

# The Spirit, Our Seal and Constant Companion

*Romans Series*

By Barry Minsky

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**Bible Text:** Romans 8:9-11

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## **Quacco Baptist Church**

215 Quacco Road  
Savannah, GA 31419

**Website:** [www.quaccobaptist.org](http://www.quaccobaptist.org)

**Online Sermons:** [www.sermonaudio.com/minksy](http://www.sermonaudio.com/minksy)

Our Scripture reading today is from the book of Romans chapter eight, Romans chapter eight and I am going to read beginning with verse nine.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.<sup>1</sup>

This is a wonderful passage in God’s Word. And you are going to find as we continue in the eighth chapter of the book of Romans that we are going to be discussing many things relating to the Holy Spirit. And I thought what we would do for the next couple weeks would be to focus on this individual, the Holy Spirit, and see what we can learn from this passage and starting next week from some other passages as we learn about the Spirit of God.

First of all, I want you to note that the Lord makes a point of calling this individual, the Spirit, by different titles in Romans chapter eight beginning with verse nine.

Listen to what he is called.

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<sup>1</sup> Romans 8:9-17.

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.”<sup>2</sup>

So he is first called the “Spirit of God.”

Well, now let’s go on a little further.

“Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”<sup>3</sup>

Do you notice? He is the Spirit of God, obviously referring to God the Father. So here is this relationship that the Holy Spirit has with the Father. And then we find that he is the Spirit of Christ. And so there is a relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Then we read in verse 10.

“But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”<sup>4</sup>

Here we have the Spirit who dwells in us being called the Spirit of God, he dwells in you; the Spirit of Christ, anyone who does not have the Spirit does not belong to him. And then we are told if Christ is in you. Do you see the point? What the Word of God is doing for us here is bringing together the various persons of the trinity and indicating in the clearest possible way that there is an intimate, integral relationship that if you have the Spirit, he is the Spirit of God. If you have the Spirit, he is the Spirit of Christ. If you have the Spirit, it, in fact, is Christ himself, who is dwelling within you.

And then he is mentioned a fourth time. In verse 11 it says, “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.”<sup>5</sup>

This is the first indication we have of something that the Holy Spirit is going to do. We are told who he is. He is the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God. He is, in fact, Christ himself dwelling in us. He is the one who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. And we are told that if he, in fact, raised Christ from the dead, then the very same thing is going to happen in our lives, that some day each one of us if we do not live at the time that Jesus returns we will die and we will leave this physical life to go dwell with Christ and to be with him forever.

Well, a time will come, thereafter that the Spirit who indwells us, the one who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also raise our mortal bodies.

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<sup>2</sup> Romans 8:9.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Romans 8:10.

<sup>5</sup> Romans 8:11.

You know, I have heard many Christians question this, ask the question: How is God every going to raise our bodies? How is he going to do that?

Think of this for a moment. I mean, when we die, our body goes into the ground. That in which we live right now becomes deteriorated and certainly it is not what it was before. The organs are no longer alive. How is it that God is going to now take this mortal body and raise it to life again?

That is even a little beyond that. You know, on my driver's license it indicates that I am a potential donor of body parts. And I... I had one Christian ask me a question. He said, "You know, I don't know about being a donor. I am going to think about this for a moment. If I give away this part, that part and the other part, what is the Lord going to raise from the dead?"

Well, the reality is that God doesn't need the old parts to raise us from the dead, that he is perfectly capable of taking us from the ground and bringing us in our physical being into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So who do we have here? Well, we have this one who is the Sprit of God, the Spirit of Christ, Christ himself dwelling in us and the Spirit who raised up Christ from the dead who will also give light to our mortal bodies.

A few questions come up about the Holy Spirit. Excuse me.

I have heard people ask the question. Is the Spirit a person or is the Spirit just kind of a force around God?

And if you look at the word "spirit" in the Greek you find that this leads sometimes to that kind of confusion. In Greek, as in many other languages, every single noun has a gender. It is either masculine, feminine or neuter. Do you know that the word Spirit is neuter? It is. So literally when you read about the Spirit it would say, "it" rather than he.

Well, but we have to understand that that is simply the way the words are expressed in that language. Very much the same, one of the languages I enjoy is German and do you know that in German the word for dog is masculine. I mean every dog is masculine in German. Now, obviously, there are feminine dogs. But, I mean, *der hund*, I mean it is a masculine term.

On the other hand the word for cat is feminine, *die katze*. I have seen masculine cats. I mean do you see what I am getting at that just because a certain gender is used, doesn't really prove anything.

The oddest one in German is do you know that the word for young lady in German is neuter? Yeah, both *machen* and *frauline* are both neuter words. And obviously every young lady I have ever met has been feminine.

You see what I am getting at. When we see that this word used in our Greek Bibles and we find that it is a neuter noun, that doesn't mean that the Spirit of God is not a person. It is just the gender that happens to be used with that word.

