

A Study Through Romans

Chapter 8

Life in the Spirit

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

- I love this verse! I have quoted this verse to myself often and in messages often.
- This verse is a promise that IF I walk
 - (this isn't a cardio thing,
 - it is a lifestyle thing)
 - following the leading of the Holy Spirit
 - under the direction of the Word of God
 - that I will be free from **ANY** condemnation.
 - That means that no accusations brought against me will have any weight or judgment.
 - **Hebrews 12:1** tells us to lay aside every weight and sin that besets us.
 - **Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
 - **2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - Sin carries guilt (weight) and chastisement.
 - The penalty is under the blood of the Cross of Christ,
 - but the life I live still is to glorify Christ.
 - If it does not, then **my choice** to bear my weight and my chastisement is the condemnation.

- I am **IN** Christ, therefore nothing will ever separate me from my relationship **IN** Him,
- however, my intimacy of fellowship is ALWAYS adversely affected when I walk (not cardio...) how I want or according to the flesh.
- Now, this is not a new concept to me, I know this...
 - I have known this.
 - Yet far too often I choose to live my life my way.
 - I pack the guilt away until what time that the loss of intimacy is too much for me to bear,
 - This is when I decide to carry condemnation
 - It is like carrying the carcass of a dead man
 - It may be that I carry around the old dead man that is Larry and all the weight that comes from his past
 - It may be that I strive hard to pull my back to a place of Christ-like conformity, and that is like carrying around a dead Jesus...but Jesus isn't dead...right?
 - Then I long for a right walk with my Savior.
 - At that time I confess,
 - He forgives,
 - and begins the cleansing process in **our devotional time**.
 - I long for the day when I am able to truly lay aside the weights & sins that far too easily beset me.
 - I long to be free from all guilt and shame.
 - I long to look in my Savior's lovesick eyes and embrace ALL that He is.
 - Why do I struggle with these things?
 - The answer may sound like a cop out or excuse,
 - God knows my heart; it is simply the truth.
 - I struggle with these things because I am a sinner.
 - This does not free me up from any guilt and shame.
 - This does not clear my conscience so that I am free to live how I want.
 - No, if anything it places me in **greater debt** in my heart and mind,

- knowing that my Jesus knew I would do those things when He shed His precious blood on Calvary.
- He knew the last time He had to clean me up that it would not be the last time...
- **Why does He love me so?!**

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath **made** me free from the law of sin and death.

- These are Laws
 - The Law of the Spirit of Life
 - The Law of sin and death
 - God's Laws are immutable
 - The Law of the Spirit is above the Law of Sin & Death
 - This means that if I have the Spirit
 - I do not have sin
 - I do not have death
 - IN the Spirit - **1John 3:9** *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*
 - The Law of Sin & Death are present but powerless – **1 John 3:8** *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Rom 8:4 That the **righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

- Jesus was flesh...
 - the same flesh as Adam & Eve
 - and ALL their descendants.

- He was flesh that **was** subjected to sin,
- yet He in His flesh **rejected** sin.
- Our flesh cannot reject sin for **it is its very nature**.
- Our flesh is weak.
- Christ's flesh, in its greatest weakness remained sinless for He **is the Divine and had power over sin**.
- That same Jesus has given His **perfect sinless Spirit to give me life**.
- **Perfect Divine life** that needs not give into sin but has power over it. (Remember 1 John 3:9)
 - *"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."*
- I have Jesus in my flesh...
 - J.D. Greear says it like this, "It's not Jesus beside us, it's Jesus inside us!"
 - my flesh is not Jesus...
 - don't get this mixed up,
 - no, His Spirit lives in me giving me power for a life IN Him
- with these things in mind, we must understand that...

Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

- Every day is a choice,
 - life or death.
 - I set my mind on which one I want for the day.
 - Now, who in their right mind would wake up and go,
 - "you know, I think I will choose to die today."?
 - It sounds silly but that is what I do when I live how I want instead of to show God I love Him.

- When I choose to show God my love for Him, I choose life and peace.
- **Life lived in Christ is peace with God.**
- So, today, **I choose life!**
- And in deeper understanding...

