

# ROMANS

THE GRACE OF GOD: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## Life Through The Spirit

• Romans 8 : 1 - 17 •

Week 14

### DEVOTION

What a rich portion of scripture!! Many studies could be developed on these 17 verses. An entire study could be done on 'no condemnation' for believers (8:1); or on what it means to be 'in Christ.' (8:1) What does 'life in the Spirit' look like? (8:5) What does it mean that Christ came in the 'likeness of sinful flesh?' The Trinity working as One God is truly apparent in these verses. (8:1-3,11) Chapter 7 mentioned the Holy Spirit only once, but in the first 27 verses of Romans 8 the Holy Spirit is mentioned a whopping nineteen times! Why? As if that's not enough to pack into 17 verses, it also assures us that we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ Jesus! (8:17) So much to think about!! So incredibly rich!! There's not time to touch on even the questions above, and there's many more, but may the Spirit make all things clear as you read God's Word.

Perhaps to summarize these 17 verses we could say that they focus on the work of the Holy Spirit and the absolute security of the believer.

I challenge you to read verse 1 and meditate on it, thank God for it and let it go deep within your mind and spirit. 'There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.' Reflect on your childhood for a moment. When you stole a cookie from the cookie jar (some of you were far too innocent to do that, but use your imagination), you got caught and discipline was forthcoming. A rule was broken, and the consequence was some form of punishment. Tears flow, begging begins, but to no avail. Then, wonder of wonders, your sibling (or your friend if you didn't have a sibling) steps forward and says, 'Please let me take the punishment in his/her place.' I strongly suspect that never happened and, in fact, has seldom happened in the course of history.

With God, all is different. He went out of his way to ensure our punishment fell on his sinless and only Son so that we as believers could be set free from the eternal death that sin brings. (8:2) Paul has experienced this liberation from the law, as in verse 2 he says that 'through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set me (Greek is singular) free from the law of sin and death.' He writes this letter with a deep longing for others to experience the same freedom.

As we work through the questions, always keep in mind how often the Holy Spirit is mentioned in Romans 8.

### Monday

**Read: Romans 8:1 ; John 15:5-8; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 3:3**

Romans 8:1 begins by saying that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Once we are liberated from the law of sin and death, condemnation cannot touch us.

1.What does it mean to you personally that you are not condemned because Jesus took the punishment for your sins?

2.Do you experience the liberation given through Christ Jesus? If not, why not?

3.What did being 'in Christ Jesus' mean to Paul when he wrote this phrase?

## Tuesday

**Read: Romans 8:2-3; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 3:16; Matthew 28:19; John 14:26**

The Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit all work together as One, while having their own role in salvation.

- 1.What role did each person of the Trinity play in your salvation?
- 2.Can you think of other places in the Bible where the Trinity worked together?

## Wednesday

**Read: Romans 8:5-8; Colossians 3:12-14**

Paul outlines the differences between living 'according to the flesh' and living in 'accordance with the Spirit.'

- 1.What are some of the differences Paul notes between those who 'have their minds set on what the flesh desires' and those who 'have their minds set on what the Spirit desires?' How does that translate into our walk of faith?
- 2.Why do you think the Spirit is mentioned so often in Romans 8 vs only once in Romans 7?

## Thursday

**Read: Romans 8:8-11; Luke 15:17-20**

Paul argues that believers are not living in the 'realm of the flesh' but are in the 'realm of the Spirit.' He makes a clear distinction between the flesh and the Spirit.

- 1.Can a believer be satisfied living in the realm of the flesh? Why?
- 2.Verse 11 reminds us that the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead is living in us. As we meditate on this fact, what effect does it have on our belief in God being the God of the impossible?

## Friday

**Read: Romans 8:14-17**

Under Roman-Greco law, formal adoption was required even of a legitimate, blood-related son before he could be heir to his father's estate. The father could also adopt a child from another family if he did not have a son of his own. This adoption was irreversible, and became a way to ensure the transfer of power and succession within the family or imperial estate.

- 1.What confidence does this passage in Romans give you that you can be assured of your salvation and know you have been irreversibly transferred into the family of God?
- 2.As God's children, to what are we entitled as heir of God and co-heirs with Christ Jesus?