



## THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS "Living in the Spirit" Romans 8:14-27

No. 290

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Having explained in principle what happens when believers receive the "Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead", Paul now leads into a practical explanation of life in the Spirit.

### I. Living in the Good of the Family. vv. 14-17

Note family words: Sons, children, adoption, heirs, "*Abba* Father."

- A. The experience of the leading of the Spirit. v. 14
  - 1. Leading—"*Agontai*": "The Spirit drags the man where the flesh would fain not go" (Godet).
  - 2. Leading—An evidence of Sonship.
  - 3. Leading—An obligation of sons.
  - 4. Leading—Alert to prompting, obedient to control. E.g. Luke 4:1
- B. The experience of liberty through the Spirit. v. 15a
  - 1. Fear creates bondage.
  - 2. Spirit gives freedom. E.g. 2 Timothy 1:7
- C. The experience of loving by the Spirit. v. 15b
  - 1. The ministry of adoption—status, privilege by choice.
  - 2. "*Abba*"—Aramaic expression of endearment. E.g. Mark 14:36
- D. The experience of learning from the Spirit. vv. 16-17
  - 1. Learning—"With our Spirit."
  - 2. Learning about status as sons.
  - 3. Learning about sharing as heirs.
  - 4. Learning about suffering as normative.

### II. Living in the Midst of Futility. vv. 18-22

- A. Creation subjected to futility, decay, pain, because of man.
- B. Creation will be redeemed when man is freed.
- C. Creation eagerly awaits that day.

### III. Living in the Light of the Futurity. vv. 23-27

- A. We have "firstfruits", but we groan.
- B. We are "saved" but still await redemption.
- C. We pray but don't know what to say.
- D. But the Spirit intercedes...
- E. ...And the Father understands...
- F. ...And we persevere in hope.