

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Getting to Know Your Best Friend

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 8:9

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #5555

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- 1) INTRODUCTION
 - a) Romans 8:9
 - i) If the Spirit of Christ doesn't dwell in you, then you do not belong to Christ.
 - (1) You must receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
 - b) Romans 8 is a great chapter on the Holy Spirit of God.
 - i) In this chapter, the Apostle Paul makes a comparison between the saved and the lost.
 - ii) This comparison hinges upon the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) Those who have the Holy Spirit and those who don't.
 - c) The distinguishing mark of a Christian is whether or not he or she has the Holy Spirit.
 - d) John 14:16-17
 - i) The saints of God have the Holy Spirit.
 - ii) The world does not receive the Holy Spirit because it sees Him not.
 - iii) The word "seeth" does not mean that the world does not literally see Him.
 - (a) The Holy Spirit is a Spirit and cannot be seen.
 - (b) This word "seeth" means that the world does not perceive Him or understand Him.
 - (c) It is used in the same sense here as it is used in John 3:3.
 - (i) This means that one cannot perceive.
 - iv) "Neither knoweth Him."
 - (1) If you are of the world, then you may know about Him, but you do not know Him intimately.
 - (2) You cannot perceive or fellowship with the Holy Spirit if you are of the world because you have not received Him.
 - e) A good test as to whether you're saved or not is this: Have you received the Holy Spirit?
 - i) Acts 19:1-6
 - (1) Paul met some disciples and had reason to wonder whether or not they were actually saved.
 - (2) Paul realized that they had come right up to the threshold of salvation, but they had never received the Lord.
 - (a) Acts 19:2-4
 - (3) He preached unto them Jesus, and they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and received the Holy Spirit.
 - ii) A distinguishing mark of a child of God is that He has the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) A person who doesn't have the Holy Spirit knows nothing about God.
 - f) 1 Corinthians 2:9
 - i) Our natural eye cannot perceive, understand nor behold spiritual truths; neither can our natural ear or our natural heart.
 - ii) We will never comprehend spiritual things visually, audibly or emotionally.
 - g) 1 Corinthians 2:10

- i) This verse does not say that God will, but that God already has revealed them to us by His Spirit.
 - ii) This verse, along with verse 9, are contrasting two types of people:
 - (1) Those who live by their senses and those who live by the Spirit.
 - h) 1 Corinthians 2:12
 - i) The Apostle Paul is saying that we don't have to wait until we get to Heaven to see and experience these things, but the only way we're going to know them is by the Holy Spirit.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 2:14-15
 - i) If the Gospel or God's Word appears foolish to you, then you're giving proof positive that you've never been saved.
 - (1) They are foolishness to the natural man.
 - ii) There is no way a natural man can know these truths.
 - j) Jude 10
 - i) A person without the Holy Spirit has no head start over an animal in knowing God.
 - k) Jude 19
 - i) They live by their senses.
 - (1) There is the sensual (natural) man and the spiritual man.
 - ii) Romans 8:9
 - l) God is our best friend.
 - i) In today's message, we will see that the Holy Spirit is described in three ways:
 - (1) The Spirit of life
 - (a) Romans 8:2
 - (b) Our best friend is the Spirit of life.
 - (2) The Spirit of Christ
 - (a) Romans 8:9
 - (i) In this verse, He's called both the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ.
 - (3) The Spirit of adoption
 - (a) Romans 8:15
 - ii) In the three references above, we have the office work of the Holy Spirit.
 - iii) Today's message will help us get to know our best friend and His three-fold ministry to us.
 - (1) He ministers to us as the Spirit of life, as the Spirit of Christ and as the Spirit of adoption.
- 2) AS THE SPIRIT OF LIFE, HE GIVES US OUR LIFE
- a) We have life by the Holy Spirit.
 - i) This does not mean existence.
 - (1) Even an unsaved person has existence.
 - (2) An unsaved person will exist forever, but he doesn't have life.
 - b) John 10:10

- i) We receive this life by the Holy Spirit.
- c) John 6:63
 - i) It is the Spirit who quickens and gives life.
- d) What is the difference between the people of the world who are religious and true Christians?
 - i) Those who are truly saved live by the impartation of life.
 - ii) The unsaved live by the imitation of life.
 - (1) They simply imitate the Lord.
- e) John 3:5
 - i) The Lord Jesus said that we must be born of the Spirit.
 - ii) We are born literally from above, which is life.
- f) Man is body, soul and spirit.
 - i) 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - ii) Man is more than an animal.
 - (1) Animals have a body and a soul, but they don't have a spirit.
 - (2) Only man has body, soul and spirit.
 - iii) Our spirit is that organ of knowledge, that part of our nature that enables us to know God.
 - (1) John 4:24
 - (2) When we get saved, God's Spirit bears witness with our Spirit that we are the children of God.
 - (a) Romans 8:16
- g) Man by nature is spiritually dead.
 - i) He may be physically alive, but he is spiritually dead until he receives the Holy Spirit.
 - ii) We cannot have life apart from the Spirit of God.
 - (1) We only have existence.
 - (a) The reason some people are religious but lost is because they have never received the Pentecostal difference, the Holy Spirit of God.
 - (2) Romans 8:9
- h) John 1:4
 - i) When Adam sinned, the Lord went out.
 - (1) When the Lord went out, the life went out.
 - (2) When the life went out, the light went out.
 - (a) Now, Adam doesn't have the Lord, and he's depraved.
 - (b) He doesn't have the life, and he's dead.
 - (c) He doesn't have the light, and he's darkened.
 - ii) In order for man to be saved, he has to get the Lord back in.
 - (1) When the Lord comes back in, the life comes back in.
 - (2) When the life comes back in, the light comes back in.
 - (a) The Lord comes back in by His Holy Spirit.
- i) When you get saved, who lives in you?
 - i) Is it God the Father, Jesus the Son, or does the Holy Spirit live in you?
 - (1) The answer is all three.

