



May 10, 2026
The Spirit Leads
Romans 8:11-17



1. **Sermon Outline:**

- a. The Holy Spirit Leads Believers Into Greater Obedience to God's Revealed Will
 - i. Christians SHOULD be led by the Holy Spirit
 - ii. The Spirit leads through Scripture and the conviction of sin
- b. The Holy Spirit Leads Believers Through Specific Promptings
 - i. The Holy Spirit also gives particular promptings to do, or not do, things
 - ii. As you abide in Christ, you will be prompted by the Holy Spirit
- c. Recognize the Spirit's Prompting and Follow His Lead
 - i. The Spirit guides us into truth
 - ii. As you follow the Spirit's lead, it gets easier to recognize the Spirit's leading

2. **Sunday** – As soon as possible after the sermon, consider:

- a. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
- b. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
- c. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
- d. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
- e. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

3. **Monday:**

- a. Begin this week's devotional by meditating on the focal passage: Romans 8:11-17.
 - i. What would you say is the main topic Paul is addressing in these verses?
 - ii. What does Paul's repeated use of the conditional word "if" in these verses personalize the passage for the reader? What does (should) it cause the reader to do?
 - iii. What special blessing and/or promise do you personally see in the passage?
 - iv. Which verse is most convicting?
- b. The focal passage flows from the earlier verses in chapter 8 and is best understood in context with these verses. Read Romans 8:1-10.
 - i. What three things does Paul tell us the law cannot do to us in verses 2, 3, and 4?
 - ii. What four contrasts between the saved and the unsaved does Paul present in verses 5 through 8?

- iii. What do verses 7-8 tell us about our spiritual ability before we become a Christian (see also James 4:4 and 1 Corinthians 2:14)?
- iv. If you remember high school math, in what way are verses 9-10a really an “if and only if” statement?
 - 1. What must be true if you are a genuine Christian?
 - 2. What is true if you do not possess the Holy Spirit?

4. *Tuesday:*

- a. Read Romans 8:10-17, meditating especially on verses 10-13.
- b. If the Spirit is in you, what else is true now (verse 10) and in the future (verse 11) (see also Romans 6:5, 1 Corinthians 6:14, 15:42, 2 Corinthians 4:14–16, & 1 Thessalonians 4:14)?
- c. What is the significance of the initial words (“Therefore” (NIV) or (“So then” (ESV)) of verse 12?
- d. Following these first words, Paul tells us we have an “obligation” (NIV) or “are debtors” (ESV). What should this mean to us?
 - i. Can we just be passive in living our lives and say we’re letting the Holy Spirit do everything?
 - ii. Who puts the deeds of the body to death according to verse 13? What is necessary for us to do so?
- e. What enables us to hold in tension the two truths: that the indwelling of the Spirit as a result of faith in Christ secures eternal life and that a lifestyle patterned after Christ is necessary to inherit eternal life? What does John 14:23-24 add to this discussion?

5. *Wednesday:*

- a. Read Romans 8:11-17, meditating especially on verse 14.
- b. What does it mean to be “led by the Spirit”? Do you think Paul is just referring to making major decisions in life?
 - i. How does Paul tie verse 14 back to verse 13b, and what does this suggest about what “led” means?
 - ii. Read Galatians 5:16-18.
 - 1. What is the connection between walking by the Spirit in verse 16 and being led by the Spirit in verse 18?
 - 2. If you continue and look at how the works of the flesh are described in verse 19, would limiting “led” to just making major conscious decisions enable you to “put to death the misdeeds of the body” (Romans 8:13)?
 - 3. Pick a couple of the “acts of the flesh” from Galatians 5:19. How does/should being led by the Spirit enable you to avoid such sins (see John 14:26)?

- iii. How do you think 1 Corinthians 6:19 (particularly the last phrase in verse 19) and Romans 14:7-8 relate?
- c. If you combine verse 9 with verse 14, what three things must all be true or all be false? Can we be a child of God without having the Holy Spirit and without accepting Christ by faith?