The Spirit of God, we are going to find, not only is a person, but that that person is, in fact, God.

Now, let's see how we discover that. First we want to ask the question: Is the Holy Spirit a person?

Well, we would have to understand what it is to be a person. Persons do certain things. Well, for instance, I talk. I do a lot of it as a matter of fact. And all of us talk. But a non person cannot talk. I could speak forever to that bench and it is not going to say one word to me because it has no personhood. It is an inanimate object. But persons talk.

And so we might ask the question: Does the Holy Spirit talk?

Let's take a look. Acts chapter eight and verse 29. "Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join this chariot.'"<sup>6</sup>

The Holy Spirit talked and spoke to Philip and told Philip what he was supposed to do. It sounds like a person to me.

Acts chapter 10 and verse 19. "While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Behold, three men are looking for you.'"<sup>7</sup>

And then, finally, Acts chapter 13 and verse two we read, "While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"<sup>8</sup>

The Holy Spirit is one who is a person. He has the attributes of personhood.

Now we may ask the question: How can he be a person if we can't see him? Nobody sees the Spirit of God. Well, how can he be a person?

Well, let me turn it around. God the Father is a person and we don't see God the Father. The Word of God tells us, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."<sup>9</sup>

In other words, it was God's idea that every time we would have a visual representation of God it would be the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, that we would see him and that would be our understanding of God himself.

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<sup>6</sup> Acts 8:29.

<sup>7</sup> Acts 10:19.

<sup>8</sup> Acts 13:2.

<sup>9</sup> John 1:18.

But God the Father is never seen. God the Holy Spirit is never seen. And yet they are persons. Not persons as we think. You know, normally when I think of a person, I am thinking of something with some physical attributes, with some physical being.

I could say, "He is a person." I look at him. He is six foot two inches tall, has broad shoulders. You know, I could see him. He is wearing a red shirt and so on and so forth.

That is my concept of personhood. But according to the Word of God you don't have to have a physical being to be a person. The Spirit of God is just as much a person as the Lord Jesus Christ.

Well, now the next question we want to ask is: What about the Holy Spirit? Is the Holy Spirit God or is the Holy Spirit just some aspect of God that we see and that we understand?

Now, I have... I have had many Christians come to me with confusion about this very thing. The idea is, well, you know, I know about the Holy Spirit and I guess that is kind of the spiritual force of God the person.

No. The Holy Spirit is God himself. And I could turn to many, many passages in God's Word to prove this, but I have picked just one. In Acts chapter five we read the story of Ananias and Sapphira. You will probably remember them. The people of God in that day, newly formed church, would... as part of their showing love to the Lord, they were selling their property and at their own choice taking part of that property and the proceeds from that property and giving it to the Lord's work.

In some cases they gave everything. They might have sold the house that they owned and said, "Everything is devoted to God and I am giving it all."

Or on the other hand they may have taken it and they will say, "You know, one quarter of this goes to the Lord's work and the rest of it I am going to need, you know, to live in this world."

Well Ananias and Sapphira went and they sold a piece of property and we are told that they claimed that they were giving all of the proceeds to the work of the Lord.

Now, they were not obligated to do that. There was no reason that they had to do that. They could just as well have given a portion to God's Work. But you get the impression that they wanted to make themselves seem better than they really were. That was the idea. You know, look at me. I am giving everything to God. And that is the image that they wanted to portray.

I would have been just as good if they had said, "I have sold the property. 10% of that goes to the Lord's work, 20% of that goes the Lord's work," but they claimed that it all went to the Lord's work.

So we read this in Acts chapter five.

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.<sup>10</sup>

I bet he was feeling good. What do you think?

"I am giving this to the Lord's work."

Well, Peter's response goes something like this.

Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal?<sup>11</sup>

In other words, you had a right to do anything you wanted with it.

"Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart?"<sup>12</sup>

What deed was it? The deed was simply lying, saying that he was giving all. You know, maybe he sold it for 100,000 dollars. He gave 80,000 to the Lord's work, kept 20,000, but claimed that he was giving it all to the Lord's work.

"Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."<sup>13</sup>

Now you need to compare two sentences here. It says in verse three, "But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?'"<sup>14</sup>

God own a couple of verses. We read the end of verse four, "Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."<sup>15</sup>

You lied to the Holy Spirit. You lied to God. The Holy Spirit equals God.

You see, and many other passages could be brought in. Very important for us to understand that this individual that we read of so often in the Word of God is not just... Is

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<sup>10</sup> Acts 5:1-2.

<sup>11</sup> Acts 5:3-4.

<sup>12</sup> Acts 5:4.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Acts 5:3.

<sup>15</sup> Acts 5:4.

not simply an emanation from God. He is not simply a part of what God is, but he, in fact, is God himself.

The Word of God goes on to tell us in this passage that something special has happened to us that we, in fact, have been sealed by the work of God.

