



# Epistle to The Romans



## Lesson 9, Romans 8 Part 1: Empowering of the Holy Spirit

### The Most Inexhaustible Book

One of the most frustrating things about teaching the Bible is its inexhaustibility, especially the Book of Romans. For many chapters of the Bible, you can consult a dozen commentaries, do a little further background research, explore a few pivotal exegetical issues, and feel that you have a reasonable grasp of the chapter.

Not so with Romans! It would be easy to lecture over an hour on each verse! Romans is, perhaps, probably the most inexhaustible book in the entire Bible. But we shall attempt a balance... And we are now about to embark on one of the most uplifting chapters in the entire Bible!

Godet: "This is the Holy of Holies of the Word of God."

### Review

Romans 1 Intro and background; Pagan Man

Romans 2 Moral Man; Religious Man

Romans 3 God's Greatest Problem

Romans 4 God's Greatest Gift (GRACE)

Romans 5 The Sequence to Maturity

Romans 6 Sin "Ain't gonna reign no more"

Romans 7 Law School

**Romans 8 The High Water Mark in Romans**



### The Challenge of Romans 7

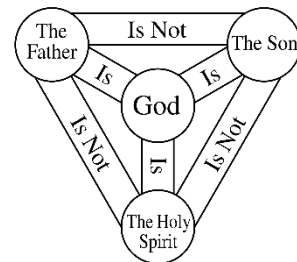
Paul cried out for outside help: "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom 7:24). Who is going to enable me to live for God?

### The Work of the Trinity

God the Father → in creation → Rom 1:1–3:20

God the Son → in salvation → Rom 3:21–7:25

God the Holy Spirit → in sanctification → Rom 8:1–39



The Holy Spirit is only mentioned twice so far in Romans; in Chapter 8, He is mentioned 19 times! Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in the regenerated life of a believer, delivering the believer from the power of sin and performing all of God's will in the life of the believer.

## Contrasts

- ✚ In Chapter 5: A summation of the saving work of Jesus Christ;
  - ✚ In Chapter 8: A summation of what Christ did to provide Victory in each of our lives.
- ✚ In Chapter 5, justification (declared righteous) by faith is forever;
  - ✚ In Chapter 8, we learn that a godly life is insured through the power of the Holy Spirit (only attainable and maintainable through the Holy Spirit).
- ✚ In Chapter 5, our performance is based on our understanding of God's love for us;
  - ✚ In Chapter 8, our performance is based on the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ✚ In Chapter 5, it reveals our relationship to God;
  - ✚ In Chapter 8, it reveals our relationship to the world, conflict, the flesh, tribulation.
- ✚ In Chapter 5, the Holy Spirit is mentioned only once (v.5);
  - ✚ In Chapter 8, the power available to us through the Holy Spirit is developed in its fullness to give us assured victory (19 references).
- ✚ Chapter 5 is the capstone on our salvation in Christ;
  - ✚ Chapter 8 is the capstone on our victory in Christ.

## Romans 8: The High-Water Mark of Romans

First four verses are a continuation from Chapter 7. These opening verses are a summing up of the truths unfolded from Rom 5:12 through 7:25. Please note: The Bible chapter divisions are not "inspired" (they were devised by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury in the early 13th century). They are convenient reference points.

### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 1***

"Now" in the sense of logic, summarizing and concluding the argument of what has gone before. This is one of the greatest assurances a Christian can receive: No condemnation from any source, for any reason, at any time (Jn 3:18). No qualifying clause; it does not depend upon our walk! It is not how I feel, but it is what God says...

In verse 1 the words, "Who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" is added in some versions of the in KJV pulled from v.4. It is not in any of the original reliable texts and all the oldest manuscripts agree. It first appears around the 6th century as it was not in manuscripts in the 3rd and 4th century. It was added by either scribal error (speculation), or misguided attempt at smoothing the transition to v.2.

Paul opens Chapter 8 with no possibility of condemnation. This should be very precious to everyone. Paul will close Chapter 8 with no possibility of separation!

How does one become "in" Christ (Term used by Paul)? By the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Rom 6:3-4; 1 Cor 12:13). We are in an inseparable organic union with Him! The safest place in the entire universe is on that Cross! That was validated by emptying a tomb. And that's where we all need to be.

