

A Word from Kathy

Finally we have arrived at Romans 8, and it is like a breath of fresh air. Paul has spent several chapters unwrapping the sinfulness of sin and the tremendous need for and cost of our salvation. If we do not understand the real problem of sin, how can we ever truly appreciate the provision of righteousness? In this chapter we are going to look at the beauty of life in the Spirit. Please read the chapter at least twice before beginning to answer the questions.

Observation

1. At one time we all stood guilty before God. Romans 8:1 starts off with a similar emphasis as Romans 5:1. Put these two verses together in your own words to express the joy that is to be found in Christ. This can be a life changing moment if we can truly grasp the truth of eternal security found here.

Romans 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

2. If you want to easily see what the emphasis of this chapter is, go through the chapter and mark every reference to God's Spirit. Then make a list of all you learn about the Spirit.

3. In verse 4 we see two polar opposites.

1. Those whose daily life _____
2. Those whose daily life _____

4. In verse 5 we see the importance of what we set our minds on. There are two choices. List any other facts you can glean from verses 6-9 concerning what we set our minds on.

Those who set their minds on the flesh Those who set their minds on the Spirit

5. There are times when suffering will come our way (vss 18-25). We need not run from it as if some it were some strange thing. Read 1 Peter 4:12-13 below; how are we instructed to view trials?
Think back to the last time you endured suffering for the cause of Christ. What were your feelings and thoughts as you went through it?
Would you view it differently now?

1 Peter 4:12-13

*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:
But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

6. Romans 8:26-28 is a continuing thought for Paul. Verse 26 starts off "Likewise" or "In the same way" the Spirit helps us in our weakness. The Spirit of God suffers with us in our weakness; he groans and agonizes when we suffer. This was not God's intended plan for his creation. Like any loving parent he aches when his child is going through pain.
What do verses 26 and 27 tell us that the Spirit is doing during these times of our weakness?

Read Hosea 14:9; how will knowing this verse help you when you are in agony?

"Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them."

7. Romans 8:29-30 reveals much about the God we serve. Make a list of what you glean from these two verses. I will start you off,
 1. God knew us before we ever were, not merely knew about us, but knew us.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

8. Now Paul sums up his thoughts with a series of questions.

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

“Who can bring any charge against God’s elect?”

“Who can condemn us?”

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

And what is the answer?

What does that guarantee us?

Application

9. It is God’s desire for us to follow the example Christ set for us. He was always obedient to the will of his Father. John 5:30 *“By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.”*
Are you seeking to please the Father? According to Romans 8:12-17, if we have received the Spirit, what are we? Notice the intimacy of verse 15, we cry, “Abba! Father!” This is a very intimate loving term. Also see Mark 14:36 and Gal. 4:6.

10. After all we have seen in Romans 8, will you view the suffering and agony that comes your way in the future in a different way than you have in the past?
What has changed?
Make a list of things you will set your mind on in order to handle sorrow and suffering in a way that is pleasing to God.

11. I do not know the challenges you are facing. Perhaps today is an especially hard day for you and you can’t even express it in words. Your Abba Father knows what you need and he agonizes with you in your suffering. He is there for you. Reach out and acknowledge him. I cannot tell you what the future holds, but I can tell you who holds it. Our God is good, he longs to draw you close and comfort you. Run to him!