

Still with us

Intro:

Matt 1:18-23

Christmas can be summed up in one word. Do you know what it is?

Problem:

God with us means more than a baby in a manger

Romans 8 is going to tell us it means

No more condemnation

No more trepidation

No more frustration

No more hesitation

It means empowerment, encouragement, endurance and effectiveness in the Christian life

But how can this be? The Spirit of Christmas

I don't mean the thing they sell at hallmark. Or the thing you find under Santa's sleigh. The Spirit of Christmas is not something you find under a tree. In fact it's not something at all. It's someone and without Him there would be neither Christmas nor Romans 8.

The Holy Spirit is mentioned 5 times in Romans 1-7 and over 20 twenty times in Romans 8.

Lk 1:26-35

In the same way that Christmas would be impossible without Him - so too would the Christian life.

Romans 8 is where we see the true ramifications of Christmas in our lives today

Again, God with us means more than a baby in a manger

Main Idea:

God with us means no more condemnation

No more trepidation

No more frustration

No more hesitation

Implication:

God is still with us. We have been given...

The gift of empowerment

The gift of encouragement

The gift of endurance

The gift of effectiveness

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/God-is-with-us.html>

<http://www.placefortruth.org/blog/holy-spirit-christmas>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/10-supernatural-ways-the-holy-spirit-wants-to-empower-you.html>

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/7-steps-to-walking-the-spiritual-walk/>

Still with us

Text:

God with us means no more condemnation

Rom. 8:1 ¶ There is **therefore** now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 8:2 For **the law of the Spirit of life** has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Rom. 8:3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom. 8:4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who **walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**.

Rom. 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who **live according to the Spirit** set their minds on the **things of the Spirit (i know where will I be In 100 years not ten)**.

Rom. 8:6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on **the Spirit** is life and peace.

Rom. 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is **hostile to God**, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Rom. 8:8 Those who are **in the flesh** cannot please God.

Rom 7:24-25 (freedom from constant condemnation of old self)

Rom 8:31-34 ->The verse does not say "no mistakes" or "no failures," or even "no sins." Abraham lied about his wife; David committed adultery; Peter tried to kill a man with his sword. To be sure, they suffered consequences because of their sins, but they did not suffer condemnation

Jn 8:1-11 (the law cannot condemn you In Christ - if condemnation has objectively been removed so must our subjective experience of it)

James 1:25; 2:12 (the law cannot claim you- law of Spirit = law of liberty)

2 Cor 3:17 (for where the Spirit is there is freedom)

Gal 5:16-23 (the law cannot control you -

(God with us means no more condemnation- God is still with us - we've been given the gift of empowerment)

No more trepidation

Rom. 8:9 ¶ You, however, are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit**, if in fact the Spirit of God **dwells in you**. Anyone who does not have **the Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him.

Rom. 8:10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, **the Spirit** is life because of righteousness.

Rom. 8:11 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.

Rom. 8:12 ¶ So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Rom. 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by **the Spirit** you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Rom. 8:14 For all who are led by **the Spirit of God** are sons (huios adult sons with full family rights) of God.

Rom. 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to **fall back into fear**, but you have received **the Spirit of adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Rom. 8:16 **The Spirit himself** bears witness with our spirit that we are children (tekna - generic children) of God,

Rom. 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Jn 14:15-17, 23-27 (the spirit of Immanuel - Christmas is about God with us. Romans 8 is about God in us)

1 Jn 3:24; 4:13-19 (His perfect love casts out fear)

Rom 5:1-5 (his spirit bears witness with ours - God's love pure into our hearts by spirit)

(God with us means no more trepidation - God is still with us - we've been given the gift of encouragement)

No more frustration

Rom. 8:18 ¶ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Rom. 8:19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Rom. 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope

Rom. 8:21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Rom. 8:22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Rom. 8:23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have **the firstfruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Rom. 8:24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

Rom. 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, **we wait for it with patience**.

Gen 3:8-19 (alienated from God, each other, and creation)

Ecc. 1:2-9 (all of it is vanity and without purpose)

"When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings with toys at Christmas, why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?" GK Chesterson

Isa 11:1-9 (one day we wont be alienated)

2 Cor 4:16-5:5 (we have been given a guarantee-

(God with us means no more frustration - God is still with us - we've been given the gift of endurance)

No more hesitation

Rom. 8:26 ¶ Likewise **the Spirit** helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself** intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Rom. 8:27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of **the Spirit**, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God**.

Rom. 8:28 And we know that for those who love God **all things work together for good (gen 50:20)**, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Rom. 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Rom. 8:30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also **glorified**.

1 Jn 5:14-15

Ps 137 (praying the psalms? whats the lesson?)

Eph 1:2-14 (you are part of the eternal plan of God - His Spirit is our guarantee -

(God with us means no more hesitation - God is still with us - we've been given the gift of effectiveness)