

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

THE SPIRIT GIVES YOU LIFE

Romans 8:10-11 "But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And 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 because of His Spirit who lives in you."

Your body will die! This is not an uplifting thought, is it? Yet, it is true for you and for all people. God warned Eve and Adam that if they ate of the tree (Genesis 1 & 2) their bodies would die. Their sin caused their bodies to die. Your body is doomed to die because it is infected with sin.

There is more to know! Because Christ lives in you, your body will pass through death in order to be cleansed completely of this infection. It will not be abandoned or lost. (Lenski, Commentary on Romans) On the last day it will become a glorified body. (1 Corinthians 15)

It is the Spirit who gives you and your body this new life. The Scriptures say that the Spirit is life. This is the wonderful, uplifting message of Romans chapter 8. Though your earthly, temporary body is doomed to die, the life given it by the Spirit through the gift of faith in Christ Jesus gives you and your body a new life that will never die. Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death." (John 8:51) Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." (John 11:25-26)

The physical death of your body is not something to be afraid of. In fact, it is something for which you can look forward to with great comfort and confidence as St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." "And 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 because of His Spirit who lives in you." (Romans 8:11)

Prayer: Thanks and praise to You, Holy Spirit, for giving me faith in Jesus whereby I no longer am afraid of dying because You have given me life for all eternity through Jesus."

Oh, how blest are they whose toils are ended,
Who through death have unto God ascended!
They have arisen From the cares which keep us still in prison.

We are still as in a dungeon living,
Still oppressed with sorrow and misgiving;
Our undertakings Are but toils and troubles and heart-breakings.

They meanwhile are in their chambers sleeping,
Quiet and set free from all their weeping;
No cross or sadness There can hinder their untroubled gladness.

Christ has wiped away their tears forever;
They have that for which we still endeavor.
By them are chanted Songs that ne'er to mortal ears were granted.

Come, O Christ, and loose the chains that bind us;
Lead us forth and cast this world behind us.
With You, the Anointed. Finds the soul its joy and rest appointed.
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