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Rom 8:10 And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

- There is nothing I can do to please God.
 - I am unable to do anything that would merit His gaze.
 - I walk every day in this flesh,
 - but I thank God that I can walk in/after the spirit that God has quickened within me.
 - This is most valuable because,
 - while I am not able to do anything that pleases God,
 - **Jesus has done everything to please God, for me!**
 - This is only when I **live the Gospel.**
 - When I die to self, being crucified daily,
 - and bury all that is Larry,
 - burial is not performing anything for me,
 - and allow the resurrection Christ to live through me,
 - showing His works,
 - His fruit,
 - His life to the Father,
 - And to the brethren,
 - and the world.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

- God's Spirit lives in me....
 - it doesn't die in me,
 - it lives in me.
- God has commanded that I give my life to Him,
- not because He doesn't love my life,
- He just has a better life waiting to give me in Jesus.
 - I hold onto things because I feel like I am going to miss out on something or not enjoy something,
 - yet all that I really need is to lose this life for Jesus and then know the life God has for me...
 - the enjoyment, the peace, the love, the whole fruit of the Spirit.

Heirs with Christ

Rom 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

Rom 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

- Faith without works is dead.
- That's what the Word of God tells us in James.
 - So, if faith without works is dead,
 - then I only have faith if it moves me.
 - What I believe is evident by what I do.
- God is the Father of all who believe in Jesus Christ.
 - That is Bible. It is fact.
 - So, if I believe in Jesus Christ,
 - then my belief will cause me to be led by the Spirit of God,

- not my flesh.
- When I follow my flesh,
 - I am claiming my life.
 - When I claim my life, my faith is dead.
- When I follow the Spirit, I mortify (kill) the deeds of the flesh, and make my faith to be what is alive.

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

- Sin is bondage
 - I used to fear the bondage
 - I used that fear to try hard not to give into sin
 - This is not the right motivation
 - This does not bring forth the right fruit
- I am God's Child
 - I've been adopted by God
 - He is my Father
 - He loves His children
 - I can go to Him, knowing He loves
 - His love replaces my fear
 - 1 John 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

- Before September 24, 1998 I thought I knew.

- I thought I was a child of God.
- The problem was there was no evidence to support that idea.
- God's Spirit was nowhere near me, let alone in me.
- Therefore, there was no fruit showing the evidence of His presence in my life.
- There was no desire to follow Him.
- There was no desire to cut off my flesh so that I might suffer in this present time as I yield to the Spirit's leading.
- Then came my salvation experience!
 - Now the Spirit of God dwells in me!
 - How do I know?
 - There is evidence!
 - I yearn to please God because He has saved me!
 - A part of me is grieved when I give into sin
 - I want to show people what God has done in my life
 - I want God to see how I feel about Him
 - I want others to see how I feel about God
 - When you know, you know!

Future Glory

Rom 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Rom 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

- To Reckon: To esteem; to account; to repute; To reason with oneself and conclude from arguments
- We MUST...
 - Esteem or consider the costs
 - Of our best day had here
 - Our worst day had here
 - Compare it with the promises of God
 - God's Word is true

- He has prepared a place for us
- We will be made perfect
- We will be made eternal
- Then Conclude that the worst thing that can happen to us will pale in comparison to the reward we have IN Christ

Rom 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

Rom 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

- It may sound or seem harsh that...
 - It's God's Will for me to battle with sin
 - But it is the only way He will receive the glory
 - He has provided victory
 - I must simply live in it (Christ)
 - If we could live sinless, we have no need of Jesus, and God the Father receives no glory
 - It is my temptation to sin that is designed to turn me to Him
 - James 1:2 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*
 3 *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*
 4 *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*
 - James 1:12 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*
 13 *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*
 14 *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*
 15 *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Rom 8:23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

- Mankind is searching for something better
 - The World wants better
 - Creation longs for perfection
- Christianity longs for better
 - We have better in His Spirit
 - We get to bear His fruit for His glory
 - But to be sinless!!!

Rom 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Rom 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

- Hope is not a desire for something to happen,
- but a rejoicing in what will happen.
- Hope is certain, or it is not hope.
- Hope that is seen or tangible today is not hope.
- God cannot give us all that He desires to give us, for if He did, then why would we need Him?
 - `Yes, I long for His return!
 - I long for the day when there is no more sin dwelling in me!
 - I long for the day when I can see Jesus face to face and fall at His feet to worship Him in a physical realm!
 - Proverbs 13:12 says, "Hope deferred make that the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life."

- I think of when my wife and I know we are going to get to be spend time with just each other.
 - We are celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary in Dec.
 - We are planning a trip, just us
 - I want it to be great
 - I want us to get along
 - I want us to want to be around each other
 - So, until the time comes that we get to go, how should I treat her?
 - Should I ignore her
 - Talk bad about her or to her
 - Disregard any notions of making her happy
 - That way when we go I can pour all of myself into it, right?
 - Of course, that is foolish thinking
 - Knowing that we will be together gives me opportunity for over two months now to communicate with her of all that I anticipate
 - To let her know I'm excited
 - To take every opportunity to show her now how much I care that we have a sweet time
- So, it is with our intimate walk with Jesus!
 - Yes, I long to be with Him so much sometimes that it makes me sick in my heart,
 - but it is that longing for the certain hope that makes my conversations with Him sweeter!
 - More intimate!
 - Knowing that soon, we will be together forever!!!

