

Encounter Church Sermon Notes

August 30, 2026 — Pastor Sheri Jennings



A Transformed Body of Believers

Romans 1:8-13

1



2 — Romans 1:8-13

8 Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world. 9 God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about his Son.

10 One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. 11 For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. 12 When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.

13 I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other Gentiles.

3 — Romans 1:9-10

9 God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God. 10 One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you.

4

A transformed life PRAYS without ceasing (v.9)

A transformed life prays for the needs of others and themselves, BECAUSE...

A transformed life strongly believes in the power of prayers and requests for others.

5 — Billy Graham

“A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian. A prayerless Christian is also a contradiction, because we should yearn for fellowship with the One who redeemed us.”

— Billy Graham

6 — Romans 1:11

11 For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord.

7

Spiritual gift is about WHAT you do (God assigned)

8 — Romans 12:4-8

4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

9

Only the Holy Spirit can give these gifts because it is only through our faith that the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in our hearts and produce His love through spiritual fruit in us.

10



11 — Romans 1:12

12 ...that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

12 — Romans 1:13

Paul wanted to work among them to "see spiritual fruit" (Romans 1:13)

13

Spiritual fruit is about WHO you are (Christlike)



A transformed body of believers...

- Prays without ceasing
 - Uses gifts to build the body up
 - Produces abundant fruit through Christ Jesus
 - AND STANDS AS ONE BODY through the winds, and fires and floods
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