



## **Pentecost (NOT) in Lockdown** (2020)

Dear Father

Thank you that I/we was/were made to your image;

Thank you for showing me/us that you value me/us as your creation and that you were impressed with the result;

Thank you that you did not refrain from me/us when I/we sinned against you;

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for stepping into my/our place and paying my/our debt by dying on the cross;

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for leading me/us to Christ and for giving me/us the guarantee that I/we am/are God's child/children.

As your child/children, I/we would like to become the person/people that you want me/us to be and to understand what my/our true value is and how our relationship with you can add value to my/our life here on earth.

Amen

### **2. Filled with the Holy Spirit** (24-05-2020) – Romans 8

This morning we focused on our value!

#### **Personal testimony**

I grew up in a wonderful Christian home. My parents were not only devoted believers, very active in their congregation, but also in their community. As a businessman, my father also took care of his staff, the community that included communities from three different ethnic backgrounds.

When I was three, my father died in a car accident. I learned that my dad was in heaven and then at the age of four I discovered a Father in heaven, this took me on my discovery of what it means to become a child of God. I wanted to get to know my Father in Heaven, read the story of Joseph over and over and could not stop until I got to the end.

In grade 8 I made my first commitment to God, when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. I became a devoted Christian and when my brother returned from studies in the Netherlands and India, I joined him in his mission in Chatsworth.

In my matric year I made another commitment, to serve God for the rest of my life, to give up my dream of becoming a veterinarian and go into fulltime ministry. There I started with a Bible study group in my 3x3m room in boarding school. Challenged my teachers that were not living up to Christian values and was almost expelled.

- During my military service, I began reaching out to my fellow soldiers and with the chaplain built a coffee bar where we could meet and have conversations with other soldiers – I wish I could share more of my journey.
- While being very active in church and outreaches, doing missions and working on the streets with drug addicts and prostitutes, during my studies at UP (sorry Stefan I know you “look down” 😊 on a product of UP, but that is why rely more on God!), it was already in my post graduate years that I began to develop a singing career, enjoyed the attention and writing songs, performing until one day I was confronted by the Spirit of God.
- We attended a conference from a DRC minister, on How to be filled with the Holy Spirit and we wanted to know. There I was confronted with what is there in my life that I would not give up – in my case my music, singing, performing was a major thing as I grew up singing. But my desire to know God and to be filled with the Holy Spirit was stronger and that evening I made another commitment to give up my dream of becoming a singer, to drop my guitar in the sea next time I could go. A few days later I heard God say: “*Pick up your guitar and sing*”; I knew God was testing whether I was serious about my commitment and I said: “*I won’t do it!*” Then I heard Him say it again: “*Take your guitar and sing*” which I again declined. Then the third I already had my guitar in my hands, and I said Lord: “If this is you, I would do whatever You say” ... then I wrote a song: “*To the glory of God*”.

We need to understand the work of the Holy Spirit: to convict us of sin, to bring us in line with God’s redemption in our life, and to ensure that He can use us in our context and prepare us for eternity.

Peter had to come to terms with his denial of knowing who Jesus was; He had to make another commitment and it was only when he was filled with the Spirit of God that he discovered his true calling and could speak to multitudes and bridge the cultural barriers of his time and share the Gospel with people who were not Jews. (Joh.21:15-19)

Paul, was a theologian, well trained Pharisee, but after meeting the Lord on his way to Damascus, and being filled with the Holy Spirit, spent between seven and fourteen years in the Arabian desert studying the Word to confirm his new found relationship with God, he became the servant leader, writing a third of the New Testament and spreading the Gospel all over the Greek-Roman world and helped to structure the Church. (Acts (:1-19)

Being Spirit filled is not an emotional or even a spectacular event like the experience we read in the Book of Acts, it is a faith based on God's word and accepting His gift to inhabit all aspects of our life not only in my religious activities. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not another work of God in our life, but a continuation of the work done by Christ. It becomes part of our daily prayer (Lord's Prayer Luke 11-1-13):

Luke 11:13: "... how much more will your Father in heaven give  
the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

### **Romans 8:1-17 Life Through the Spirit**

**8** Therefore, there is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**,<sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you<sup>[a]</sup> free from the law of sin and death.<sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh,<sup>[b]</sup> God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.<sup>[c]</sup> And so he condemned sin in the flesh,<sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.<sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.<sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.<sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in **the realm of the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.<sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life<sup>[d]</sup> because of righteousness.<sup>11</sup> 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<sup>[e]</sup> his Spirit who lives in you.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have **an obligation**—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are **the children of God**. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.<sup>[1]</sup> And by him we cry, “Abba,<sup>[2]</sup> Father.” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

If a person has accepted Jesus Christ as his/her Saviour:

- Then there is **no condemnation**
  - o because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you<sup>[a]</sup> free from the law of sin and death. (vs 1)
  - o who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (vs 4)
  - o their minds set on what the Spirit desires. (vs 5)
  - o the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. (vs 6)
- **the person lives in the realm of the Spirit**
  - o the Spirit of God lives in you (vs 9)
  - o the Spirit gives life<sup>[a]</sup> because of righteousness (vs 10)
  - o if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. (vs 13)
- those who are led by the Spirit of God are **the children of God**.
  - o brought about your adoption to sonship.<sup>[1]</sup> And by him we cry, “Abba,<sup>[2]</sup> Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.
  - o Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Accepting Jesus Christ puts your relationship with God in another realm: **Spirit**

No longer a slave of religion,

No longer living in fear, (death penalty)

No longer under the control of human desires

- o assurance of faith
- o life free of fear – peace
- o being able to resist desires and
- o make decisions that are in line with what God wants

Taking ownership of your new status:

- Child of God (to call God your Father)
- Co-heir with Christ

Being Spirit filled is merely a prayer away and accepting that God will give it to those who ask (Luke 11:13). Tomorrow we will carry on from here.

Father thank you for loving us so much and for saving us from a fruitless life. Please fill me/us with the Holy Spirit that I/we can enjoy a fruitful life.

Amen

**Romans 8:1-17**

Romans 8	Flesh	Spirit
1		there is now <b>no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus</b>
2		through Christ Jesus the law of <u>the Spirit who gives life has set you<sup>[a]</sup> free</u> from the law of sin and death
3	For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh,	God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering And so he condemned sin in the flesh
4		in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, <u>who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.</u>
5	Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires;	but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have <u>their minds set on what the Spirit desires</u>
6	The mind governed by the flesh is death,	but the mind governed by the Spirit is <u>life and peace.</u>
7	The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.	
8	Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.	
9	And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.	You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in <b>the realm of the Spirit</b> , if indeed the Spirit of God <u>lives in you.</u>
10		But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit <u>gives life<sup>[a]</sup> because of righteousness.</u>
11		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 <sup>[a]</sup> his Spirit who lives in you.
12		Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have <b>an obligation</b> —but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.
13	<sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh, you will die;	but if by the Spirit you <u>put to death the misdeeds of the body</u> , you will live.
14		For those who are led by the Spirit of God are <b>the children of God.</b>
15	The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again;	rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. <sup>[f]</sup> And by him we cry, "Abba, <sup>[a]</sup> Father."
16		<u>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.</u>
17		Now if we are children, then we are heirs— <u>heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ</u> , if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.