We Are Under a Different "Law"

### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 2***

This verse summarizes Romans 7 (cf. 7:23). While the law of sin and death will be with us as long as we are in this body; but it doesn't necessarily have dominion. The "law" of the Spirit can have dominion.

Example: The law of gravity is upon all of us. However, with a proper air foil, and sufficient velocity through the air, we can enjoy dominion over gravity. We can take advantage of the greater power over the law of gravity.

"The law of the Spirit of life" could read as "The law of the Lifegiving Spirit" or a continual thing.

Organic Union with the Holy Spirit (Abiding in Him: John 15:1-5)



### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 3***

The flesh (our selves) will always fail. Christ died, not only for my sins, but for the sinner, that is, my sin nature. The Book of Romans is more about God's problems than ours; however, if those are solved there aren't any others!

"...in the likeness of sinful flesh." He was truly human, yet without sin: the perfect man.

### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 4***

"That" means all that has been said now converges to this fact: all righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in [not by] us, who walk according to the Spirit and not according to flesh. That is, not trying by our own efforts. We do not have the capability in our own efforts. Paul makes this a statement of fact.

### ***Indwelling of Holy Spirit***

Verses 5-27 develop a wide range of truth regarding the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Paul understood, being a Pharisee, that the Holy Spirit could come and go as He pleased. This was common in the Old Testament. The Thing that shocked Paul was that the in this peculiar time (time of the Gentiles), the Holy Spirit is given without repentance or being recalled. Verses 5-7 emphasize the impossibility of living by any system of resources other than the Holy Spirit: "Positive Thinking;" "Positive Confession;" and other fads do not cut it.

### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 5***

"Flesh" here means human resources. The contrast between two believers: the impossibility of trying to live for God by human effort, vs. those that are truly walking by the Spirit.

Which is controlling you? The "human" viewpoint [your capability] or God's viewpoint [His ability through you]?

Sincerity, or the lack thereof, is not the issue; the basis is, Is your mind on the things of the Spirit or on the things of the world?

### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 6***

Carnally minded. A carnal Christian is a Christian who is saved, who believes in Christ (Justified), but their life is driven by self-effort.

The Greek is more blunt: “For the mind of, or under the domination of, the flesh is death. The mind, under the domination of, the Spirit is life and peace.” These are both believers being discussed. The word “death” here means out of fellowship or separated.

### **The Flesh Cannot Please God**

#### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 7***

Romans 7 again. The things I hate I keep doing...The flesh will never be improved. Nowhere in the Bible is the flesh improved or the heart cured. We are powerless to change our nature; therefore, we cannot—in our own efforts—really please God. He alone is the source of power for holiness. Rules or rituals are powerless to change us and please God.

#### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 8***

“In the flesh” in this verse means under the dominion of the flesh; an unbeliever vs. “according to the flesh” referring to a lapse in a believer. To be proud is to be blind; to be discouraged is unbelief; to be disappointed in yourself means you relied on yourself; to hope to do better is to fail to see yourself in Christ only.

### **Spirit of God**

#### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 9***

Paul is saying, “However you are not in the flesh but under dominion of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit’s mission is to reveal Christ; (Jn 16:13, 14. et al. cf. Isa 11:1, 2; Rev 1:4; 3:1, et al).

Every believer has the Holy Spirit. But the question is, is He in Control? Do you have the Spirit of Christ in you? Are you in the power of His presence? Do you take advantage of it?

#### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 10***

Referring back to Romans 6:6 *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”*

“Destroyed” means “rendered powerless.” Another question is, who righteousness are we relying on? It should be His.

#### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 11***

Paul begins a series of “if” statements.

Here Paul tell us that the Holy Spirit is the One who raised Jesus from the dead: Paul reminds us that we, too, need a resurrection life! And he is speaking operationally, right now...

“If” is translated as “Since.” “Indwells” means to take up residence in the present tense, a continuous process.

### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 12***

We owe nothing to the flesh. We are not its debtors to do its service, not since victory is guaranteed in Christ (1 Cor 10:13).

### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 13***

Paul is focusing in verse 13 on the exchanged life. Living His life in us rather than trying to live according to our will.

Paul says in verse 13 that if you keep on living after the flesh ye shall [keep on] dying. “Die” is in the present tense and means an operational death or separation from fellowship. The word “deeds” in the Greek means something that it’s a deeply ingrained habit.

Paul is saying that we now have the power, empowered by the Spirit, to mortify those deeply ingrained habits but it requires volition or the decision on our part.

