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0413 324 748



The Spirit in Romans: Source of Power and Pain for Christians

STEVE WALTON

Trinity College, Bristol, UK



The central role of the Spirit in Romans

The central role of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit's work touches all major areas of Paul's thought
 - God 8:9-11

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Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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The central role of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit's work touches all major areas of Paul's thought
 - God 8:9-11 and Jesus 8:9
 - salvation 1:3-4

1:3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was
descended from David according to the flesh
4 and **was declared to be Son of God with power
according to the spirit of holiness** by resurrection
from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord

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 - salvation 1:3-4
 - eschatology 8:18-25; 15:13
 - ecclesiology 8:14-17

8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

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 - mission 15:18-19

15:18 For I will not be so bold as to speak of anything except **what Christ has accomplished through me** to win obedience from the gentiles, by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, **by the power of the Spirit**, so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

The Spirit as experienced reality

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- Paul argues **from**, not **for**, this reality
 - prayer 8:15-16, 26-27

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8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but **that very Spirit intercedes with groans too deep for words.** 27 And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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The Spirit and eschatology

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The Spirit and eschatology

- The Spirit fulfils 'end time' promises
 - new covenant/return from exile language
 - 5:5; 6:17-18; cf. Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 11:17-20

5:5 **God's love** has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

6:17 But thanks be to God that you who were **slaves of sin** have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted 18 and that you, **having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness.**

The Spirit and eschatology

- new covenant/return from exile language
 - 5:5; 6:17-18; cf. Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 11:17-20
 - 8:3-4; cf. Ezek 36:27

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 to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

The Spirit and eschatology

- The Spirit fulfils eschatological promises
 - new covenant/return from exile language
 - 5:5; 6:17-18; cf. Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 11:17-20
 - 8:3-4; cf. Ezek 36:27
 - 8:10; cf. Ezek 37:14

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

Ezek 37:14 **I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live**, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.

The Spirit and eschatology

- The Spirit fulfils eschatological promises
- The Spirit as evidence of the presence of the future reality
 - adoption 8:15-17

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 - first fruits 8:23

8:23 we ourselves, who have **the first fruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies

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- The Spirit as evidence of the presence of the future reality
 - adoption 8:15-17
 - first fruits 8:23; cf. 1 Cor 15:20, 23
 - the Spirit given to 'all'—Jew and gentile 8:9, 14; cf. Zech 8:20-23

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- The Spirit as the guarantee of future glory
 - future resurrection 8:10-11

8:10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also **through/because of his Spirit who dwells in you.**

- **through** his Spirit—the Spirit carries out resurrection for Jesus and for believers
- **because of** his Spirit—the Spirit marks those to be raised by God, Jesus and believers

The Spirit and eschatology

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- The Spirit as evidence of the presence of the future reality
- The Spirit as the guarantee of future glory
 - future resurrection 8:10-11
 - being heirs 8:15-17; future adoption 8:23

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The Spirit as God's presence

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The Spirit as God's presence

- The Spirit dwelling with believers 8:9-11

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My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Ezek 37:27

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?
1 Cor 3:16

The Spirit as God's presence

- The Spirit dwelling with believers 8:9-11
- Personal actions by the Spirit
 - dwell, lead, bear witness, help, intercede, have a mind, works

8:28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

or

We know that for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose, God/the Spirit works all things together for good.

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The Spirit as God's presence

- The Spirit dwelling with believers 8:9-11
- Personal actions by the Spirit
 - dwell, lead, bear witness, help, intercede, have a mind, works
 - sanctifies, loves
- Designations: the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead, his Spirit

The Spirit and conversion

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The Spirit and conversion

- The Spirit is the power of Paul's evangelism
15:18-19

15:18 For I will not be so bold as to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to win obedience from the gentiles, **by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders,** by the power of the Spirit, so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

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The Spirit and conversion

- The Spirit is the power of Paul's evangelism
15:18-19
- conversion is an experience of the Spirit

5:5 ...and hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

7:5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. 6 But now we are **released from the law, dead to that which held us captive**, so that **we are enslaved in the newness of the Spirit** and not in the oldness of the written code.

8:9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.** 10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but **the Spirit is life** because of righteousness.

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For Paul therefore to “get saved” means first of all to “receive the Spirit.”