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

- Likewise...we don't see Hope, but we have it
 - We don't see the Spirit, but we have it
 - How do you know?
 - Ever been so distraught you don't even know what you should pray for, or how?
 - It's ok, we have the Holy Spirit
 - He intervenes for us
 - He interprets for us
 - He inspects us
 - He makes intercession for us
 - He informs us of God's Will

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

- So, We Know!
 - All things
 - Temptations – James 1:2 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*
 - Trials & Tribulation - 1Peter 1:6 *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

- Persecution – 2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
- Chastisement - Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

- Because we trust the ONE Who Knows All
 - God is Sovereign over all
 - God knows all
 - God is All Powerful
 - He made us to be in His image
 - Christ is our pre-destined state
 - So, God's knows what we are going to do, when we are going to do it, and why
 - His foreknowledge places things in my life to point me to or back to Him

God's Everlasting Love

Rom 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

- So, there is no arguing...There is no contesting the simple Biblical fact that if God, Creator of the Universe is for us, who will be able to come against us?
 - We too often allow our problem to become bigger than God Almighty, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit
 - My Past is too great
 - My Sin is too much
 - My Trial is more
 - My Temptation is too much
 - My Doubt is too great
 - My Hope is too lost
 - My Fears are too real
 - Satan, Society, and Self all work together to bring us to the point of believing lies
 - God's Word is alive and powerful – Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
 - God's Word gives us the weaponry to fight
 - **2Corinthians 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
 - 4** (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
 - 5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
 - 6** And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

- Why do we continue to try to argue with One who is for us?

- There is no argument
- God is For Me
- He proved it with Jesus Christ
- He daily proves it with His Holy Spirit & His Word
- He has given me life eternal
- He wants me to enjoy life more abundantly

Rom 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

- Who are the “elect”
 - These are those who have “elected” to accept the propitiation for their sin, Jesus Christ for their justification and reconciliation unto God the Father
- So, who is greater than God?
 - Who can bring something against Christ?
 - Who can dispute God’s compassion to mankind through His Son?

Rom 8:34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

- Who will condemn Christ?
- Who died for the sins of mankind?
- Who lives to go to God for mankind?
 - If the answer to these last two question is any other than Christ you do not believe God is for you

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

- Here is the base of all things in moving forward to the abundant Christian Life
 - Do you believe that God loves you no matter what?
 - Do hard times change how God feels about you?
 - Do your tendencies to allow fear and doubt rule your mind change how God feels about you?
 - Does the way you are treated poorly by others, or the way you treat others poorly change the way God feels about you?
 - Does poverty change the way God feels about you?
 - Does your broken, sinful, naked state change the way God feels about you?
 - Do life and death situations change how God feels about you?
 - Does the Bible or a “bible” change the way that God feels about you?

Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

- In Psalm 44:22 the passage is crying to the God who won their victories.
 - They were in subjugation do to failing to follow according to God's Word
 - They wanted to be delivered
 - They praised God for doing all the work for their deliverance
 - And offered themselves daily as a living sacrifice for Him
- So, how do you count your sheep?
- Is it counted for you as you fail to follow according to God's Word, which will always take us to a place of subjugation or bondage in sin
- Or do you consider yourself dead, crucified daily as a living sacrifice?

Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

- As much as I hate losing, I far too often accept defeat in my life.
 - I allow sin to defeat me.
 - I allow guilt over sin to defeat me.
 - I allow the hard time I'm going through to defeat me.
 - I have never been a gracious winner, but I have become too much of a "gracious loser".
 - It makes no sense seeing that I have been granted victory in all of life's circumstances.
 - This should cause me to gloat greatly at every win I am given...
 - yet I would rather wallow in my defeat,
 - claiming instead the agony of defeat...
 - well not today Satan...I choose victory!

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Being persuaded doesn't mean you don't doubt.
 - It simply means that you go daily to the One persuading.
 - Faith only comes from hearing God's Word,
 - and faith only shows my persuasion when I live it.
- So, be persuaded that NOTHING can change how God feels about you!
 - Death cannot
 - Life cannot
 - Angels cannot
 - Governments cannot
 - Spiritual beings cannot
 - Nothing or no one today

- Nothing or no one tomorrow
- Nothing or no one in heaven
- Nothing or no one in hell
- Nothing or no one on earth
- God loves you and there is absolutely nothing you can do to change that FACT