

Apply The Word

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EIGHT ON VIII

GOSPEL HOPE from ROMANS 8

Message Info

Title:

Reassurance and
Guarantee from the
Spirit

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

April 3, 2022

Scriptures:

Romans 8:9-11

Theme: The powerful Spirit who gives us life now will certainly raise us up on that last day.

Introduction: One of the Bible's most evocative pictures is the Valley of Dry Bones in Ezekiel 37. In it, we have a picture of lifelessness. But we also gain a picture of the power of the Spirit of God, as he blows life into those dead bones, rescuing and resurrecting them. In Romans 8, we also see the power of the Spirit of God at work, bringing sinners from death to life and sanctifying us by his power.

This text shows 2 aspects of the Spirit's work:

1. Reassurance (9-10)

This passage has a number of conditional (if/then) statements. Paul is showing what is true of those who have the Spirit vs. what's true of those who do not.

How can we know if the Spirit of God dwells in us? Where should we look for assurance that we belong?

We should consider who God is, and what he has done. In sending Jesus, he did all that we need to be saved.

We also need to recognize that our faith is often weak. We may be inclined to think lightly of what God has shown us in his word. But faith orients itself to the word of God. He gave us passages like Rom 8 to reassure us in faith.

In trusting in Christ, we now live with a tension: our physical bodies have death, yet our spirits have life. Our bodies will die; but the new life we have received from the Spirit is eternal.

Not only that, but the Spirit is also producing righteousness in us by the new life he has granted us.

2. Guarantee (11)

The Valley of Dry Bones ought to remind us of Gen 2:7, where the Lord breathed life into the man. The Spirit of God is life-giving.

Jesus referenced a similar reality in John 3:5-8, revealing how the Spirit blows where he wills in salvation, and how the fruit of his work will be evident.

Paul makes a similar connection in verse 11, showing us that we can have confidence in our eternal, resurrection life because of the work the Spirit has already done in raising Jesus from the dead.

The new life is not just about physical resurrection, but spiritual as well. We live and grow spiritually by the Spirit. "The Spirit overcomes death" (DA Carson).

Our future is guaranteed. It is not in question.

Questions:

1. Are you confident in Christ?
2. How are you experiencing the Spirit's life-giving work in your life?