



Bethlehem Parma (LCMS)

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## Is the Holy Spirit living in you?

I recently came across this passage: **Romans 8:11** “...if the Spirit of [God] 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” (NASB 2020).

It got me thinking: How does a person know whether the Holy Spirit is living in him?

Paul answers that question in the surrounding context of **Romans 8**. Please compare this info with your life – very important:

- 1. Do you believe in Christ?** The primary evidence is faith in Jesus. Just a few verses earlier Paul wrote: “...you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you” (Romans 8:9).
- 2. Do you confess Christ and desire God's Word?** The Holy Spirit leads people to Christ, not away from Him. A person who has the Spirit ♦is drawn to Christ's promises, ♦wants forgiveness, and ♦values God's Word, even while still struggling with sin.
- 3. Is there a struggle against sin?** Paul describes believers as having an ongoing conflict with sinful desires: “For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh” (Galatians 5:17). // Ironically, the very fact that a person grieves over sin and wants to repent is evidence of the Spirit's work. Unbelievers

can feel guilt, but only the Spirit produces true repentance and faith in Christ.

- 4. Do you cry out to God as your Father?** A few verses later Paul wrote: “You have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Romans 8:15). // The Spirit gives believers confidence to approach God as their heavenly Father through Christ.

**What Romans 8:11 is not teaching:** Paul is not saying that believers know they have the Spirit because they feel a certain emotion or possess extraordinary gifts. Rather, the Spirit's presence is known through faith in Christ and the fruits that flow from that faith:

**A simple biblical test:** Paul gave perhaps the clearest summary in **Romans 8:16** “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.” // He testifies to us through God's word.

So, if a person ♦trusts in Christ for forgiveness, ♦calls on God as Father, ♦desires His Word, and ♦continues to repent and believe despite many weaknesses, he has every reason to conclude that the Holy Spirit is living in him. The certainty rests **not** in the strength of his feelings, **but** in God's promise given in Christ.

**Having the Holy Spirit is essential for every believer.** When we have Him on the inside, *He will show on the outside!* Not sure? Need help? Let's talk/text: 440-292-5915 *Pastor*

**Schedule:** Saturdays: Bible Class 3; Worship 4; Sundays: Worship 9; Bible Classes 10:30 ♦ **Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134

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