

Romans Part 11 (5:3 – 5:8)

--INTRO:

--this week we'll continue exploring the security of our salvation through the nature of our relationship with God.

--in Romans 5:3-8 for the first time in the book of Romans Paul speaks of "the Holy Spirit" and "the love of God" – **"the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us"**

--when we invited God into our life by faith, God entered our life and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts and thus began a love relationship that will never end!

--when we first had genuine faith in Christ, we embraced Him for all that He is, both Savior and Lord; and in essence invited Him into our life.... we might not have known how to articulate our faith or we may have had very limited understanding about our faith; but God saw our heart and entered our life as our Savior and Lord... and once He enters our life as our Savior and Lord He never leaves!

--Romans 5:5-8: "...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. ... 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

--later in Romans 7:4-6 Paul compares the intimacy of our love relationship with God to the intimacy of marriage: "Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, **that you may be married to another** — to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. ... so that we should serve **in the newness of the Spirit** and not in the oldness of the letter."

--the Greek word *ginomai* is figuratively translated "married" in the NKJV; in the NIV it is translated "belong to" and in the NASB "joined to."

--before Christ made payment for our sins, God dwelled in the tabernacle along side the people of Israel... but now God doesn't dwell along side us; rather He dwells *in* us – He doesn't set up a tent and live in our backyard, but rather He moves into our house... so that we are permanently "married" / "joined" to Him and "belong to" Him... and He doesn't lose what belongs to Him!

--John 10:27-30: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and **no one shall snatch them out of My hand**. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 "I and the Father are one."

--2 Timothy 2:11-19 makes subtle reference to our permanent connection to God: "This is a faithful saying, '... If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.' ... 'The Lord knows those who are His'..." – that is, because God dwells inside us through the Holy Spirit He can't turn His back on us because doing that would be turning His back on Himself!

--Galatians 4:6-7: "God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"

--the term "Abba, Father" is an intimate term, which Jesus also used to address God the Father during His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You..." (Mark 14:36)

--in Romans 8:15-16 Paul again uses the term "Abba, Father" in reference to our relationship with God: "you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God..."

--because of our permanent relationship with God, when we stray He doesn't abandon us, but rather He disciplines us... Hebrews 12:5-8: "And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.' 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?"

--there is profound comfort knowing that God will chasten us... we don't have to worry about messing up one to many times... we're not on a three strikes system... "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

--the concepts of "the love of God" and "the Holy Spirit who was given to us", as Paul states in Romans 5, are two of the core differences between the old covenant and new covenants... more specifically, **knowing the love of God that Christ demonstrated** by dying on the cross **and knowing the love of God through the illumination of the Holy Spirit.**

--one might think that the knowledge about God's love that the New Testament gives us is just man's way of teaching about God's love and that God teaches another way, but the New Testament knowledge about God's love is literally "spiritual words" that are "taught" by the Holy Spirit...

--1 Corinthians 2:12-14: "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. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in **words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.** 14 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."

--there is more power to the words of Scripture than we sometimes realize... just as "the worlds were framed by the word of God" (Hebrews 11:3) so our faith is framed by the word of God – "faith comes by hearing [God speak...] and hearing [we hear God speak] by the word of God" (Romans 10:17) therefore "how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace!" (Romans 10:15) ... those who are "ambassadors for Christ..." (2 Corinthians 5:20)

--in essence, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit we come to know God as someone that loves us personally and would love to embrace us in His arms, someone that we will one day see face to face... opposed to someone who is distant and causes fear and trembling as on Mt. Sinai – "And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.'" (Hebrews 12:21)

--the old and new covenants (Hebrews ch. 8,9,10) are simply two different stages in God's one master plan that He designed before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4, 1 Peter 1:20, Rev. 13:8)

--gradual progression from mankind knowing next to nothing about God before His revelation to Abraham..... to being brought one step closer to God through the temporary means of the ceremonial law and the gradual revelation of the Old Testament prophets (many of whom lived in Israel's latter days)..... to being brought even closer to God through the revelation of Christ's earthly ministry and His final payment for our sins..... to the ultimate revelation of seeing God face to face in heaven!

--side note: a case can be made that before Christ's final payment, those who were saved were not able to go to the presence of God in heaven when they died, but rather went to a temporary place referred to by Jesus in the parable of Abraham's bosom and the rich man and Lazarus... and after Christ made payment for our sins He took these people to heaven to live in the actual presence of God...

--another side note: one important purpose for the Old Covenant stage of God's plan was to provide a means of authenticating the knowledge about God's love and the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Covenant... *see online article: www.bible-questions.net/prophecy*

--Romans 5:3-5: "...we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

--God's love was demonstrated on the cross... (Romans 5:8) then poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit... (Romans 5:5) causing us to "serve God in the newness of the Spirit" (Romans 7:6), that is, causing us to serve God out of love... and because of the motivation of love **"we glory in tribulations..."** (Romans 5:3) in a way that

Old Testament saints were not able to (even Daniel was mournful... Daniel 10:2) ...as Paul and the other apostles and countless Christians throughout the ages were able to glory in tribulations that cost them their life!

--in the words of Hebrews, we are able to glory in tribulations... because because we can "run with endurance the race that is set before us [*empowered by the Holy Spirit*], 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus [*through the knowledge of the New Testament and illumination of the Holy Spirit*], the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, **so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.**" (Hebrews 12:1-3, NASB)

--another key passage about the Holy Spirit and the security of our salvation:

--Ephesians 1:13-14: "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**, 14 who is **the guarantee of our inheritance** until the redemption of **the purchased possession**, to the praise of His glory."

--again Paul speaks of the fact that we have been "purchased" by Christ's one-time payment... "redemption of the purchased possession" refers to our glorification in heaven when we receive new bodies.

--the Greek word *arrhabon* is translated "guarantee" (NKJV) and is used only three times in the entire Bible and all three times refers to the Holy Spirit being a guarantee... (2 Cor. 1:22, 2 Cor. 5:5, Eph. 1:14)

--*arrhabon* could also be translated "a pledge" which means a deposit given as a security... the new life of the Holy Spirit in us now is a "pledge" (from God who means what He says!) that we will have new life in heaven.

--"...the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance" (NIV)

--"...the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance" (NASB)

--God taking the step to "seal" us with the Holy Spirit speaks of the permanence of His one-time payment for our sins... **if it were possible for us to lose our salvation then would it be possible for God to "seal" us with the Holy Spirit as a "guarantee" of "our inheritance" in heaven?** ... what is sealed can't be unsealed, just like what is paid by Christ's one-time payment can't be unpaid...