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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

ROM 8:1-16

On his third missionary journey Paul came to Ephesus, where he found twelve men who said they were believers. The apostle asked them whether they had received the Holy Spirit when they had believed. They replied, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost" (Acts 19:2). Paul knew that something was deficient in their understanding of the Christian faith. Christians know that there is a Holy Spirit who indwells all believers. Those who come to Christ with genuine repentance and obedient faith are promised the presence of God's Spirit (Acts 2:38; 5:32; Rom. 8:9). Are you being "led by the Spirit" (Rom. 8:14)? Are you "filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18)? Are you producing the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22)? These are the real tests of the Spirit's presence in a person's life. Too many base their claim to the Holy Spirit merely on a feeling instead of on the truth of God's Word. Justification by faith transfers the believer into a new realm of existence. Formerly God's enemy, the justified individual is now at peace with God. A struggle continues, however, between the flesh and the Spirit.

Empowerment is a trendy buzzword in healthcare, business, and the social sciences. Simply stated, to be empowered is to be equipped with the tools, resources, knowledge, energy, and/or authority to get one's goals accomplished. The Holy Spirit empowers us with everything we need. Many experience significant inner struggle after accepting Christ. While this might seem upsetting, it is proof that there are now two natures warring within. This lesson should help us be sensitive to this spiritual battle, while providing comfort that we are no longer slaves to the flesh. It should help us to acknowledge the Spirit's work in us, always showing us God's way. Finally, it should encourage us to grow more sensitive to his leading. Paul's words in Romans 6, challenges all Christians to live as resurrected people. We don't live under sin's control anymore. Being alive unto God and to righteous living is now the order of the day. Christian baptism is the landmark event that dramatizes the change from death to life by the picture of being buried in and then emerging from water. As we proceed in our study of Romans, we see Paul continuing to contrast the old life under sin and the law with the new life in Christ. In particular, he focuses on the ongoing tension between those two paths experienced by himself (and all of us). This leads to the frank and challenging comments in our text from Romans 8. A brief word is in order concerning Paul's teaching in Romans 7, especially verses 7-25. Is Paul relating his experience before or after becoming a Christian? It is probably best to see these verses as a description of Paul's (and the Christian's) continual struggle with the sin factor following conversion. That struggle, the issue of whether sin or righteousness should "reign" in our lives, is introduced in Romans 6:12. At the end of chapter 7, Paul expresses the intensity of the struggle in these words: "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin" (Romans 7:24, 25). In Romans 8 Paul elaborates on the deliverance offered to us in Christ.

Displaying the Righteousness of God A Study in Romans

Date	Lesson	Text
07/06	Introduction	
07/13	All Have Sinned	1:16-20; 3:9-20
07/20	God's Judgment	2:1-16
07/27	God's Promises	4:2-25
08/03	Justified By Faith Pt 1	5:1-21
08/10	Justified By Faith Pt 2	5:1-21
08/17	Victory in Christ	6:1-14
08/24	Life in the Spirit	8:1-16
08/31	Salvation in Christ	10:5-17
09/07	Marks of a Christian	12:1-21
09/14	Responsible Citizens	13:1-14
09/21	Do Not Judge	14:1-15:6
09/28	Review & Summary	

Food for Thought

Getting **DRESSED** for the day?
Put on '**JOY**' and let the world
know that **JESUS** is **ALIVE!**

*But let all who take refuge in
you be glad; let them ever sing
for joy. Spread your protection
over them, that those who love
your name may rejoice in you.*
Psalm 5:11

(shared by a Class Member)

(adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary and the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Freedom of the Spirit (Rom 8:1-8)

Freedom from condemnation (1)

No condemnation because of believing in the Name of Jesus (John 3:18)

No condemnation because of hearing God's word and believing it (John 5:24)

No condemnation because of being justified through faith (Rom 5:1)

No condemnation because of being God's chosen (Rom 8:33-34)

No condemnation because of the blood of Jesus (Eph 2:13-15)

Freedom from the law (2-4)

Freedom from the law because of grace (Rom 5:20-21)

Freedom from the law because of Jesus' proclamation of freedom (Luke 4:18)

Freedom from the law because of the ransom of Jesus (Heb 9:15)

Freedom from the law because of the righteousness of God (Rom 3:21-24)

Freedom from the law because of faith in Jesus (Gal 2:16)

Freedom from the law because the law leads to Jesus (Gal 3:24-25)

Freedom from the flesh (5-8)

Freedom from the flesh through the discernment of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:14)

Freedom from the flesh through denying self (Mark 8:33-35)

Freedom from the flesh through living by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16-17)

Freedom from the flesh through putting off the old self (Eph 4:21-24)

Freedom from the flesh through setting our minds and hearts on things above (Col 3:1-3)

The Power of the Spirit (Rom 8:9-11)

Power of belonging to God (9)

Belonging to God because of being heirs to the promises made to Abraham (Gal 3:26-29)

Belonging to God because we were bought with a high price (1 Cor 6:18-20)

Belonging to God because He made us (Ps 100:3)

Belonging to God because Jesus died for us (2 Cor 5:15)

Belonging to God because Jesus redeemed us (Titus 2:14)

Belonging to God because we were called by God (Rom 1:6)

Power of Eternal Life (10-11)

Eternal life through the living water of the Holy Spirit (John 4:14)

Eternal life in bodies that are glorious (Phil 3:21)

Eternal life through being made alive by Jesus (1 Cor 15:22)

Eternal life that starts with being a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

Eternal life through Jesus whom we live, move and have our being (Acts 17:28)

Eternal life through the only way to life (John 14:6)

Eternal life through being united with Jesus in His resurrection (Rom 6:4-6)

Eternal life through belief in Jesus (John 3:36)

The Witness of the Spirit (Rom 8:12-16)

Witness of how to live (12-13)

The Holy Spirit witnesses how to live by leading us to serve in a new way (Rom 7:6)

The Holy Spirit witnesses how to live by identifying the acts of the sinful nature (Gal 5:19-21)

The Holy Spirit witnesses how to live by convicting of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:6-11)

The Holy Spirit witnesses how to live by providing Divine weapons to endure in the world (2 Cor 10:3-6)

The Holy Spirit witnesses how to live a life worthy of God (Col 1:10)

The Holy Spirit witnesses how to live holy and righteous through God's enablement (1 Thess 4:7)

The Holy Spirit witnesses how to live through His guidance (Gal 5:16)

Witness of being a child of God (14-16)

Being a child of God through faith (Gal 3:26)

Being a child of God by being sealed by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 1:21-22)

Being a child of God through the Holy Spirit who calls us into sonship (Gal 4:5-7)

Being a child of God through God's authority (John 1:11-13)

Being a child of God through God's love (1 John 3:1-3)

Being a child of God through being born of God (1 John 5:1-5)