

NO CONDEMNATION.

# VIII

NO SEPARATION.

**Life in the Spirit**– Romans 8:12-16

May 27, 2024

Paul takes us higher up the mountain of Romans 8 where we discover how the indwelling Holy Spirit empowers forgiven sinners to live the new life Christ has won for them as adopted children of God.

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.

- ‘The Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God’. *How?* Remember a time when this was particularly sweet for you. If you’re with others, describe it to them. cf. these words from William Guthrie.

“It is no audible voice, but it is a ray of glory, filling the soul with God... it is like...that word to Mary. The Lord only said her name, MARY, and filled her soul so she no longer doubted she was his. O how glorious is this manifestation of the Spirit.- William Guthrie.

- The Spirit leads us ‘into battle’; where is the battle at its fiercest for you?
- Consider this list of contrasts between a slave and a son (or daughter). Where are you acting like a slave? Take your time and be as specific as you can be, remembering times when this inner false identity played out.

<b>Slaves</b>	<b>Sons and Daughters</b>
Relationship based on performance	Relationship based on grace
Sense God’s disapproval	Sense Father’s love
Feel examined	Feel accepted
Work hard for fear of rejection (from God and others)	Work hard with desire to please our Father and serve others
Must compete for God’s attention and see others as a threat	Not threatened by others, our standing is in Christ
Afraid of being put out	Assured of our belonging
Fearful of God’s presence	Long to be in the Father’s house
Wake up anxious	Wake up at rest
Forgiveness is conditional	Forgiveness is complete

Now read these words from Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Ask the God of all grace to prompt the cry of Abba-Father again in your heart.

“A little child has *confidence*. He does not analyze it...he knows that ‘Abba’ is his father. Grown-ups may be standing back at a distance and being very formal [with some great personage]; but the little child comes running in, rushes right in, and holds onto his father’s legs. He has a right no-one else has...It is instinctive... we cry ‘Abba, Father’.”