The Holy Spirit, Lesson 8

THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS US WITH POWER AND HOPE

Romans 14:17; 15:1–19,30

Key Verse: 15:13

1. What were some contentious issues among the believers in Rome? (14:2,3,5,10) How did Paul describe the fellowship they should be having? (Read 14:17.) Why is the Holy Spirit’s presence essential for genuine Christian fellowship?
2. What directive did Paul give them and us? (15:1–2) How does Christ’s example of bearing with insults help us? (15:3) How do the Scriptures also help? (15:4) What attitude of mind did Christ have, that we also should have? (15:5–6; Php2:2) Based on this, what should we do? (15:7)
3. Read 15:8–9. What made it hard for Christ to become a servant of the Jews? (e.g. Mt23:37) Likewise, how might it have been hard for Gentile Christians to live with Jewish Christians? What Scriptures did Paul quote to help them? (15:9b–12) Read 15:13. Why does Paul emphasize hope to them? Why do we need the Holy Spirit to have hope?
4. Though they were competent to instruct one another, why did Paul write them? (15:14–15) Why did he share his priestly duty and great hope with this Christian community in Rome? (Read 15:16; cf. 1:5,11,14)
5. What did Paul mean by saying that through the gospel, Gentiles would be “an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit”? (12:1–2; 1Pe2:5) In his ministry how could Paul get the Gentiles to obey God? (15:18–19a) On what basis did he request prayer support? (15:30) Why do we need the love of the Spirit to pray?