

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 42 (October 14-20, 2018)

I want to conclude our studies on the workings of the Holy Spirit with some miscellaneous texts.

**Sunday**, October 14 (Romans 5:1-5)

*And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. (Romans 5:5)*

Today's text is both beautiful and powerful. Through our personal **faith** in Jesus, we are **justified** (just as if I'd never sinned); therefore, we have **peace** with God, having "gained access by faith into this **grace** in which we now stand" (v. 1-2, emphasis mine). This causes us to **rejoice** "in the **hope** (assurance) of the glory of God" (v. 2b). In other words, our acceptance of the finished works of Jesus guarantees that we will see His glory in heaven. Therefore, we can even rejoice in our sufferings, because we understand that God uses them to produce within us **perseverance**, **character** and **hope** (v. 4). All of this happens as a result of God pouring "His **love** into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (v. 5). The love of God living in us can enable us to love even our enemies. Remember to praise the Holy Spirit for His wonderful gift!

**Monday**, October 15 (read Romans 8:19-25)

*But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (Romans 8:25)*

Paul establishes that the entire creation is subject to the law of sin and death because of Adam's original failure. This means that your pets, plants, trees, etc. are all decaying as they head toward death. They all anxiously await the final redemption of mankind (v. 19-21). Even though we have the Holy Spirit because of salvation through adoption into the family of God, we still await the total "redemption of our bodies" (v. 23). We have learned that the sin nature inside us struggles with the Holy Spirit for control. We are saved from the **penalty** of sin, but the **power** of sin has yet to be completely conquered because of our sin natures (v. 24). Won't it be great when we finally receive the wonderful liberation from the bonds of sin? Are you waiting patiently for that day (v. 25)?

**Tuesday**, October 16 (read Romans 8:26-28)

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)*

The printed passage was originally my favorite verse in God's Word, because I was introduced to it following the death of my second son, Michael Todd. I was much too young in my faith to understand the concept that precedes the great truth, however. We do not even know how to pray, because we always ask God for what we perceive to be good things (v. 26). The selfishness of our sin nature makes it impossible for us to be unbiased in our requests. That's where the role of the Spirit comes in! He hears the desires of our hearts and presents our requests to the Father, because He knows our minds as well as the Father's (v. 27). He sees to it that we obtain what we **need**; then He oversees the process of working everything together for our good (v. 28). In our daily prayers, we should remember to praise and thank the Spirit for His wonderful intervention?

**Wednesday**, October 17 (read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

*For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2)*

Today's passage is part of my ongoing testimony. Even though I am uneducated in the eyes of man, God has used my simple verse-by-verse presentation of the Gospel to initiate local revivals. Actually, the focus should **never** be on the preacher's credentials or delivery (v. 1-3), but rather on the **truth** of the message delivered directly from God's Word. This message must always focus on the finished work of Jesus Christ as well as the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. When our sermons are known for the Spirit's power instead of our superior knowledge, God gets the glory (v. 4-5). That must always be the goal of all preachers, teachers, etc.

**Thursday**, October 18 (read 1 Corinthians 2:6-10a)

*"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him"—but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)*

The message that every Spirit-filled minister preaches is not politically correct. In other words, the rulers of this world simply do not understand the wisdom that comes from God (v. 6). The Lord has hidden His truth from the wise and learned (v. 7) and revealed it to His children (see Matthew 11:25). The leaders would not have crucified Jesus had they understood these things (v. 8). The great news is this: We ain't seen nothing yet! (I'll never get that past my editor.) God's Spirit has more to reveal to us than we could ever imagine (v. 9-10). As we continue to live by the truth He shows us, the best is yet to come!

**Friday**, October 19 (read 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16)

*We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. (1 Corinthians 2:12)*

The Spirit reveals new truth day by day until we are ready to understand the "deep things of God" (v. 10b). As we saw in Romans 8:26-27, the Spirit knows the **mind** of God; therefore, He knows the **thoughts** of God as well as our own thoughts since He dwells in us (v. 11). My heart's desire is for you to know and understand your benefits as a child of God, not only what He has already done for you, but also what He has in store because He loves you (v. 9-10). The politically correct people will never see what you see, because they don't have spiritual eyes (v. 12). Without the Spirit, the lost cannot understand spiritual truths taught by the Spirit of God (v. 13). We'll cover one more work of the Holy Spirit in tomorrow's devotion.

**Saturday**, October 20 (reread 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16)

*The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)*

In today's text, we see the difference between the spiritual man and the unspiritual man. The latter will never accept the things that originate with the Spirit of God, because through his own worldly knowledge, they seem foolish. Neither will he understand the Bible, because it is **spiritually** discerned (v. 14). In contrast, the spiritual man depends on the Spirit's guidance to make all judgments. He is not subject to the judgments of those who do not have the Spirit and cannot understand his actions (v. 15). Only the Holy Spirit knows the mind of the Lord (v. 27), but since He abides within us, we also have the mind of Christ (v. 16). Praise His Name for the workings of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds today!