The word “seal” is very interesting word. Now, I am going to read several passages that have that word “seal” in it. In that day a seal was something that indicated ownership. And God owns all those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I think that one of the most important lessons that Christians have to learn is the lesson that tells us that we are not our own. We are not going to take the time to turn to it, but you can read in 1 Corinthians chapter six and then in 1 Corinthians chapter seven where it says, “You are not your own. You have been bought with a price therefore glorify God in your bodies which are Christ’s.”<sup>16</sup>

John chapter six and verse 27. “Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”<sup>17</sup>

Here it is saying that God the Father owns God the Son. There is this relationship. He has set his seal of approval.

In 2 Corinthians chapter one we read, “And who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”<sup>18</sup>

He has put his seal on us. I love that. I want to tell you. Do you know what that means? That means that I have nothing to fear, that I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. He has taken that seal of ownership and stamped it upon me which means that I am secure in him and that nothing can ever happen to me that he does not allow to come into my life. And all the blessings, including the blessing of eternal life, are mine because I have been sealed by God.

In 2 Timothy chapter two, “But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”<sup>19</sup>

And then finally in the book of Revelation we read in chapter nine

They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

<sup>17</sup> John 6:27.

<sup>18</sup> 2 Corinthians 1:22.

<sup>19</sup> 2 Timothy 2:19.

There are those who are sealed by God. Everyone else does not have the seal of God. If you are a Christian, you have been sealed by God. He owns you. You are secure in him.

But, do you know, the Holy Spirit is also pictured in God's Word as one who is given to us as a down payment. You all know what a down payment is, don't you?

I can remember when we were going to buy our house and it was one of the first questions we came up. How much money do we need as a down payment? How much we have to have to pay?

Sometimes if you want to purchase something, you may have to put down a certain amount of money for the person to hold it for you and then when you go into the store you pay the rest and you receive it. It is a guarantee that you are going to buy the product.

Well, the Holy Spirit is pictured in this very way in the Word of God, given to us as a guarantee of that which is coming later.

Let me just read a couple of passages that will give you an idea of what is meant by that.

2 Corinthians 1:21.

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.<sup>21</sup>

A guarantee that we are going to receive the rest, that we are going to receive the blessing of everlasting life.

In Ephesians chapter one we read:

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.<sup>22</sup>

In Romans chapter eight, the passage that we are looking at a little further on in the chapter, "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God."<sup>23</sup>

And in verse 23, "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Revelation 9:4.

<sup>21</sup> 2 Corinthians 1:21-22.

<sup>22</sup> Ephesians 1:13-14.

<sup>23</sup> Romans 8:16.

We look forward to what will eventually happen when we in our bodies will be there in the presence of the Lord.

In 2 Corinthians chapter one the Spirit is called a pledge. In 2 Corinthians chapter five the Spirit again is called a pledge. And so we know that because the Spirit indwells us, we have a great and glorious future in the Lord Jesus Christ. And that is why it can be said in Galatians chapter four, “Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”<sup>25</sup>

Do you know what “Abba” means? It is another word for father, but it is a word of endearment. It probably could best be translated daddy. It is a term that has the idea of, you know, I can remember when I was a little boy sitting on my father’s lap. I would look at him in the face and say, “Oh, daddy, I love you.” And we have all, you know, had experiences like that.

Well, here we are looking at God the Father and looking at God the Father we are ready to say, “Abba! Father!” that you are my daddy. I love you. Not just the Father, the one who oversees, but the loving father, the caring father.

In this passage in God’s Word there are four concepts that are brought out for us and I am only going to mention them briefly today because we are about out of our time. Next week we are going to pick up with this. But in 2 Corinthians chapter one it says:

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.<sup>26</sup>

You may want to read this over the next week because we are going to spend some time on it next week. But what it is saying is, “God has established us in Christ. God has anointed us as those who are to do work for him. God has sealed us as those who belong to him and God has given us the Spirit in our hearts.”

What a blessing it is to know the Holy Spirit is a person. The Holy Spirit is God. But not only so, but that same Spirit dwells in every one who knows the Lord Jesus Christ. And that Spirit is, in effect, the pledge of what will come later, the joy of knowing that some day we will be rejoicing in the very presence of our Savior where we will be with him forever and ever and ever.

Let me ask you a question. Do you know Christ as your Savior? Oh, I hope you do. If you do, all that we have talked about today is your inheritance. If you don’t know him, I challenge you to trust in him even at this hour.

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<sup>24</sup> Romans 8:23.

<sup>25</sup> Galatians 4:6.

<sup>26</sup> 2 Corinthians 1:21-22.

For those of us who are his he has anointed us. We will look at that next week. But the essence of it is he has given us a mission. The mission that we have is to go into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature. We are to be the proclaimers of his Word. It is my prayer that each one of us will be faithful in that mission.

Let's pray together.

*Father, we thank you for your holy Word and we ask, Lord, that you will help us to know it, to understand it and to live by it that everything we do will truly bring glory and honor to the name of our Savior the Lord Jesus. Father, we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*