sense of the spirit, following the inner sense of life and peace, we are honoring the Lord as the Head of the Body for His unique move; in his gospel service the apostle Paul was a captive of Christ, who was not governed by his outward environment but by whether or not he had the “rest in my spirit” (2 Cor. 2:13); his spirit was the most preeminent part of his being, and he was dominated, governed, directed, moved, and led by his mingled spirit (1 Cor. 2:15; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Cor. 2:12-14; 7:5-6).

1 Cor 2:15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

2 Cor 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and a door was open to me in the Lord,

2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.

2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.

2 Cor 7:5 For even when we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted in everything; without were fightings, within were fears.

2 Cor 7:6 But He who comforts those who are downcast, that is, God, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

V. Ultimately, our living in the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity by the enjoyment of the indwelling and automatic law of the Spirit of life is in the Body of Christ and for the Body of Christ with the goal of making us God in life, nature, and expression but not in the Godhead to accomplish the goal of His eternal economy—the New Jerusalem—Rom. 8:2, 28-29; 12:1-2; 11:36; 16:27; Phil. 1:19; cf. Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19, 26-28, 31.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

Rom 11:36 Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Rom 16:27 To the only wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Gal 1:15 But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,

Gal 1:16 To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,

Gal 4:26 But the Jerusalem above is free, which is our mother;

Gal 4:27 For it is written, "Rejoice, barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not travailing, because many are the children of her who is desolate rather than of her who has her husband."

Gal 4:28 But you, brothers, in the way Isaac was, are children of promise.

Gal 4:31 So then, brothers, we are not children of the maidservant but of the free woman.