

Life in the Spirit

Romans 8

Luke Myers
Associate Pastor
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BIG IDEA: In Christ we are no longer condemned, and through the **HOLY SPIRIT** can face suffering with freedom, hope, and confidence in our eternal destiny.

Identity in Christ

- For those who believe the Gospel, there is now **NO CONDEMNATION** *Romans 8:1-4, 34-35, 5:1; Colossians 2:13-14*
  - Why? Jesus Christ **DID** what I could not do *Matthew 5:6*
  - **CONVICTION** is not the same as condemnation
    - Prayer: *Lord, would you convict me now, in a real way, of where I've sinned that I might confess and find your mercy?*

Life in the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit gives me **NEW POWER TO LIVE** *Romans 8:5-13*
  - **SET MY MIND** on the Spirit (v.v. 5–6) *Philippians 4:8*
  - Put sin to death **BY THE SPIRIT** (v. 13) *Galatians 5:16*
- The Holy Spirit assures my new identity: I BELONG TO GOD *Romans 8:13–17; John 1:12; Galatians 4:4–7*
  - I am **ADOPTED** into God's family
  - I get to pray to God as my **"ABBA" (FATHER**)

Destiny for Followers of Christ

- The Spirit gives me **HOPE IN SUFFERING** *Romans 8:18-30; John 16:33*
  - I still live in a **FALLEN** world
  - God uses suffering for my **GOOD** and His **GLORY**
  - God's plan is that I become more like **JESUS CHRIST** *Philippians 3:10-11*
- Amidst suffering, nothing can separate me from **GOD'S LOVE** *Romans 8:31-39*

Online Notes

KEEP READING →

WHY does it matter/**WHAT** does it mean for me?

1. I don't have to live like a **CONDEMNED PERSON** *Romans 8:1*
   - **TRUTH:** In Christ, my **GUILT** has been dealt with completely.
   - **HARD TRUTH:** When I continually "beat myself up" for sins Jesus has forgiven, I am acting pridefully as though His payment wasn't **ENOUGH**
2. I don't have to live the Christian life by **MY OWN STRENGTH** *Romans 8:13-14*
   - **TRUTH:** God gives me His Spirit to **EMPOWER** the life He calls me to live.
   - **HARD TRUTH:** If my Christian life depends primarily on my **PERFORMANCE**, I will eventually end up exhausted, defeated, or proud.
3. I can interpret my **STRUGGLE AND SUFFERING** through God's promises *Romans 8:28*
   - **TRUTH: DIFFICULTY** does not mean God has abandoned me.
   - **HARD TRUTH:** If I define God's goodness by whether my circumstances are comfortable, suffering will eventually **DESTROY** my confidence in Him.
4. I can live with **CONFIDENCE**, not fear *Romans 8:31-32*
   - **TRUTH:** My circumstances can change without changing my **STANDING** or **ETERNAL DESTINY** with God.
   - **HARD TRUTH:** If my peace disappears every time my circumstances change, I'm probably looking to circumstances to give me something only **GOD** can provide.

Memory Verse:

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
Romans 8:1 NIV84

Reflection Questions:

- What forgiven failure am I still allowing to define me?
- Where do you struggle the most: condemnation, self-dependence, dread of suffering, or living in fear?
- What truth from Romans 8 do you need to choose to believe where you are struggling?
- Am I responding to conviction or living under condemnation?
- Where am I primarily relying on willpower?
- What would active dependence on the Holy Spirit look like?
- Where am I tempted to question God's goodness because life is difficult?
- How might God be using this season to make me more like Jesus?
- How can you live with an eternal perspective? What is one step of confidence in God you can take in light of our eternal hope?
- What future possibility is creating fear in me?
- How should Romans 8:38-39 change the way I face my future?

My next step today is to...

- ○ Memorize Romans 8:1
- ○ Repent and accept Jesus as my Savior and submit to His Lordship for the first time!
- ○ Go public as a follower of Jesus and get baptized
- ○ Read Romans chapter 8 this week
- ○ Read "How to Walk in the Spirit"
- ○ Watch or listen to ***The 3C Podcast*** to go deeper this week
- ○ _____