

## Rom 214 - Life in the Spirit - Rom 8:1-13

I always feel a certain level of "**Unworthiness**" teaching God's Word  
But I REALLY feel **Unworthy** to teach **ROM CH 8**

There are many **great scholars** who believe **Rom Ch 8**  
is *the greatest chapter* in all the Bible

**One commentator wrote:**

*"If the Holy Scripture were a ring, the epistle to the Romans would be the jewel, & Ch 8 would be the sparkling point of the jewel"*

**This is a CH** that you & I as Christians,  
can *live in* for our ENTIRE Christian Life

The Ch **begins** by telling us - there is "***No condemnation in Christ***"  
In the **middle** it tells us - we can be "***Victorious in ALL things***"  
& it **ends** telling us - we can ***NEVER be separated from God's love***

***"no condemnation"*** in the beginning

***"no defeat"*** in the middle

***"no separation"*** at the end

From the **Beginning** - to the **Middle** - to the Very **END** - this Ch  
is all about **the incredible victory** we have in Jesus Christ

**Let's Pray**

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In **Ch 7** we saw Paul's agonizing attempt  
to live for God in his own powerless "self-effort"

& fortunately (for him & for US) he became wretched & miserable

& he cried out in **Rom 7:24** - "***O wretched man that I am!  
Who will deliver me from this body of death?***"

Then - after Paul's "Cry of Surrender"

He revealed the SOURCE of our victory in **Rom 7:25 (NLT)** -  
"***Thank God ! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord***"

& NOW - in **Ch 8** - he goes right into the "modus operandi"  
whereby our Victory Over Sin is secured

In **ROM CH 8** we trade-In the power-LESS life  
*of living for God in our own strength* - FOR  
the power-FULL life - *of living for God in the Spirit*

& **ROM CH 8** is all about Yielding to the Leading of the Holy Spirit,  
& Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit

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Let me try to explain the Absolute Necessity of the Holy Spirit  
with an analogy of a Jet airplane

Your Christian life is like a JET airplane  
Capable of great heights & amazing feats

But - when you drive by March Airbase  
You see all those incredible Jet's - Just sitting on the ground

WHY ?? - - The answer is of course - GRAVITY

Alright - Here's the Analogy;

Your Christian Life is the JET Airplane  
The Law of Sin & your flesh is the Law of Gravity  
& the Holy Spirit is the JET Engines

SO - That Incredible Jet Airplane - is just sitting there,  
stuck to the earth - because the Law of Gravity (sin & your flesh)

NOW - YOU are the Pilot, & the Jet Airplane is your life -  
you get in & sit down . . . BUT - nothing happens - WHY ??  
Because you're still bound to the ground by the Law of Gravity

That's exactly the picture we saw last week in ROM 7:22-23

Rom 7:22-23 - ESV

*22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, [I can't wait to FLY, I love to FLY]*

*23 but I see in my members another law [gravity] waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive [bound to the ground] to the law of sin that dwells in my members.*

You're sitting in that incredible JET - You WANT to Fly,  
You can't wait to FLY - but you look out the window . . .  
& your still bound to the ground like a Lump O' Coal

Then - a little voice whispers in your ear  
**(TURN THE ENGINES ON)**

& as soon as those jet engines fire up,  
the law of aerodynamics takes over  
& the Plane soars to the greatest heights

Now - Is the Law of Gravity trying to suck that airplane  
back down to the ground like a ROCK - YES

BUT - there is a higher law of Aerodynamics  
That is a FAR MORE powerful than the force of Gravity

The NEW LAW of Aerodynamics  
Powered by the Jet Engines  
OVERCOMES the Law of Gravity  
& gives that Airplane FLIGHT, to the greatest heights

THAT - is how the POWER of the Holy Spirit  
OVERCOMES the law of Sin & Death in our lives

The Holy Spirit is a infinitely more powerful than sin & your flesh

& He will absolutely keep you Airborne  
as long as those Jets are running - & WELL MAINTAINED

If you are IN CHRIST today - Then you have those  
JET engines strapped to your Life

You may just need to fire that engine UP

Lloyd Pulley (more nxt week) says;

*"There is no greater tragedy than the poverty of trying to live  
the Christian life apart from the empowerment of the Holy  
Spirit."*

ROM Ch 8 - is all about the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit  
to live the Christian Life