- ii) Romans 8:9
 - (1) This passage mentions the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ.
 - iii) Colossians 1:27
 - (1) The Holy Spirit is Christ in us.
 - iv) The Holy Spirit is God the Father's agent to make Jesus Christ real to us.
 - j) Our best friend is the Spirit of life, and He gives our life.
 - k) Genesis 2:7
 - i) "Breath of life" here may be translated "the spirit of life."
 - ii) God breathed the spirit of life into Adam, and Adam was quickened physically, spiritually and emotionally.
 - l) We are a spiritual corpse until God infuses us spiritually with His life.
 - i) Until we receive the Holy Spirit, it is an impossibility to live the Christian life.
 - ii) When we receive the Holy Spirit and our best friend comes into us, it is perfectly natural for us to live the Christian life because we have the life of God in us.
 - (1) We become supernaturally natural and naturally supernatural.
 - iii) We have no spiritual life apart from the Holy Spirit of God.
- 3) AS THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, HE GLORIFIES OUR LORD (ROMANS 8:9)
- a) The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Christ.
 - i) Romans 8:9
 - ii) It is Jesus in us who is the Holy Spirit.
 - b) The Spirit of life is the Spirit of Christ.
 - c) If we have the Spirit of Christ, then we're going to act like Christ.
 - i) There is only one who has ever lived the Christian life, and His name is Jesus.
 - ii) If we live the Christian life, it will be Jesus in us who not only gives us life but also glorifies our Lord.
 - d) Galatians 2:20
 - e) Speaking in tongues is not a sign that a person has the Holy Spirit.
 - i) It is whether or not they are like Jesus.
- 4) AS THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION, HE GUARANTEES OUR LEGACY (ROMANS 8:15-17)
- a) Romans 8:16-17
 - i) The word "itself" in this passage does not mean that the Holy Spirit is a thing.
 - (1) This is just the correct way to write it in the Greek language due to a linguistic idiosyncrasy between the words "Spirit" and "itself."
 - b) Romans 8:15
 - c) What is adoption?

- i) At the time when the book of Romans was written, adoption was a process in which a man would make perhaps a son whom he had sired by a slave an heir to his riches.
 - (1) By being the son of a slave, that son would not necessarily be an heir.
- ii) Or, he might take another man's son (as we would do today) and adopt that man's son into his family.
- iii) Adoption is a legal act where a man takes his own son or the son of another and gives to him legal position, legal advantage and legal privilege.
- iv) Spiritually, we're born into the family of God; legally, we're adopted into the family of God.
- v) A man could disinherit a natural son, but he could not disinherit by law an adopted son.
- d) The Holy Spirit attests to and makes real what happened to us legally when we were saved.
 - i) We have a new relationship.
 - (1) Romans 8:15
 - (a) "Abba Father"
 - (i) One word is Aramaic, and the other is Hebrew.
 - (ii) "Abba" is an Aramaic word that literally means "Daddy" or "Papa."
 - (2) When the Holy Spirit of God comes into us, He gives us such a relationship with the one who has adopted us that we can call Him Abba Father.
 - (a) During Abraham's day, there were many people who called him "Father Abraham" because he was a patriarch.
 - (i) But they did not call him "Abba Abraham".
 - (b) But Isaac would call him "Abba Abraham" or "Abba Father," which is "Daddy."
 - (c) The Holy Spirit (the Spirit of adoption) makes it where we can call God "Abba Father."
 - (3) We don't have to understand God or know how He runs the universe, but we can know Him.
 - (a) The Holy Spirit is not given to us that we might understand God.
 - (i) Romans 11:34
 - (b) We know God by the Spirit.
 - (i) It is the Spirit of adoption that shows us this new relationship, this intimacy that we have with God the Father.
 - ii) We have a new assurance.
 - (1) This is a reassurance.
 - (2) Romans 8:16
 - (a) Galatians 4:6
 - (i) The Holy Spirit cries "Abba Father" because He is the Spirit of Christ.

1. Jesus' favorite name for God was Father.
 - (b) When we say "Abba Father" and the Holy Spirit says "Abba Father," then His Spirit is agreeing with our Spirit.
 - (i) We are both saying the same thing.
 - (ii) This is how we know we're saved.
 - (3) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God because the Holy Spirit and our spirit are so mingled that it is Christ in us addressing God as "Abba Father."
 - iii) We have a new certainty.
 - (1) We have a guarantee of our riches.
 - (2) Romans 8:17
 - (a) A joint heir means share and share alike.
 - (3) In the age to come, we are going to share and share alike with the Lord Jesus Christ because God has given us legally the position that Jesus has intrinsically.
 - (a) We will have been adopted as children of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (i) A man can disinherit a natural son, but he cannot disinherit an adopted son.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) Our best friend gives us life because He's the Spirit of life, He glorifies our Lord because He's the Spirit of Christ, and He guarantees our legacy because He's the Spirit of adoption.
 - b) Romans 8:9
 - c) How do you receive the Spirit of Christ?
 - i) Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii) Trust Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
 - iii) Repent of your sin.
 - iv) Then, the Holy Spirit of God will come into you.
 - d) If you'd like to be saved, then call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16