**Blain Bargo’s message from August 22, 2021
PURPOSE IN SPIRIT**

Passages:

First Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

Second Scripture: Romans 8: 1-16

Additional Scriptures for reference: Acts 19:21, Genesis 2:7, Proverbs 20:27, John 4:24,

Romans 8: 1-16

**8**1Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. **3**For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, **4**so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **5**For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6**For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, **7**because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, **8**and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**9**However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. **10**If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. **11**But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**12**So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— **13**for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14**For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God. **15**For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” **16**The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.

Prayer

A few weeks ago Pastor Tim was speaking from Acts 19 on the miracles God was performing through the work of Paul’s ministry. Pastor Tim’s passage stopped at verse 20 but I had continued to read on a little further into verse 21. “When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, ‘After I have been there, I must also see Rome.’”

These few words got my attention, “Purposed in the Spirit”. I marked this passage so I could look into its meaning a little more because what caught my attention is that it did not say purposed in the Holy Spirit. It only referred to Spirit.

For me I struggle with electronics and all these new ways to gain or distribute information. It just isn’t my thing, but the internet was helpful as I wanted to know how many times the word spirit was used in the Bible. What I found is that in the King James version it is referenced 523 times and in the New King James version which I use it is referenced 612 times. I am sure the discrepancy in the numbers is due to translation of the original text, but either way we can see that in scripture, spirit is an important topic.

We can find reference to spirit in the 1st chapter of Genesis in verse 2. “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” As we go through the creation story, we can see in Genesis 2:7 that God placed a spirit with-in us. “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

In the original Hebrew text the word translated as breath in this passage is the same word translated as Spirit in Proverbs 20:27, which says: “The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah.” So, we can also translate Genesis 2:7 to say: “and breathed into his nostrils the spirit of life.”

I also found that the word spirit is found 389 times in the Old Testament with 136 times referring to God and 129 times to people. The two basic meanings of the word in the Hebrew language are wind and breath.

In God’s creation of man, He created us with three basic parts, body, soul, and spirit. It is the spirit that gives us vitality as it is the breath of God breathed into us. His breath is what brought us to life, it is the oxygen that flows throughout our bodies so we can function. It is the core of our being, of our very existence.

Our spirits are the part of us that has connection with God our creator. It is the part of us that connects to God. We read in John 4:24: “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

I was reading an article from Bibles for America and it was using an example for a way to understand the connection of our spirit To God’s Spirit is to look at the way a radio operates. When a radio is turned on and properly tuned, it receives invisible radio waves in the air and interprets them for us to understand. In the same manor our spirits must be properly tuned in order to connect to God’s Spirit.

We have a choice to make in the free will that God has given to us. That choice is to give our lives over to Him. We often reference the A B C’s of salvation especially when we are teaching young children.

A: Admit: admit that you are a sinner.

B: Believe: believe that Jesus is God’s only Son and that He chose to die on the cross for you.

C: Commit: commit yourself to a life following Jesus and serving others.

But as we refer to the ABC’s there is an S at the end. I would like to say the S is for Spirit. Once we have admitted that we are sinners, believe that Jesus has died for us to take away our sins, and are committed to following Jesus, it is then that our spirit is united with the Spirit of God.

These are the basics of salvation, and they are the requirements for our spirits to be connected to the Spirit of God. Without acknowledging our dependance on Christ and the sacrifice that He made on our behalf our spirits cannot be united with Christ Spirit.

With our acceptance of Christ into our lives, God’s spirit immediately takes residency with our spirit. We are born again, receiving new life from Christ in our spirit.

I want to get back to the phrase in Acts 19:21: “purposed in the spirit.” I found over the past few weeks as I was looking into our message for today, that I am constantly asking God to help me to purpose my spirit with His. Our spirit becomes who we are. It is our personality; it is what is reflected or portrayed out to others and how they see us. It is the core of who we are. If we purpose our spirit, the love of Christ will be obvious to those we meet.

We as Christians must be able to be seen by others as having something unique about us, something different in our personalities, in the way we go about our daily lives. It has to move beyond just a knowledge of Jesus Christ. It has to be beyond our weekly attendance at church. It must be an effort on our part of actively purposing our spirit with His Spirit. This is how we will stay in the will of God.

Purposing our spirit is an exercise so to speak. In 1 Timothy 4:7-8 we read: “But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”

Just like we discipline ourselves to a regimen to be physically or mentally fit, we need to discipline ourselves to be fit in godliness through our spirits.

We need to exercise our spirits. We need to be discerning with-in our spirits, not with the logic of our minds. It is the spirit that connects us to God.

A daily walk with Christ is to purpose our spirit to be united with His spirit. It is our journey with Him that culminates from the day we accept Him into our life. Purposing our spirit is to entangle our relationship into His.

During marriage ceremonies I have seen the analogy of two strands of a rope being used when you are joined as husband and wife, but to create that strong bond and relationship you must intertwine or braid into the strands a third one representing Christ. It is the intertwining or weaving of our spirit with Christ Spirit that is key to being purposed in the spirit.

When our spirit is yielded and purposed to follow after Christ, our soul (our mind, emotions, and will) is more likely to follow along. But if we do not get our spirit purposed to daily follow after Christ and to do the will of God, it is unlikely that our soul and body will. That is why it is so important to clothe ourselves in the love of Christ every day and get spiritually dressed (the gospel armor) regularly. These things help to make our spirit be at rest in Christ and tuned in to His voice and leading.

As we close today, I hope that you can take with you that God has created us with three distinct parts. Body, soul, and spirit, and that it is the spirit that he breathed into us that is the part of us that connects to Him. This spirit is re-birthed or regenerated when we received Christ into our lives through the Spirit of God. It is God alive in us. It is the part of us that brings true worship to God. It is your and my decision to purpose our spirits with His.

Shall we join in praying a prayer of invitation in unison from our hymnal #335.

O God, the Holy Spirit, Come to us, and among us; Come as the wind, and cleanse us; Come as the fire, and burn; Come as the dew, and refresh; Convict, convert, and consecrate Many hearts and lives To our great good And to Your greater glory; And this we ask in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benediction: Go now into your community, into your workplaces, purposed in spirit to share the gift of Christ’s love. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.