**So now** – finally – **we begin** the incredible text of **Rom CH 8**  
& Paul starts - with a **great & powerful statement**

### **Rom 8:1 - ESV**

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

There is not even a **HINT** - Not One **BIT** of Condemnation  
for those who are **IN CHRIST JESUS**

**By the way** - if you're reading **NKJV**  
the rest of **V.1** is just a description of this truth

***There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.***

This is a Very **STRONG Reassurance** - of a Positional Truth  
that is **NOT** based on our Current Conduct  
this is based **SOLELY** on our Position in Christ

& **WHY** - is there **NOW**, No condemnation  
for those who are IN Christ Jesus ?

### **Rom 8:2 - ESV**

***2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.***

**“law”** (here) - is referring a **“system of operation”** - a **“way of life”**

This is another **POSITIONAL Statement** - & we **must hear it**

The **“way of life”** of the Spirit of life has set us free  
from the **“way of life”** of sin & death - [REPEAT]

**Living IN** the "**way of life**" of the Spirit  
**is HOW** we are set free from the "**way of life**" of sin & death

**& WHY** has the "**way of life**" of the Spirit - Set us **FREE** from  
the "**way of life**" of sin & death

### **Rom 8:3 - ESV**

***3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. . .***

**The law** could **NEVER** break the *power of sin*  
**because** it was weakened - **by our flesh**

So . . . Because ***WE*** couldn't **BREAK** the ***Power of Sin***  
***God did it HIMSELF !!***

[again] **Rom 8:3** ***For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,***

Because we **Could Not do it** - God sent His Own Son,  
in the **LIKENESS** of our Sinful Flesh  
to **condemn sin** in His own *physical body* - HOW ??

by **taking the full penalty** of our sin upon Himself

**& because that full penalty has been paid - & accepted by God:**  
***There is therefore now no condemnation***  
***for those who are in Christ Jesus.***

**& WHY** is that important  
for us to **Live in the Power** of the **Spirit**

**Rom 8:4 - ESV** → →

## **Rom 8:4 - ESV**

***4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us [believers], who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.***

**Jesus Christ** overcame the power of sin -

So that the **righteous requirement** of the law could be fulfilled in **US** . . .

***Who walk not according to the flesh  
but according to the Spirit***

That **last part of V.4** - is another a **POSITIONAL Statement**

The **Righteous Requirement** of the Law is fulfilled in **US**  
***Who have been Identified with Jesus Christ***

**THAT** is what **CH 6** was all about

It is **Believers** who are described here *as those who  
walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

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**NOW** - Thru-Out the N.T. there is a **Great Double Edged Truth**  
That **MUST be applied** to this section of ROM'S

(here it is) **YOU ARE . . . SO LIVE LIKE YOU ARE**

You **ARE Dead** to Sin - So **LIVE** like you're **Dead** to Sin

You **ARE Alive** in Christ - So **LIVE** like you're **Alive** in Christ

You **ARE** a **New Creation** - So **LIVE** like you're a **New Creation**

You **ARE Set-Apart** to God - So **LIVE** like you're **Set-Apart** to God

If we will grasp THIS **Great double-Edged Truth**,  
then **ROM CH 8** will make **HUGE SENSE** to us

V.4 is **describing Believers** as those who  
*walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

& this **DESCRIPTION** of WHO we ARE "**In Christ**"  
actually **introduces the CRUX** of this entire teaching

**ROM CH 8 (in essence) says;**

- 1) You **ARE** Positionally
- 2) You have the **POWER** practically
- 3) So - **FIRE UP** the engines & get flying

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Now - **to convince us** of this

Paul is now going to use a **very strong argument**  
**contrasting** a *non-believer* - w/ a *believer*

& **by the time** he's done

he's going to **drop the hammer** on us . . .