### **Realization of Sonship**

#### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 14***

No child of God can be happy in living for the things of the flesh.

This verse is in present tense or those continually led by the Holy Spirit, are the sons of God. The Greek word for “Son” means an adult son. The Prodigal Son of Luke 15 never lost his sonship although he insulted his family by squandering his inheritance and lived a wanton life in the world. The prodigal son sunk to his lowest point, although he lost his inheritance (rewards), he never lost his sonship (salvation) and he could never be content to stay there. All prodigal sons are bound to say, “I will arise and go to my father.”

#### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 15***

In Roman law, adoption was required even of a legitimate son to inherit. Children in a family were under tutors, etc... but were still considered servants. This ceremony, legally held in the forum, was called the “Adoption.” All born in his family were children, but only those adopted were recognized as sons. Non-legitimate children could be adopted and hold the same status as legitimate children. [In Lew Wallace’s Ben Hur the Roman admiral adopted Judah Ben Hur as his legal son.] After adoption, they could never be disinherited. Adoption in our society is a slightly different concept. But they can be disinherited. We will be taking this up in Chapter 9 and following.]



Paul is saying that all those who are adopted by God through salvation are recognized as sons.

### **Hebrew Language: A Quick Alphabet Lesson**

Hebrew is read from right to left. Rule of thumb, all languages east of Jerusalem are read right to left, all languages west of Jerusalem are read left to right.

The Hebrew alphabet consists not only of phonemes (units of sound) like the English language, but of sememes (units of meaning like pictures). Aleph, “a” the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet, originally written like an ox’s head, means strength, or leader (being first). The letter Bet or “b” originally written like a tent or teepee, means house. For example, Beth-Lehem means house of bread; Beth-El, house of God.

An Aleph + Bet means “the leader of the house” or the Father. Insert a Heh, h or breath, in the middle and you get the essence of the father, Ahab, which is Hebrew word for love, which is indeed, the heart or essence of the Father: John 3:16. In Hebrew hidden behind the word are the constructs which all have meaning.



Another example is the changing of the names of Abraham and Sarah. Originally in the bible their names were Abram and Sarai. God inserts an ‘h’ or breath or spirit of God and changes their names to reflect this; Abraham and Sarah.

This is why some meanings can get lost in translation and there is value at looking at the original language.

“Abba,” used by Paul here, is the familiar form of Father. Perhaps the word “Daddy” comes the closest. It is a term of endearment, intimacy. Jesus Himself used the double term in Gethsemane: Mark 14:36

### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 16***

“Children” is the Greek word, teknon, which means born one, or a direct creation of God if you are regenerated.

### ***Read Romans 8 Verse 17***

You and I cannot begin to imagine what “Joint heirs with Christ.”

### **Rewards**

“...if so be that we suffer with Him.” There are conditions to our specific destiny that will be taken up when we explore inheritance (in contrast to salvation alone). Will all who enter, inherit? This has nothing to do with salvation.

Overcomers, who are mentioned in Revelation, will receive rewards based on their spirit led activities here. 1 Cor 3:12-15 talks about building our inheritance on non-combustible activities.

Jesus suffered trials; all the apostles suffered. Jesus promised us trials

(Jn 16:33). There are two possible errors we can make:

- 1) No trials anticipated;
- 2) Morbid fear of trials (1 Cor 10:13).

### Why Do Christians Have Trials?

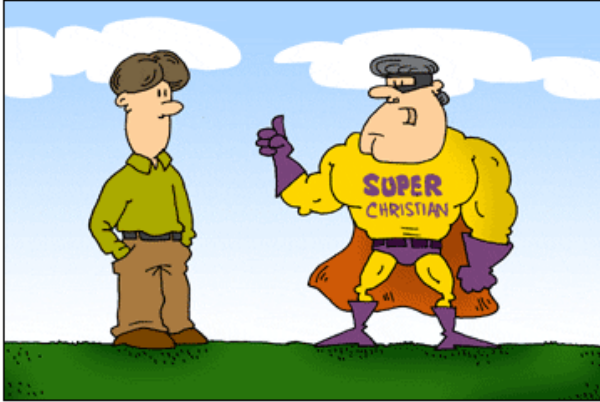
1. To glorify God Dan 3:16-18, 24-25
2. Discipline for known sin Heb 12:5-11; James 4:17; Rom 14:23; 1 Jn 1:9
3. To prevent us from falling into sin 1 Pet 4:1-2
4. To keep us from pride—Paul kept from pride by his “thorn in the flesh.” 2 Cor 12:7-10  
His eyes? Gal 4:15; 6:11
5. To build faith 1 Pet 1:6-7
6. To cause growth Rom 5:3-5
7. To teach obedience and discipline Acts 9:15-16; Phil 4:11-13
8. To equip us to comfort others 2 Cor 1:3-4
9. To prove the reality of Christ in us 2 Cor 4:7-11
10. For testimony to the angels Job 1:8; Eph 3:8-11; 1 Pet 1:12