Gordon Fee, *God's Empowering Presence*, 855

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15:18-19
- conversion is an experience of the Spirit
- assurance is given by the Spirit 8:15-17

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The Spirit and the Christian life

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The Spirit and the Christian life

- ‘walk according to the Spirit’ 8:4
- ‘in the Spirit...the Spirit of God dwells in you’ 8:9
- ‘the Spirit of him who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you’ 8:11
- ‘led by the Spirit’ 8:14
 - contrast Graeco-Roman use of *pneuma* for magic spirits which you learned to control
 - instead the Holy Spirit is to control believers

The Spirit and the Christian life

- ethics flow from the Spirit's work 8:12-13
 - So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—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.
 - love, fulfilling the torah, suffering

8:22 We know that **the whole creation has been groaning together** as it suffers together the pains of labour, 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

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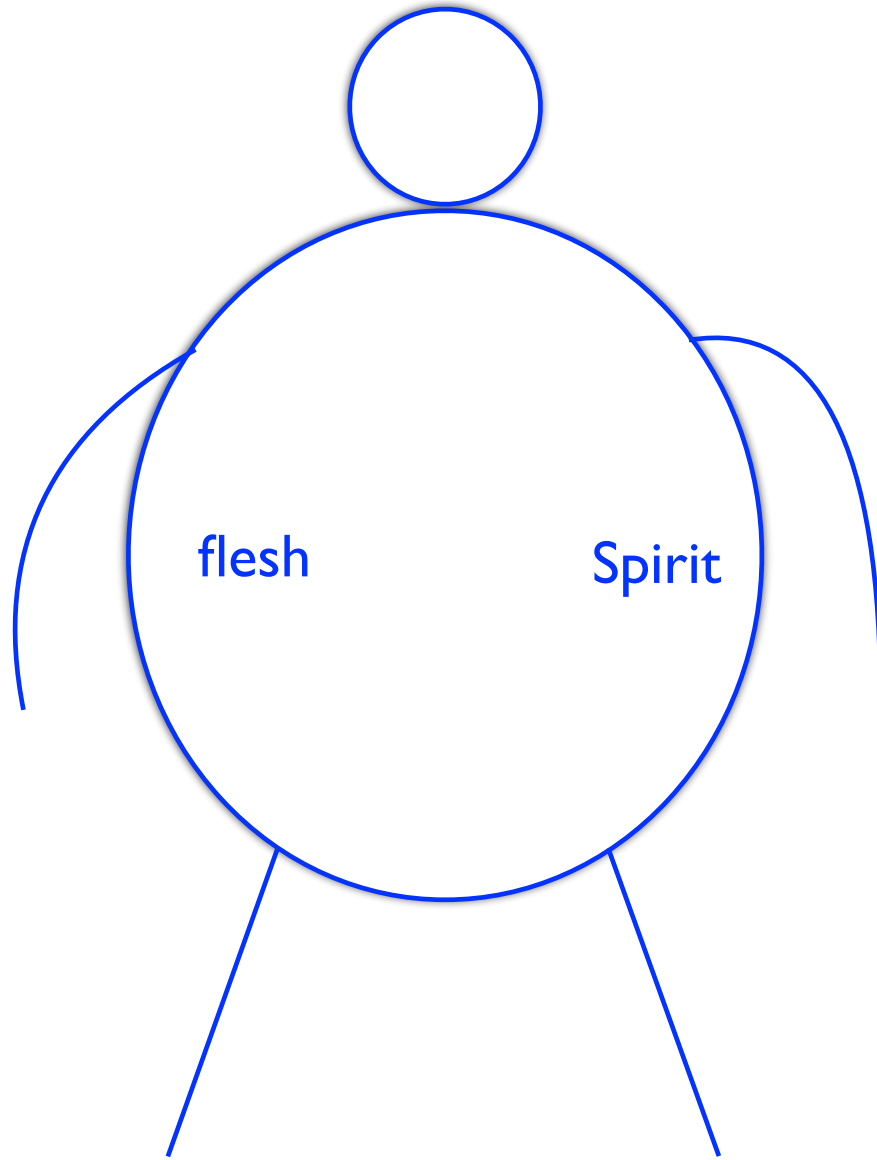
That is why faith, wherever it develops into hope, causes not rest but unrest, not patience but impatience. It does not calm the unquiet heart, but is itself this unquiet heart in man. Those who hope in Christ can no longer put up with reality as it is, but begin to suffer under it, to contradict it. Peace with God means conflict with the world, for the goad of the promised future stabs inexorably into the flesh of every unfulfilled present.