**for having** the Jet Engine **POWER** of the Holy Spirit  
**attached** to our Lives -

but **still choosing** to be *Bound to the Ground* (like a Lump O' Coal)  
by the Law of Sin & the flesh

**Just like** that **Jet** is *Bound to the Ground* by the Law of gravity



OK - here's the Contrast between the Unbeliever & the Believer

### Rom 8:5 - ESV

***5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.***

Scholars generally agree - these Phrases;

***those who live according to the flesh***

***those who live according to the Spirit***

Are HERE - actually describing Two different NATURES

The NON-Believer is - ***those who LIVE*** according to the FLESH

The BELIEVER is - ***those who LIVE*** according to the SPIRIT

First - there is a Definition of our Nature

Then - there is a Definition of our Choices

The NATURE of the Non-believer is to

***set their mind*** - on the things of the flesh

& the NEW NATURE of the Believer is to

***set their mind*** - on the things of the Spirit

& then - - Paul spells out the END RESULT - in V.6

### ROM 8:6 - ESV

***6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.***

Now - Paul is still basically contrasting

non-believers with believers

But hopefully - something else is happening as we listen

**Hopefully** - as he is **contrasting** non-believers w/ believers  
We are starting to **feel the conviction**  
that **he's** also talking about **us!**

& Hopefully we're **starting to ask** ourselves . . .

**IF** we **ARE** Identified with Jesus Christ  
**should we really be** setting our mind on the **flesh**  
*where there is only DEATH*

**OOORR** - Should we be **FIRING UP** those Engines  
& **setting our mind** on the **SPIRIT**  
*where there is LIFE & PEACE*

Paul **SCOLDS** the **Corinthians** for this very thing in **1Cor 3:3**

### **1COR 3:3 - NLT**

***3 for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?***

**He's saying** - Come On  
If you **really HAVE** New Life in Christ . . .

**Should you** Really be **living Like** People of the **WORLD** ??

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This **SAME Truth** is brought out - in **Gal Ch 5**

**After describing** "those who live according to the **flesh**"  
& **then describing** "those who live according to the **Spirit**"

Paul's final comment in **Gal 5:25** is

### **Gal 5:25 - ESV**

***25 If [indeed] we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.***

Remember - the **N.T.** Constantly says;

**THIS** is **WHO** you **ARE** - - **SO LIVE** like **WHO** you **ARE** !!

We've been **given the POWER** to live a **totally victorious life** in Christ  
just like those **Jet Engines** strapped to that plane

**Even tho** we're still **dragging around** the **old** nature

The **NEW NATURE** is infinitely **MORE powerful**

**But** - if we don't **start using** the **power** available to us

**We're just** going to **sit** on the ground - till we **ROT**

**Just like** that **Jet** Airplane who's **engines** are **never** turned on

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### **Let's reread ROM 8:5-6 - ESV**

***5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,  
but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.***

***6 To set the mind on the flesh is death,  
but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.***

**I believe** Paul is making this **Stark Contrast**

**so** you & I **can decide**

Am I acting like a BELIEVER;  
*living according to the Spirit -  
& setting my Mind on the Spirit -  
which brings Life & Peace*

Or am I acting like a NON-BELIEVER;  
*living according to the flesh  
& setting my Mind on the flesh -  
which brings Death (separation from God)*

We HAVE the Position in Jesus Christ  
We HAVE the Power in the Holy Spirit  
WHY not go ahead & live like God has made us

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Now - in Vs's 7-8 - we're going to see the real problem  
w/ BELIEVERS - ACTING - Like NON-Believers

& we need to CONSIDER these Next Two Vs's  
Very carefully

### ROM 8:7-8 - ESV

*7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.*

*8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

An unbeliever's mind - is set on the flesh by his sin nature  
& His Flesh is HOSTILE to God - *literally at war w/ God*

His Mind Does Not submit to God's Law - indeed - it cannot

& V.8 says - those who are "In The Flesh" (ref: to Unbelievers)  
*cannot please God*

**BUT** - If you are a **believer** - & your mind is **set on the Flesh**  
Aren't **YOU** also - **Hostile** to God ???

**I'll tell you** One Thing

I **wouldn't be counting** on those **Jet Engines**

because **Vs. 8** makes it very clear

***Those who are in the flesh cannot please God***

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Now - **Since** Paul's got us **squirmin** a bit

**tryin to decide** if we're Living like a **Believer** or **NON-Believer**

He's **going to** go ahead & **talk directly** to us in **V.9**

**THIS** is ANOTHER **Positional Truth**

He's **NOT talking** about **HOW** you're acting - *he's asking you* ;