### Next Session

Read the rest of Romans 8. Are the Entropy Laws (laws of decay) a result of the curse in Genesis 3? What are the three most important words in Romans 8:28? What can separate us from the Love of Christ?

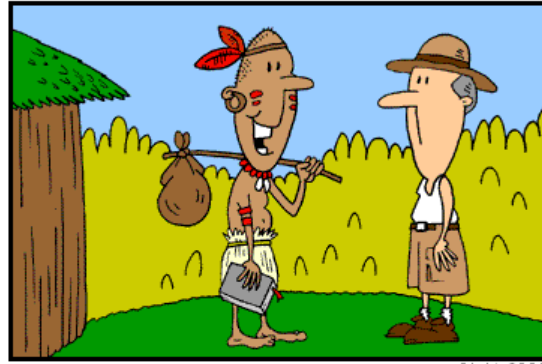
### ROMANS CHAPTER EIGHT

L F P D A E D R E D H H S E L F	BODIES	JOINT
L E T R R E G E E D N O L L Y N	BONDAGE	MIGHT
E A S A E E V D S I E A L N I S	CARNAL	MINDED
W R E G H S N J U I T E T N E P	CHRIST	MORTAL
D I T E N I E N E R A N D N O I	DEAD	PEACE
C E I W M I L N O S I R D N E R	DEATH	PRESENT
S R M L A W H M T O U I H R I I	DEBTORS	RAISED
S I S I E W S T J O N S E H H T	DEEDS	RECKON
D I N A G R B S W G R H O T F D	DWELL	SENDING
O G K F O H U E D O T N A U L O	ENMITY	SINFUL
D B T T U F T P G A R E Y A N Y	FATHER	SPIRIT
A E B S F L M E E A D T N C O T	FEAR	SUFFER
A E E E I R G A T A D R H H K I	FLESH	THERE
D T R D N R I C S N A N I Y C M	HEIRS	THINGS
E U N I S T H E N C O C O E E N	INDEED	WEAK
R E H T A F W C S E I D O B R E	JESUS	WORTHY



NO, I DON'T CLAIM TO HAVE ACTUAL SUPER POWERS ... BUT I DO BEHAVE MYSELF MORE WHEN I WEAR THIS OUTFIT

03-25-2003



THANKS FOR TRAVELLING THOUSANDS OF MILES TO TEACH ME YOUR CHRISTIAN WAYS ... I'M OFF NOW AS A MISSIONARY TO AMERICA, I HEAR THERE IS A REAL NEED THERE

01-14-2000

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## Chapter 8 Part 1 True/False Quiz...

Circle the Correct Answer

- |   |   |      |       |
|---|---|------|-------|
| 1 | Paul opens Chapter 8 with no possibility of condemnation (v1).                    | True | False |
| 2 | The "law" of the Spirit can have dominion (v2).                                   | True | False |
| 3 | The flesh, or our selves, will always succeed (v3).                               | True | False |
| 4 | A carnal Christian is a Christian whose life is driven by self-effort(v6).        | True | False |
| 5 | The flesh can always be improved (v7).  | True | False |
| 6 | The Holy Spirit's mission is to reveal Christ (v9).                               | True | False |
| 7 | No child of God can be happy in living for the things of the flesh (v14)          | True | False |
| 8 | The Prodigal Son story teaches we can lose our inheritance but not our salvation. | True | False |

## Books of the Bible Word Scramble

- |                 |       |            |       |
|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. svrbproe     | _____ | 5. gnseie  | _____ |
| 2. ervleaonit   | _____ | 6. bwserhe | _____ |
| 3. smtletanaoni | _____ | 7. eouxsd  | _____ |
| 4. omrnas       | _____ | 8. haeos   | _____ |