

Series: Romans  
Title: The Spirit God Gives  
Text: Romans 1: 7-15  
Date: May 6, 2018  
Place: SGBC, NJ

**Romans 1: 7: To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

This is an important verse because Paul tells us to whom he is writing this epistle

*To all that be in Rome*—“All” means “all kinds”: rich or poor, bond or free, male or female. “Rome” tells us he is writing primarily to Gentiles like you and me. Then he qualifies it.

*To all that be in Rome, beloved of God*—To be *beloved* of God is to be *loved before* of God. Before the foundation of the world, God loved his elect in Christ. It is saying “*to the elect of God.*” Then he qualifies it more.

*To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called saints*—All who are beloved of God before time shall be called to be saints in time. God predestinated it.

2 Thessalonians 2: 13: But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be sure to get this! Sanctification is not a co-effort between God and the sinner. God alone sanctifies. It is the only way that God alone gets all the glory. God the Father sanctified his people in divine election, God the Son sanctified his elect in redemption and God the Holy Spirit sanctifies his elect in regeneration.

To be sanctified is to be created holy. It is far more than mere outward morality. In sanctification, Christ is formed in you, creating in you a new, pure, holy heart. In sanctification we “*obtain the glory of Christ.*” It means all that Christ is we obtain in the new man which is created in you after the image of his Son. When the Holy Spirit creates a new man within, the new man is created “*in righteousness and true holiness.*” (Eph 4: 24) True holiness is written as opposed to feigned, pretend holiness that men regard.

With Christ our Sanctifier and our Sanctification formed in us, we are as holy as we will ever be. Paul told the Corinthians “*Ye ARE sanctified*”—not being sanctified—“*Ye ARE sanctified.*” (1 Cor 1: 2; 6: 11) With Christ in you we have that “*holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.*” (Heb 12: 14)

Colossians 1: 12: Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us MEET to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13: Who HATH DELIVERED us from the power of darkness, and HATH TRANSLATED *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

And not only are we sanctified by God, we are also justified by God. So he says,

Colossians 1: 14: In whom we HAVE redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

So God’s saints are *in* the world but not *of* the world, even as Christ is not of the world—“*our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven.*” (Jn 15: 19; Php 3: 20)

You who are sanctified, never forget this! Our single occupation in this world is to serve God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ—by loving and serving one another, by providing one another with the gospel of Christ, and by sending the gospel forth into all the world.

So Paul is writing to *ALL KINDS of believers*, who are each *beloved of God* and *called saints*. And what is written to God's saints *then* is written to God's saints *now*.

Next, Paul gives his usual salutation.

### **Romans 1: 7:...Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ**

Salvation is entirely by the grace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. All who God saves are chosen by grace, redeemed by grace, regenerated by grace, called by grace, gifted by grace, grown by grace, preserved by grace, resurrected by grace and at last presented faultless to God by grace.

Since our salvation is all of grace that means it is apart from our works. Grace and works are mutually exclusive. They cannot co-exist. Paul said,

Romans 11: 6: And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Likewise, *peace* is from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ—“*Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Psalm 29: 11:...the LORD will bless his people with peace.

The peace God our Father gives his saints is Christ himself. His name is “*The Prince of Peace.*” Christ promises his people,

John 14: 27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:...

John 16:33: These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

When he has sanctified us, through faith, Christ gives us free justification by his blood and we have peace with God,

Romans 5:1: Therefore being justified, by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Then God our Father makes *his covenant of peace* in our hearts, saying,

Isaiah 54:10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

Therefore, throughout our lives, God says to his saints,

Philippians 4: 6: Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

So whatever happens, we say with the Psalmist,

Psalm 4: 8: I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

If you ever want to ask God to bless me, this is it! This is the blessing all God's saints desire for one another—*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

What is the spirit God gives his child in sanctification?

**Subject:** The Spirit God Gives

**Proposition:** In the apostle Paul and in the saints at Rome we see the spirit God gives those he has sanctified.

### **A SPIRIT OF THANKFULNESS**

**Romans 1: 8: First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.**

The spirit God gives in those he sanctifies is a spirit of thankfulness.

Those sanctified by God thank God our Father through Jesus Christ for our brethren because God alone is to be thanked—*“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all.”* We are thankful for God's great gift of brethren in Christ.

When God separates us from this world in sanctification, we no longer have the same bond we once had with unregenerate, worldly men. Recently, I was talking with a young lady that God has sanctified. I asked her how school is going. She said, “The greatest difficulty is not having any real bond with my friends because they do not believe the gospel.” God makes his children *“strangers and pilgrims”* in this world. (Heb 11: 13) We have to go to school and work and be friendly with classmates and co-workers. But we have no spiritual unity with them. Therefore, we have no real unity of any kind with them. We are guided by completely different principles.

Yet, between brethren, God gives *“the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* (Eph 4: 3) He makes us *“likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”* (Php 2:2) This is why Christ said,

John 13: 35: By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

1 John 5: 1: Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

Sinners can learn doctrine and fake a zeal for doctrine. But they cannot fake God-given love. *“Charity never faileth.”* (1 Cor 13: 8) You cannot forsake those you love in Christ. God unites his people in love in Christ. We cannot leave the gospel nor leave our brethren in Christ. They need us and we need them. We love them. The charity between brethren which God gives in sanctification never fails. We are one in Christ. They love us and we love them. Paul said, *“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all.”*

Also, the spirit which God gives his saints is thankful to God for making brethren faithful to him—*“I thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ...that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.”* God teaches those he sanctifies that,

James 1: 17: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

God teaches his saints that we are sinners. We have what we have and we are what we are by the grace and power of God alone! So when we see faithfulness in our brethren, we give thanks where thanks is due—“*I thank my God through Jesus Christ...that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*” We are so helpless in ourselves that it is even by him that we thank him.

