

NO CONDEMNATION.

# VIII

NO SEPARATION.

## **The Story of the Spirit**– Acts 2, Romans 8

May 19, 2024

As we continue our climb to the summit of Romans 8, we stop off at basecamp to rest a while and survey where we've trekked already.

As the global church celebrates Pentecost, Lewis Roderick takes us to Acts 2 and Romans 8 to hear the story of the Spirit.

For personal reflection/community discussion

**Read** – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

**Examine** – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

**Apply** - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- As we make our way up Romans 8, we've paused to survey all we've passed along the way. Considering vv.1-11, what has struck you?
- Of the four works of the Spirit Lewis listed from Romans 8 (The Spirit brings no condemnation / is changing us / brings to us the presence of the Father and the Son / will raise us to resurrection life), which do you struggle to believe the most? Why?
- Read these verses slowly and a few times over, allowing them space for the truth of God to be worked into your heart: 1 John 3: 2; 1 Corinthians 15: 51-57; 1 Thess 4: 17, 18, Isaiah 26: 19. // Now consider Mike Reeves words again; *That means hope for our bodies, and especially sweet news for the sick, the handicapped, and those in pain... just as Christ was physically raise from the grave as the first fruits of new life, so will we be. We will be united with him in his resurrection, our bodies freed like his from the last effects of the fall. New blemished, sagging, aching, dying; at his appearance our bodies will transform to be perfect, splendid, glorious, powerful and imperishable. Like his... Like him in beautiful character, like him in his glorious resurrection body, like him in his beloved status before the Father."*
- Now rejoice; this is what Father has promised to do through his Spirit.