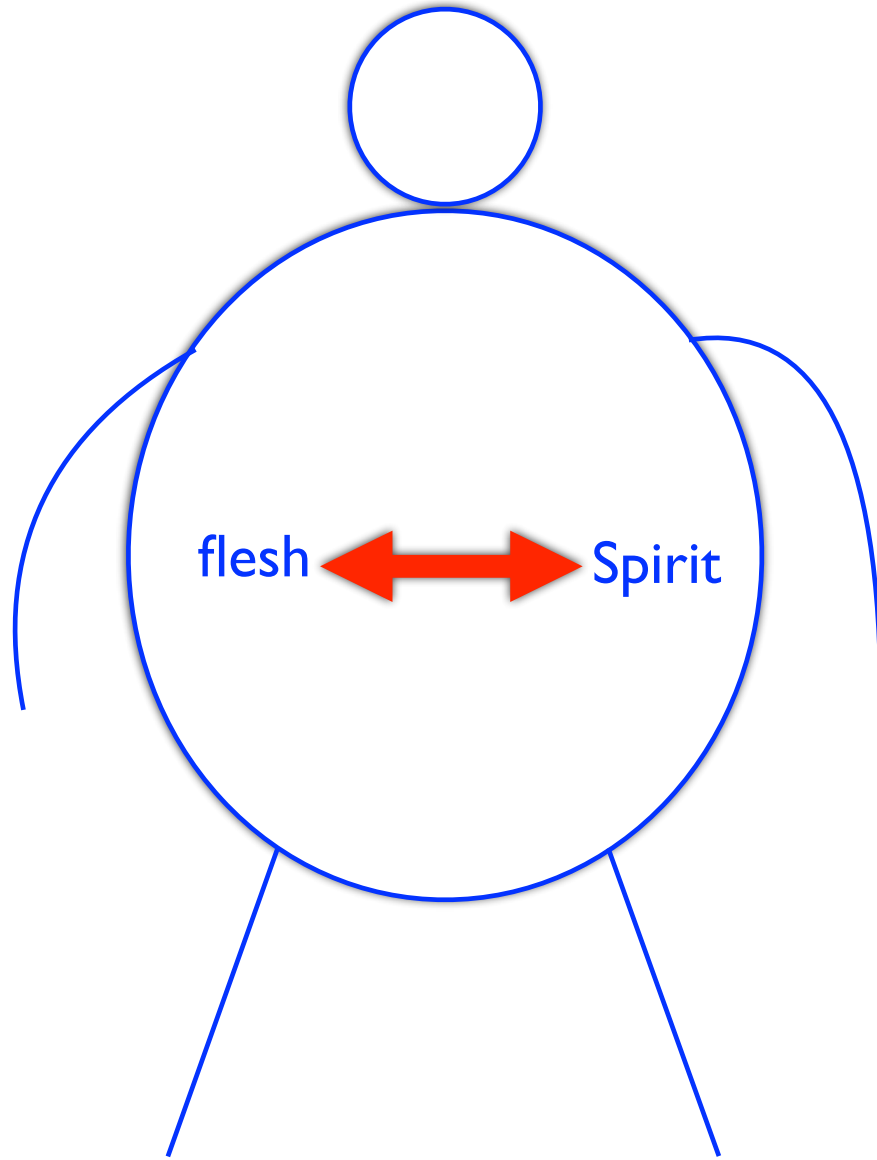
Jürgen Moltmann



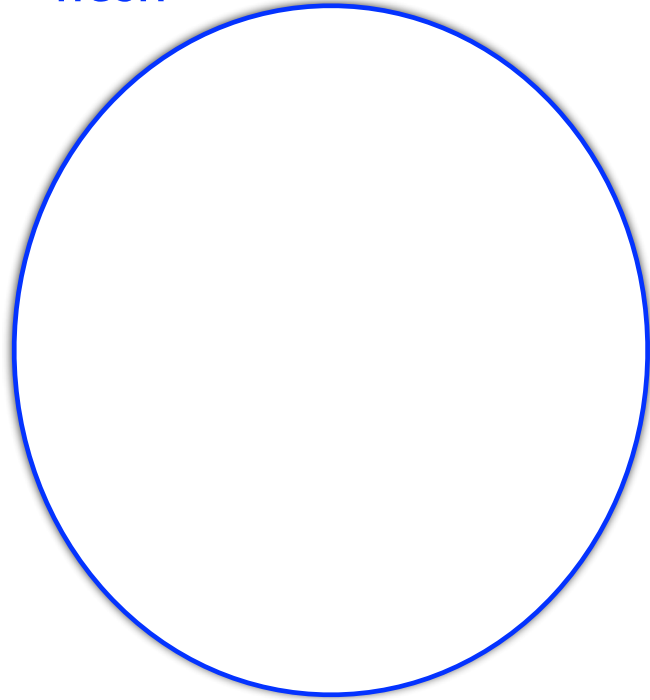
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 - love, fulfilling the torah, suffering
 - hope, joy
 - flesh and spirit