Hebrews 13:15: By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. So first, the spirit God gives is a spirit of thankfulness to God for brethren and for all spiritual blessings from him.

## **A SPIRIT OF FAITHFULNESS**

### **Romans 1: 8:...your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.**

The spirit God gives in sanctification is a spirit of faithfulness.

First, God makes those he sanctifies faithful to God our Father by making them faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ. The faithful rest in Christ, turning from all self-justifying, self-sanctifying works, casting all care on Christ, trusting Christ to be our complete acceptance with the Father.

Colossians 2: 10: And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Secondly, God makes those he sanctifies faithful to represent God our Savior before men. We do so, not trying *to be seen* of men as do Pharisees. But God makes us faithful *before* men. Men who hate Christ are looking for any reason that we give them to reproach Christ, our gospel, and our brethren. Therefore, it is of utmost importance how believers live and conduct ourselves: in the church before unbelieving family, before young believers and in this world before men.

Titus 2: 2: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 3: The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4: That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5: *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. 6: Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. 7: In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, 8: Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. 9: *Exhort* servants [this applies to us working at our jobs] to be obedient unto their own masters, *and* to please *them* well in all *things*; not answering again; 10: Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. 11: For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12: Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14: Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

In the bulletin there is an article by Pastor Henry Mahan, “*Believers Represent the Lord.*” This illustrates what we just read in Titus. Brother Henry wrote:

“Several years ago I applied for a home improvement loan at a local bank. I did not deal with the president of the bank or an officer of the bank but with one of the employees. This particular employee was quite rude and unkind to me causing me to cancel my account at that bank and move to another. The only contact I had with the bank was with this very poor representative but it was enough to discourage me from going there again.

You and I represent our Lord, the gospel of the Lord Jesus, and the church of the first-born. The only contact some people have with the church and kingdom of God is through us. What kind of impression do we leave on them? What idea of Christianity do we convey to them?

I wonder if they do not sometimes walk away offended, disappointed, and resolved not to inquire any further into our faith or listen to our message. I realize that we are frail creatures, subject to all of the limitations of the flesh, but we need to set a watch on our lips, control our tempers, and put forth a special effort to adorn the gospel of His grace. If we endure persecution for the gospel's sake, well and good, but not if we bring it on ourselves by our own faults!”

God gives his saints a spirit of faithfulness to Christ and a faithfulness to represent Christ before men. The saints at Rome were known by all men—“*your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*”

## A SPIRIT TO SERVE

**Romans 1: 9: For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; 10: Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. 11: For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; 12: That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. 13: Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. 14: I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. 15: So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.**

The spirit God gives those he sanctifies is a spirit to serve. We see this in Paul. Paul was an apostle but this is the spirit the Lord gives to all his people, including his pastors.

First, God gives a spirit to serve him—“*WHOM I serve...*” After Christ spoke to Paul on one occasion, he said, “*For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve.*” (Acts 27: 23)

Notice, it is in the new spirit that God gives his child this desire to serve him—“*whom I serve WITH MY SPIRIT...*” Our old, sinful man of flesh only hinders us. But “*Paul purposed IN THE SPIRIT, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.*” (Acts 19: 21)

Furthermore, it is in the gospel of Christ that God gives us a spirit to him—“*whom I serve with my spirit IN THE GOSPEL OF HIS SON.*” God calls some to preach Christ. Others, God calls to support those he sends forth to preach Christ. That service takes on many different forms from keeping the grounds of the church house to keeping the nurse to supporting the gospel financially to being a traveling companion and whatever else God puts in our hands whereby we can contribute. But whatever we do, it is for the furtherance of the gospel of God's Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Secondly, God makes his child faithful to serve our brethren, including those lost sheep we are seeking. Listen to this spirit of a servant toward his brethren—“*For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me...*”

God gives us a spirit to serve whomever God sends us unto—“*I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.*” Our God is no respecter of persons and the spirit he gives his saints is the same. Paul knew himself a debtor to preach the gospel to whatever kinds of sinners God sent him unto—“*to the wise and to the unwise.*”

God gives us a spirit to serve by preaching wherever God sends us—“*So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.*” Paul knew he had more enemies than friends at Rome. He knew chains and afflictions awaited him for preaching Christ at Rome. Yet, the spirit that God gives his servant makes him ready to go wherever God would have him to go. Paul said, “*I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.*”

This is the new spirit that God gives when God sanctifies us in regeneration: *a spirit of thankfulness to God*: for brethren and for all God’s gifts to our brethren; *a spirit of faithfulness*: faithfulness to Christ and faithfulness to represent Christ before men; *a spirit to serve*: to serve God in the preaching of his Son and a spirit to serve our brethren. This the spirit God gives in sanctification.

Let us ask ourselves, “Do I have this spirit?” We are not born again full grown. We never become more holy but we do grow in the grace that our Lord gives. Let us forget our past and reach forth asking Christ to grow us in spirit by growing us in knowledge of him.

**Amen!**