6. *Thursday:*

- a. Read and meditate on Romans 8:14-17.
- b. Verse 14 says that those of us who are “led by the Spirit are children of God.” How do we become His children (see John 1:12-13, Galatians 4:4-7, and Ephesians 1:4-6)?
- c. In verses 15-17, Paul gives us at least seven privileges (blessings) of sonship. How are each of these privileges described or explained:
 - i. Security – verse 15a and 1 John 4:8
 - ii. Authority – verse 15a and 2 Timothy 1:17
 - iii. Intimacy – verse 15b and Galatians 4:6-7
 - iv. Assurance – verse 16 and 2 Corinthians 1:22 & Ephesians 1:13
 - v. Inheritance – verse 17 and Galatians 3:29 & 4:7
 - vi. Discipline – verse 17 and Hebrews 12:9-10 & 2 Corinthians 1:5
 - vii. Family-likeness – verse 17 and Romans 8:29 & Philippians 3:21
- d. Which of these “privileges” is most difficult to accept?

7. *Friday:*

- a. Read Romans 8:14-17, meditating especially on verse 17.
- b. In today’s vernacular, what is the “good news and the bad news” (although it actually isn’t bad at all) of this verse?
 - i. What does it mean to you to be an heir?
 - 1. Read Acts 20:32, Galatians 3:29, 4:7, Ephesians 3:6, and Titus 3:7. What do these verses teach us about what is involved in and what it means to be an heir?
 - 2. Who does verse 17 tell us we will share this inheritance with? According to 1 Corinthians 15:27, Ephesians 1:20–22, and Philippians 2:9-10, what is included (how big is) the inheritance we will share with our co-heir?
 - 3. What does it mean to you, and how does it affect the way you live, to know that you are going to share in Christ’s glory?
 - ii. Why is suffering with Christ really not “bad news”?
 - 1. Read Philippians 1:29, 3:10, 2 Corinthians 1:5, Colossians 1:24, 2 Timothy 3:12, and 1 Peter 4:13-16. What do these verses teach us about suffering and how we should view it?

2. You often hear people say we should endure suffering without complaining because of the great reward we have waiting for us after death (or Christ's return if He comes before our death). Is this a good way to view our suffering? Why or why not? (consider John 15:13-14 & 18-21)

8. **Saturday:**

- a. Read Romans 8:1-17 again, meditating especially on verses 9-17.
 - b. Note each of the places Paul uses "if". How would you answer each if they were presented as questions to you?
 - c. What are the key blessings and the major challenges presented in this passage? What has God provided every believer to enable us to face these challenges?
9. **Application:** Being led by the Spirit is so much more than just seeking the Spirit's guidance when we are about to make a major decision in life (who should I marry, what job should I take, etc.). Being led by the Spirit is willingly placing ourselves under the Spirit's dominating influence, allowing it to change us so that sin is eliminated. We are constantly growing more like Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). The end result will be our glorification (1 John 3:2). Still, our motivation should be love for our Savior, who left His glory to pay the price for our sins (Hebrews 2:9), thereby providing us access to that glory in the future. This love, obedience to the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39), leads to obedience to Jesus' teachings, including, of course, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
10. **Pray:** This week, we pray for two unreached people groups in the Americas that IMB has highlighted in their 2026 "*Loving the Lost through Prayer*" guide:
- a. Pankara of Brazil: The Pankara live in the southern regions of Brazil. They usually work as sharecroppers and agriculturalists. The Pankara hold animistic beliefs that include what they call "enchanted ones," or spirit beings that are part of the Pankara people. They believe these beings visit them through dreams, allowing them to commune with the pantheon of enchanted ones in the hill country surrounding their communities. Designated individuals of the Pankara community worship enchanted ones in private ceremonies. Pray that, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Pankara people will embrace true faith in Jesus and reject deceptive spirits.
 - b. Western Coastal Nahuatl of Mexico: The Western Coastal Nahuatl are Aztec descendants living along the Pacific coastal regions of Mexico. Many Nahuatl people tend small, family-owned farms. They produce crops to feed their communities and to sell to other regions. They practice a type of folk Catholicism that integrates Catholic religious practices with animistic Aztec beliefs and local traditions, such as sacrificing small animals. It is not uncommon for members of this group to visit local witch doctors, called curanderos and brujas, to curse enemies. For help and guidance, many also make offerings to statues of the local Catholic saint or to apparitions (what they believe to be historic appearances) of the Virgin Mary. Pray that the Western Coastal Nahuatl will turn in faith to Christ alone, not to witch doctors or statues.