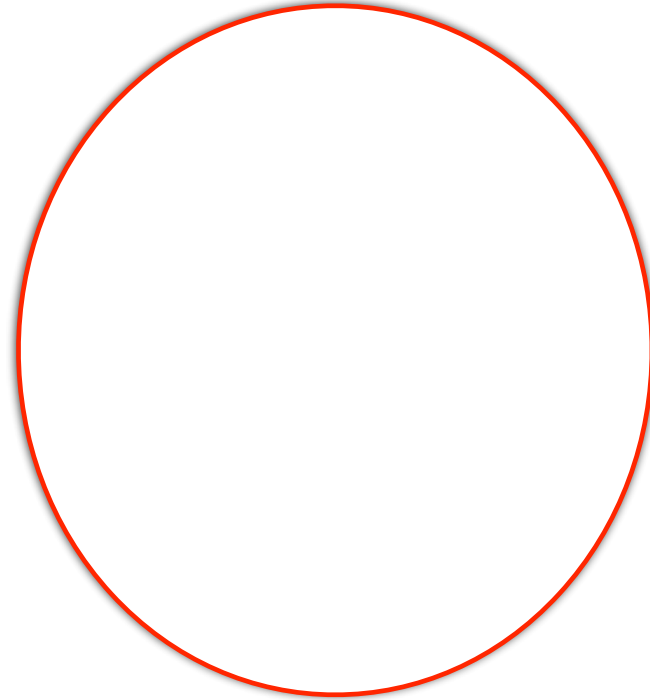




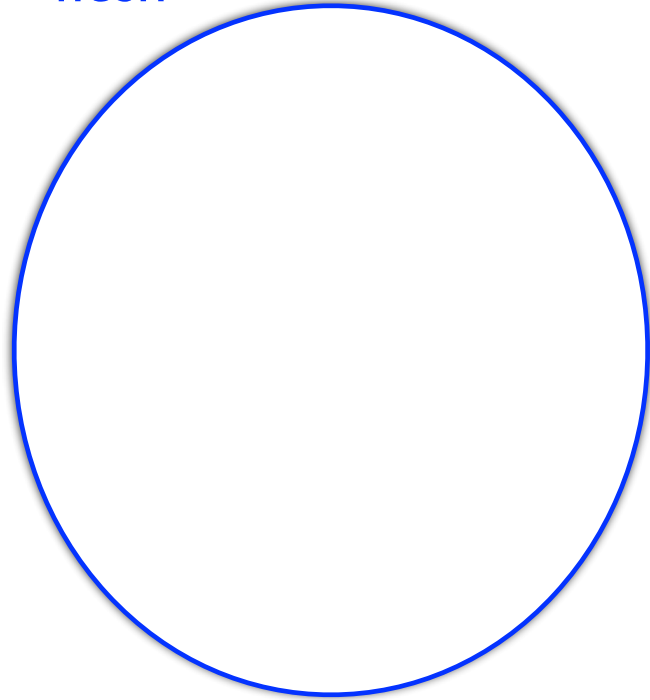
flesh



Spirit



flesh



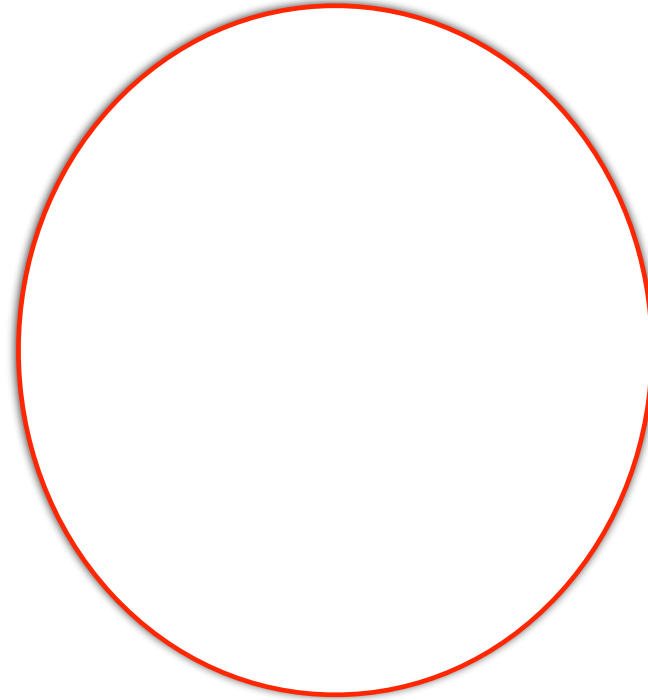
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 - flesh and spirit, prayer

The 'trinitarian' experience and thought of Paul

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Paul's trinitarian thought and experience

- God is one and personal 3:30 'God is one'
 - unity of action 8:3-4, 9-11
- the Spirit is the Spirit of God and personal
- the Spirit is distinct from the Son and the Father

Jesus

- is the Father's Son 1:3
- has a human nature 1:3; 8:3
- died for our sins 5:8
- was raised 1:4
- intercedes differently from the Spirit
 - Spirit on earth in believers 8:26
 - Jesus in heaven 8:34

God

- sends or gives the Spirit 5:5; cf. Gal 4:6
- knows the mind of the Spirit 8:27

‘...Paul throughout this letter [Romans] understood the Spirit as God’s empowering presence, both within and in the midst of his people.’

Gordon Fee, *God’s Empowering Presence*, 634

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