

"By the Spirit"
Romans 8:12-17

Some of you will be highly offended today...

***** VIDEO: Chan – "You won't like this message!"**

(Again...) Some of you will be highly offended today...

**Most of you have never heard what you'll learn today...
(and may never hear again)**

ALL of you will be impacted by the Holy Spirit today...

Let's pray!

T/S: Begin today...

Please CLOSE YOUR EYES... and take a mental picture...

"Blessed Responsibility"

"Prince" & "Princess"

"Stairway to Heaven"

***** VIDEO: "Sinking Ships, Sinners, & Saints"**

So WHO were YOU in that story???

Reality of life = STORMY...

Reality of world = SINKING SHIP...

1. **Passengers at risk of perishing?**
 - a. **Frozen**
 - b. **Feeble**
 - c. **Freaked out**
 - d. **"Followers" (all)**
2. **Cowardice Crew – "trained" but treacherous...**

3. **Killer-Captain – a “Wolf” in “Shepherd’s” clothing**
4. **Average “Entertainers” – God’s called & equipped**
5. **Helicopter Pilots – flying into the storm...**
6. **Rescuer on a Rope – “Here am I Lord, send Me!”**
7. **Post event “Commentator/Critic” – Mon. morn. QB**

The reality is that the Western Church is chuck full of frozen followers, cowardice “crews,” and “killer captains... all comfortably on board sinking ships. But, praise God, there are disciplined warriors being called and equipped in the midst of the trials, as well as others that are being sent out from reliable equipping centers to Find the Lost & Rescue the found...

Now let’s compare your mental picture of:

1. **Blessed Responsibility (a.k.a. “Obligation”)**
2. **Prince & Princesses**
3. **“Stairway to Heaven”**

T/S: Let’s go into God’s Word....

12 *Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.*

“Therefore” – what is the “therefore” there for?

Look back at verse 11... *“if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.”*

“brothers” – this reference assures us he is talking to true Christians

“**we have an obligation**” – what does “obligation” (indebted) mean to you?

To whom or what are YOU obligated? How do you meet your obligations?

13 *For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live...*

Indicative vs. Imperative

1. **Explain.... (verb “moods”)**
2. **Relationship... ALL imperatives empowered by indicatives**
3. **Reject/unable “imperatives” = sin of unbelief of indicatives!**

"For if you live by the sinful nature" = ANYTHING but the Spirit led narrow road

"you will die" = ALL other roads lead to hell... **God's loving, eternal warning!**

"but if" – Praise God! This warning comes with God's guaranteed Remedy!

"by the Spirit" - Only those in-Christ are those "in whom the Spirit dwells"

"put to death" – **the Spirit of God is the Assassin of sin...**

"you will live..." – the Spirit led life lives on the high, narrow road to heaven!

1 John 2:15-17 = *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

14 *because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

It makes perfect sense that the Holy Spirit would lead God's children home...

Note the distinction (AGAIN)... **ONLY those led by the Spirit are Christians!**

"led by the Spirit" = **the Spirit of God is our Adventurous-Guide**

To be led by the Spirit is to walk in biblically defined, faithful obedience...

"faithful" = trusting "no matter what" & "obedience" = being "no matter what"

1. **Do your "footsteps" look like Jesus' footsteps?**
2. **Do your "friends" look & live like Jesus' friends?**
3. **Are your time, talent, & treasure TRULY "yours" or His?**
4. **What proof is evidenced in your life that the Spirit is truly leading?**
5. **Where is your cross? How often do you carry it?**

15 *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*

"For you did not..." = Note that God is taking away all excuses (2 Peter 1:3)

"a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear" = "all other" forms of spirituality

* "again" = point made here is that **you cannot "go back" to lostness!**

"but you" – **Amen!** (brothers, those in-Christ, those in whom the Spirit dwells)

"received the Spirit"

"received" = undergirds the *gift-nature* of Gospel truth...

"the Spirit" = the person of the Gift.. **the Gift of God is God Himself!**

"by Him we cry" = **the Spirit of God is our Announcer**

"Abba, Father." = those in whom the Spirit dwells know **God is "Daddy"**

16 *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

"The Spirit Himself" – The Spirit is "Him" vs. "It" = Personal vs Packaged

"testifies with our spirit" – **the Spirit of God is our Authenticator**

"that we are God's children" – **the Spirit of God is our Adoption Advocate**

17 *Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.*

"Now if..." = Once again God's Word winnow away the counterfeit Christians...

"we are heirs-heirs of God" = Are you willing to trade that offer in for sin?

"if indeed..." = again and again... **Scripture qualifies & defines believers**

"IF INDEED"... "IN ORDER THAT" = SPIRIT-LED SUFFERING SANDWHICH

**** Matthew 10:34-35 = "...not to bring peace but a sword..."**

**** Ephesians 6:10ff = "...put on the full armor of God..."**

**** Philippians 1:28-29 = "...This is a sign to them that they will be**

destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. 29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,

**** Philippians 3:10 = *"...I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,***

Colossians 1:24 = *"...rejoice in suffering..."* (cf. Philippians jail)

1 Thess. 3:4 = *"...For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass,*

**** Hebrews 13:11-14 = *"...The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. 12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. 13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. 14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.***

**** 1 Peter 2:19-21 = *"...For if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.***

***** VIDEO: CHAN – “Suffering in Biblical Obedience”**

James 4:4 = *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*

Luke 6:26 = *Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.*

“Suffering is the incubator of hope & doorway to glory” - JDP

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 = *We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered... We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. **9** Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. **10** He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope...*

CLOSE: Sanctified Saints are obligated to lives of Spirit-led Suffering on their way to God's glory!

***** PRAYER VIDEO = "Roll Over My Body"** (North Korean's suffering saints)

***** PRAYER VIDEO #2 - "My Jesus"** (challenges America's counterfeit Christians)