

Take Them and Learn to Run

Romans 8

Context of Romans...

- written by the apostle Paul around AD57
- to the church in Rome
- included Jewish and Gentile believers
- questions concerning the Law, identity, and salvation
- complete explanation of the gospel message of Jesus Christ

Romans 8:1-2

***There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**

Romans 8:3

³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

- ***There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. (8:1)***
- **condemnation-*katakrima*)** legal term used in a courtroom
- defined as “a judgement rendered against someone that results in punishment.”
- **NOW** no guilty verdict, no sentence of punishment, and no judicial judgment remaining against them.

- “God is disappointed with me.”
- Condemnation says: "I failed again, so God must be frustrated with me."
- "I have to earn God's acceptance."
- Condemnation says: "If I pray more, read more, serve more, then God will love me.“
- "My past disqualifies me."
- Condemnation says: "Because of what I've done, God can never fully use me.“

- "I am my sin."
- Condemnation says: "I failed, therefore I am a failure."
- "I deserve punishment."
- Condemnation says: "Something bad happened because God is paying me back."
- "I can never change."
- Condemnation says: "This struggle proves I'm not really growing."

- "God loves other Christians more than me."
- Condemnation says: "I'm a second-class Christian."

- **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)**
- The old law of sin and death operated through the flesh and produced bondage that led to death.
- The new law of the Spirit of Life operates through the Holy Spirit and produces freedom that leads to abundant life.

- "God is disappointed with me."
- **Truth:** God corrects His children, but He does not reject them. His discipline flows from love, not rejection (**Hebrews 12:6**).
- "I have to earn God's acceptance."
- **Truth:** You are accepted because of Christ's finished work, not your performance (**Ephesians 1:6**).

- "My past disqualifies me."
- **Truth:** Many of God's greatest servants had painful failures, yet God redeemed and used them powerfully (Paul, Peter, David).
- "I am my sin."
- **Truth:** Your identity is "child of God," not your latest mistake (**Romans 8:16**).
- "I deserve punishment."
- **Truth:** Jesus already bore God's judgment against your sin (**Romans 8:3**).

- "I can never change."
- **Truth:** The Holy Spirit is transforming believers over time (**2 Corinthians 3:18**).
- "God loves other Christians more than me."
- **Truth:** Every believer has been adopted into God's family and is an heir with Christ (**Romans 8:15-17**).

- **For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. (Romans 8:3)**
- The law revealed, exposed, and defined sin, but could not remove sin.
- Christ going to the cross ... removed that sin.

- **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:4)**
- **righteous requirement** - “the just demand, the standard of what is right.”
- NOT - the **righteous requirement** is fulfilled BY us through our own effort.
- **righteous requirement** is fulfilled **IN us**, through God’s effort, through Jesus and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Paul contrasts two realities, two governing influences, two sources of life...

- **according to the flesh** - “according to, in alignment with, governed by” the “fallen human nature, a life independent of God.”
- **according to the Spirit** - “according to, in alignment with, governed by” the Holy Spirit, God’s life, presence, and power within the believer.”

- **Jeremiah 31:33**, God said I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.
- **Ezekiel 36:27**, God said I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes.
- **within them** and **within you** - same root word “inner part, inner being, deep interior (heart, thoughts, will).”

This internal upgrade makes it possible
for transformation in our lives,
from the inside out.

Jesus fulfilling the law,
placing that law on our hearts,
and the Spirit of God living in each one of us
is our new supernatural reality.

And each day, we have a choice
to live in alignment with that reality.

- **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, the things of the Spirit. (Romans 8:5)**
- believers are not “in **the flesh**” they can still temporarily walk **according to the flesh**.
- **set their minds** is “to focus, value, be oriented toward.”
- a choice to live independent of God, focused on self or dependent on God, focused on Him.

Set their minds....

- "Holy Spirit, what are You saying?"
- "How would You have me respond?"
- "What pleases You in this moment?"
- "What are your thoughts in this situation?"
- Focusing on the truth and nature of who our God is...Scripture, worship, prayer...

Romans 8:6-8

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- **carnally minded** opposes God and cannot submit to God
- mindsets reveal the source, **the flesh** versus **the Spirit**.

Romans 5:9-10

⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

Romans 5:11

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- **you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit (9).**
- Paul is not talking about behavior, he is talking about Kingdom identity through our position in Christ, a new Kingdom reality.

- **And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness (10).**
- In the midst of our earthly race, the **Spirit** is living inside of each one of us.
- On the inside you are fully alive in Christ! And each day, we have the choice to live from the Spirit.

Romans 8:12-13

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you 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. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- **¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**
- Our identity as sons and daughters of God grows and matures in congruence with our willingness to be **led by the Spirit of God.**
- And being led by the Spirit is not just about guidance, it is evidence of our belonging to Christ.

Romans 8:15

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

- ¹⁵ **For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”**
- Receiving **the Spirit of adoption**, is our full legal standing because of Christ.
- Full acceptance, full family rights through crying out, **“Abba, Father.”**
- Paul uses **Abba, Father** meaning Father, but with intimacy similar to Daddy.

Romans 8:16

¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

- **children** (tekna) means “children born into a family”

Romans 8:17

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

- **Heirs** is “one who receives an inheritance.”
- **Joint heirs** is “sharing in the what Christ receives because we are united to Him.”

Romans 8:17b

17 if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

- inherit WITH(IN) Christ
- suffer WITH(IN) Christ
- be glorified WITH(IN) Christ

- Remember your standing in Christ – There is **no condemnation in Christ**. Our standing before God is based on Christ's work, not our own performance.
- Remember your internal posture through Christ - **live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit**. What consistently occupies our heart and minds, reveals who is leading our life. (the flesh or Spirit)
- Remember your identity in Christ – We are Spirit-led Children of God, co heirs with Christ, sharing in Christ's inheritance.