

Change and the Spirit of the Living God (Paul Grimmond)

Let me say up-front that I always find tricky to explain how change by the Spirit happens.

The Holy Spirit is sovereign, and does his own work in his own time irresistibly (e.g. John 3:1-8). Yet the Scriptures also call on us to be responsible and not to grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:30). How to make sense of this in every detail I am not quite sure. What I am sure of is that the Spirit, who gave us both these passages, speaks through the New Testament to remind me regularly to live wholeheartedly for righteousness—whether in the injunction to put off the old man (Col 3) or the reminder to listen obediently when he speaks (Heb 3-4). While I cannot always make sense of the tension, the Spirit leaves me in no doubt about what I should do with it: listen when he speaks and walk where he leads.

But what I find often happens is that I hear the word of God and I feel the old clench in my stomach. God is asking me to do something that grates against my personality—something that I'm going to find uncomfortable. It's always at around about this time that the rationalizations begin. There are lots of possibilities, aren't there—for example, the preacher hasn't really understood the passage, or that applies to another part of the body; all the arms out there need to hear that, but I'm a foot. But I think what I experience most of all is fear—fear that this is going to be hard—that I will try and fail—and so it's easier to find an excuse.

What do I need to do? I need to preach the gospel to myself again.

God has declared his love for me and his commitment to my good in ways that I can never fathom or hope to match in my response to him. He has given me his own Son unto death, and his Spirit to dwell in my heart to transform me and bring to work in me the power of the resurrection. Why on earth, then, do I respond to his word by self-protection and self-deception? Why do I fear the pain that putting this word into practice will bring if I can be certain of God's intention in the pain to make me like Jesus? Yep, I definitely need to hear the gospel again (and again and again and again). When God asks me to change my life, it's for my good. Why would I ever doubt this?

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 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. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Rom 8:28-30).

(From <http://matthiasmedia.com/briefing/2009/01/change-and-the-spirit-of-the-living-god/> with modifications)



8 April 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Life In The Spirit— part 2

As children of God in the Spirit, Christians look forward to future glory with supreme assurance even as we suffer in the present.

by Pastor Ben Ho

Next Week:

MVV Sermon Series #1



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	We Belong To The Day
	You Made Us Your Own
	The Lord Is My Salvation
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Romans 8:16-39
Sermon	By Pastor Ben Ho
Song of Response	O Church Arise

Stay Connected

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$4,622.85
Weekly Required	\$5,565
Shortfall 2018	\$2,601

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

GIVE THANKS FOR THE INDWELLING SPIRIT OF GOD and Jesus Christ, given to every single one who believes. Give thanks that our new life in the Spirit is one free from condemnation, free from slavery to sin, empowered to live righteously, and being assured of adoption as God's children. Give great thanks!

REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARY PARTNERS and many others who are doing the work of the gospel here in Brisbane, and in the rest of the world. Pray for God to keep raising and sustaining His workers, using people like us to support and encourage them.

THANK GOD FOR THE PEOPLE WHO publicly declared their faith to Jesus last weekend, for Jenny, Kylie, Georgina, Matthew, Josiah and Aaron. What a great joy it was to witness their proclamation of love and faith in Jesus. Praise God for his constant work through their lives. May their lives continue to grow in love for Jesus and His kingdom!

PRAY FOR UNCLE RICHARD (REUTEN'S FATHER AND UNCLE BOON CHENG'S BROTHER) who recently suffered a minor stroke and other health complications. Pray especially for their families, for physical and mental strength to be able to look after him. For them to show continued hope and dependence on God's sovereignty and control over the situation.

Community News

BLOOM EVENT
Becoming God's True Woman—Part 1

Saturday 28th April

1:30-4pm

In the first of a two-part series, this upcoming Bloom session will help us explore God's plan and design for womanhood. We will have the opportunities in small groups to discuss what and who has shaped our ideas on womanhood. We will be challenged to look to God and His Word. As our Creator, he has all the answers we need!

Please register at morning tea today or online at <https://slechurch.org.au/bloom/>

Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Simeon	Randy <i>Zach</i>
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Boon Cheng <i>Daniel Lowe</i>	Matthew <i>Alan</i>
M.Tea	Corina Karilyn	Haley Elaine
Wash Up	YF Saturday	YF Saturday
Welcome	Richard Georgie Esther <i>Zach</i> <i>David</i> <i>Marilyn</i> <i>Joy</i>	Richard Georgie Esther <i>Zach</i> <i>David</i> <i>Marilyn</i> <i>Joy</i>
Stewards	Graham Richard <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i> <i>Stanley</i>	Graham Richard <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i> <i>Stanley</i>
Piano	Dan Lowe	Sylvia
Guitar	Dom	Joachim
Bass	Ethan	Kevin
Drums	Ariel	Ivan
Vocal	Sharne	Lim An
PA	William <i>Matt</i>	Li Wei <i>Jowin</i>

Life in the Spirit—Part 2 [Romans 8:16-39]

1. Introduction

A. Life in The Spirit—part 1

B. Suffering

2. Present Sufferings... Future Glory

A. Incomparable future glory

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

B. Present Sufferings

i. Creation

ii. Christians

3. Hope and Help

A. Our eager and patient hope

B. The Spirit’s help

4. Celebration of Assurance (28-39)

A. God’s will guaranteed

B. God’s love guaranteed

5. Conclusion