

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – June 11th, 2023

Theme: The Power of God at work in us Topic: A Spirit-led Life

Main Text: Romans 8:1-17

Key verse: Romans 8:14 *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God,” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: Last week, we learnt in our study that the law cannot save us from sin. To lay a foundation for understanding what Christ achieved for us in a Spirit-led life, it is important to note that the law is a set of rules and regulations based on the external (of dos and don'ts). Also, the law leaves no room for anything less than 100% compliance. But alas no human in all history has been able to attain such a standard of perfection. But in the new life of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit now indwells the believer. According to Romans 8:11, *‘The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you’* (NLT). The presence of the Holy Spirit in us, sharpens the believer's conscience and leading the believer to the Lord's will Himself, and producing the desired fruit of the Spirit - a perfect man (Gal 5:21-23). According to Galatians 5:23, *“... against this, there is no law!”*

1. **Read Romans 8:1-4. (a) Discuss what this fulfillment of the law in us mean to you? (b) How does Romans 8:4 compare with the statement of our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:17? (c) What advantage do you see in having the Spirit indwelling the believer compared to trying to fulfill the law or indeed any rules and regulations for that matter?**

It is instructive that this Spirit-led life that God intended when He made man originally is what Jesus Christ came to give us by his ministry of the cross. In Genesis 2:7, the Lord breathed the Spirit-life into man and this life was what regulated man originally. There was no external law except the instruction not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The result of the violation of this single instruction was a hint that God simply wanted the man (and woman) to take instructions from Him (life in the Spirit is synonymous to taking my instructions for living, exclusively from God).

2. **Read Romans 8:8. (a) What do you think of the definitive ‘those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God...’? (b) Considering that most of what believers do in the leading of the Spirit is like what those who try to follow the law do, discuss the matter of those who live in the flesh not being able to please God. See Galatians 5:16-17 and Romans 8:5-8. (c) Read what Jesus said in Matt 7:21-23. In the light of (a) and (b) above, what difference does the presence of the Holy Spirit make in a believer's walk with God?**

When the matter of the Spirit-led life is discussed, there is often the notion that the Spirit-led life is exempted from a diligent commitment to obedience to the written word of God. But as has been noted in the preceding paragraphs, God's purpose in giving us His Holy Spirit has not changed even in the New Covenant in Christ in which we now stand – man still need to follow God's instruction, if he must live and be all that God intended for him. And to this end, Romans 8:12 states emphatically that **“Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation ...”** Even though believers still live in this world in the sin-weakened body (Romans 8:10), yet God in His word obligates us to doing certain things. One such requirement is to *‘put to death the works of the flesh*. Putting to death means turning away, deactivating, abandoning, totally forgetting the works of flesh. See what Romans 8:13-14 further emphasize about this life of the Spirit. *“For if you live by its (Flesh) dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.”*

3. **(a) ‘Put to death’ means something one ought to do, not what the Holy Spirit does. How does one practically put to death, the works of the flesh daily? (See Luke 9:23, 1 Corinthians 15:31). (b) To ‘put to death’ is a choice. When the sinful nature gets the upper hand in a given situation, does that mean the Holy Spirit was unable to help the believer? If not, what happened? (c) Let participants mention something they will change in their daily engagements to be more Spirit-led. What would those around you see from your life after a few weeks and months of practical Spirit-led living? (Hint: read Galatian 5:22-23)**

Prayer: *“Dear Lord Jesus, I realize that the only way to please You is to live a Spirit-led life. Please help me to daily deny myself, carry my cross and follow Your example dear Jesus. In Your Name I pray. Amen*