**Do you BELONG** to Jesus Christ **or NOT**

**ROM 8:9 - ESV**

***9 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.***

**Christian** : You are **Positionally** not in “the **flesh**”  
you are **Positionally** in “the **Spirit**”

**If** you are **born-again** today

The **Spirit of God** dwells in you

He **took up residence**

the **moment** you made **Jesus your Lord**

## **1Cor 6:19 - NLT**

***19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? . . .***

**Paul is simply stating this Positive Truth in the Negative Form;  
***Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ  
does not belong to him.*****

**This is the same thing as stating Positively;  
***Every person who belongs to Christ,  
has the Spirit of Christ in them*****

**if you've truly made Jesus Christ your Lord**

Then **you** most **assuredly**  
**have** the **Holy Spirit** residing in you

**The Jet Engines** are **Strapped on** - & Ready to GO -  
You **MAY just need** - to start **USING Them**  
***we'll talk more about that next week***

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## **OK NOW - Vs's 10 & 11**

Really **get to** the **HEART of the Matter**

### **Paul is going to Make it VERY CLEAR**

The **EXACT SAME Power** that Raised Christ from the Dead  
**ALSO LIVES IN US**

**Wouldn't you think** it would be **enough Power** - for us to  
**overcome** our Struggles with **SIN** & the **FLESH** ??

**Rom 8:10 - ESV** → →

### **Rom 8:10 - ESV**

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

If you've **Received Christ** - You are **IN HIM** - & **He** is **IN YOU**

& **although** you still drag around the **SIN NATURE** . . .  
***the body is dead because of sin,***

You now have the **JET ENGINE POWER** of the Spirit alive in **YOU**  
***& the Spirit is life because of righteousness***

You're **still draggin around** the Sin Nature  
(*like gravity draggin on that plane*)

But the **Spirit is LIFE in you** because of Christ's Righteousness  
(that's the *JET ENGINE POWER*)

& just **HOW MUCH Power**  
is in this "Spirit of Life" that lives in **you** ?

Well - **V.11** - explains just **HOW MUCH Power**  
that **Jet Engine** inside you - really has

### **Rom 8:11 - ESV**

***11 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.***

The **Spirit of Him** who **raised Jesus** from the dead  
**DWELLS IN YOU !!!**

& **if He raised Jesus** Christ from the dead  
He **can certainly give** you enough **power** to Live for Him

**THAT** is the **Jet Engine Power**

Available for you to **Overcome your flesh** - & **Live for Christ**

You **don't have to** do it on your **own** -  
**in fact**, you **can't** do it on your **own**

You **must learn** to rely on the power  
That **Christ died** to give you

**His name** is the Holy Spirit - & He **lives in you**  
& we **need to learn** how to **FIRE** those Engines up

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**Finally**, Paul is going to **draw his conclusion** -  
from comparing **NON-Believers** & **Believers** . . .

& **in doing so** - He's going to **make**  
a **massive application** to our lives

In **these Vs's** - Paul is **now CLEARLY** talking to Christians

But he's **USING** his *previous comparison*  
to make a **VERY CLEAR POINT !**

**Rom 8:12 - ESV** → →



## **Rom 8:12 - ESV**

***12 So then, brothers [Christians], we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.***

### **We are Debtors**

Because the **Holy Spirit** dwells in us

But we are **NOT debtors** to the **flesh**  
*to live according to the flesh*

& **Why** should a Christian **NOT ACT** like Debtor to the **flesh** ?

## **Rom 8:13 - ESV**

***13 For if you [Christian] live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.***

Paul's **drawn the comparison** using **Un-Believers**  
but now he "**Drops the Hammer**" on **believers** - & says;

**Christian** : If you **live** according to the **flesh** - ***you will die,***

You will live a **miserable life**  
& you will be **separated from God** in *increasing degree*

***On the other hand . . .***

**If by the Spirit (key words) BY THE SPIRIT**

you **put to death** the deeds of the body (flesh) . . .

**YOU WILL LIVE!**

Live an **Abundant Life** in Christ

Experience **Freedom & Liberty** in Christ

Overcome **Sin & Destruction** in Christ

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**Our Position is there - in Christ**

*There is Now NO Condemnation*

**Our Power is there - in the Holy Spirit**

*The Spirit of him who raised Jesus LIVES in US*

**But we still have to make a CHOICE**

Live according to the *flesh* = **DIE**

Live according to the *Spirit* = **Life & Peace**

**Come back** next week - we'll **hear more** about

**Living** according to the **Spirit**

**Let's Pray**