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## *Devotion for January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

*"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. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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."*

*- Romans 8:9-11*

**Have you ever been with another Christian when that person knows it is likely that they might die?** They may be in hospice, going into surgery, or have a life-threatening disease. What can you say to that person? It probably won't help to try and cheer them up with false hope. Just being present with your friend or loved one can be very calming even if you just actively listen to them.

Personally, I think the passage of our devotion for today can be very comforting for someone going through a life-threatening crisis. St. Paul wrote this in his letter to the Romans. St. Paul was referring to baptism in this Bible passage.

This is supported by what St. Peter said on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. St. Peter quoted the prophet, Joel. The following passage was included within the quote:

*"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh." (Acts 2:17a)*

Then later in the same message on Pentecost in Jerusalem that day,  
St. Peter said this:

*"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for  
the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy  
Spirit." (Acts 2:38)*

So, the Spirit dwells in you and in me as a result of our baptism poured out on us in the end times. The end times being after the death and resurrection of Jesus, which we are currently in. St. Paul told us in our devotional passage today that Jesus was raised by the Spirit, the Holy Spirit that came from "Him", His Father and our Father who is in heaven. But then he went further and told us that the same Spirit will raise our mortal bodies to life.

Isn't that comforting for a baptized Christian, that is going through a crisis?

You and I have been baptized, we have received the forgiveness of sins, become members of God's kingdom, and received the Holy Spirit, all of this won for us by our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. He was raised on Easter morning by the Father through His Holy Spirit. Just like Jesus, you and I and all believers including those going through a crisis will be raised on the Last Day by the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus on Easter morning.

*In Christ Jesus,  
Rev. John Kyle, Associate Pastor  
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