

Romans

Chapter 8

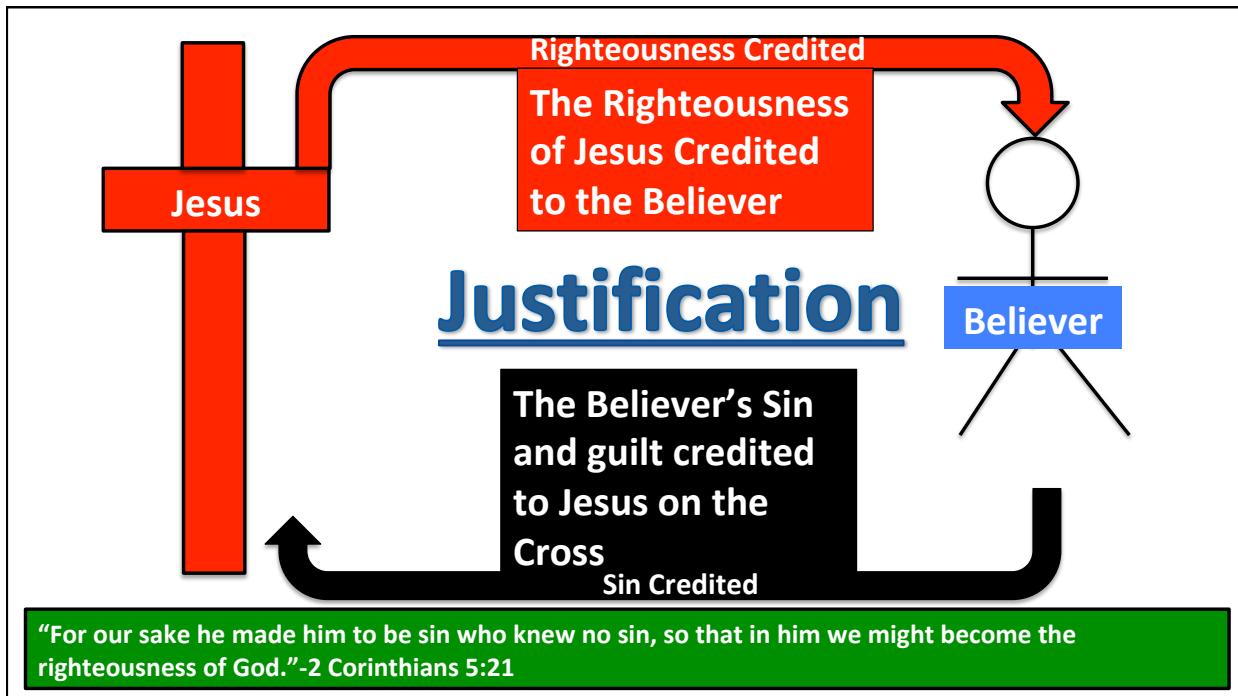
Romans 8:1-4

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.

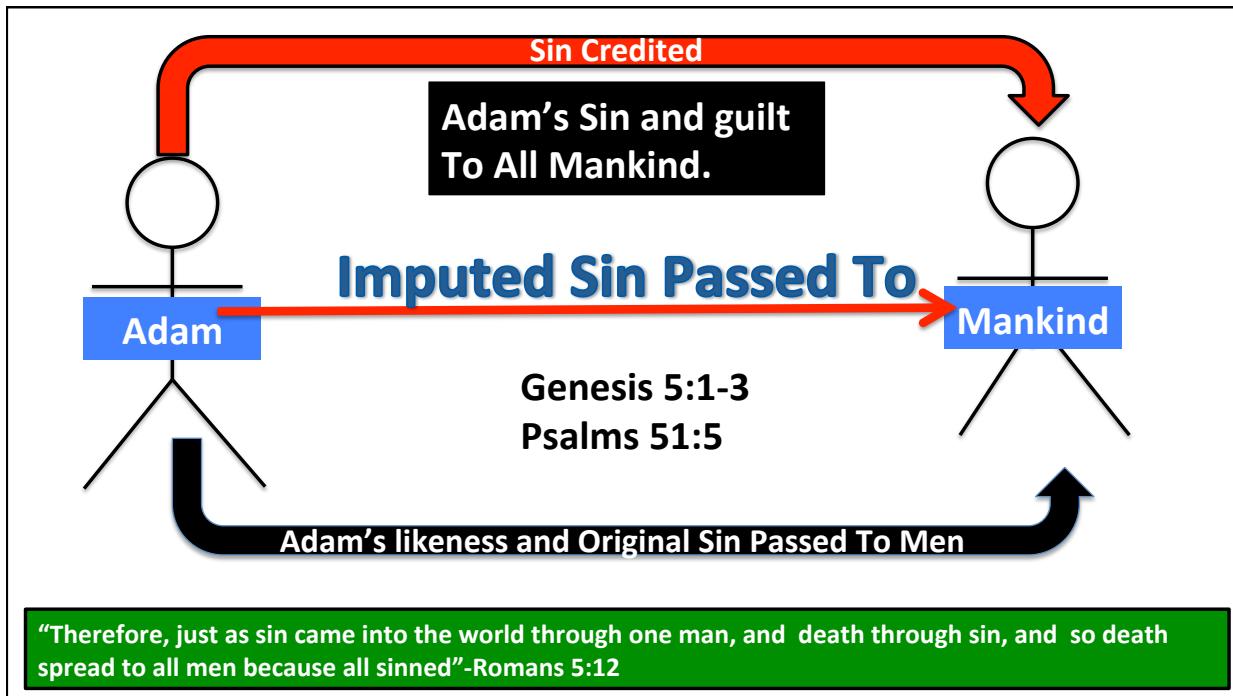
By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ”

No Condemnation

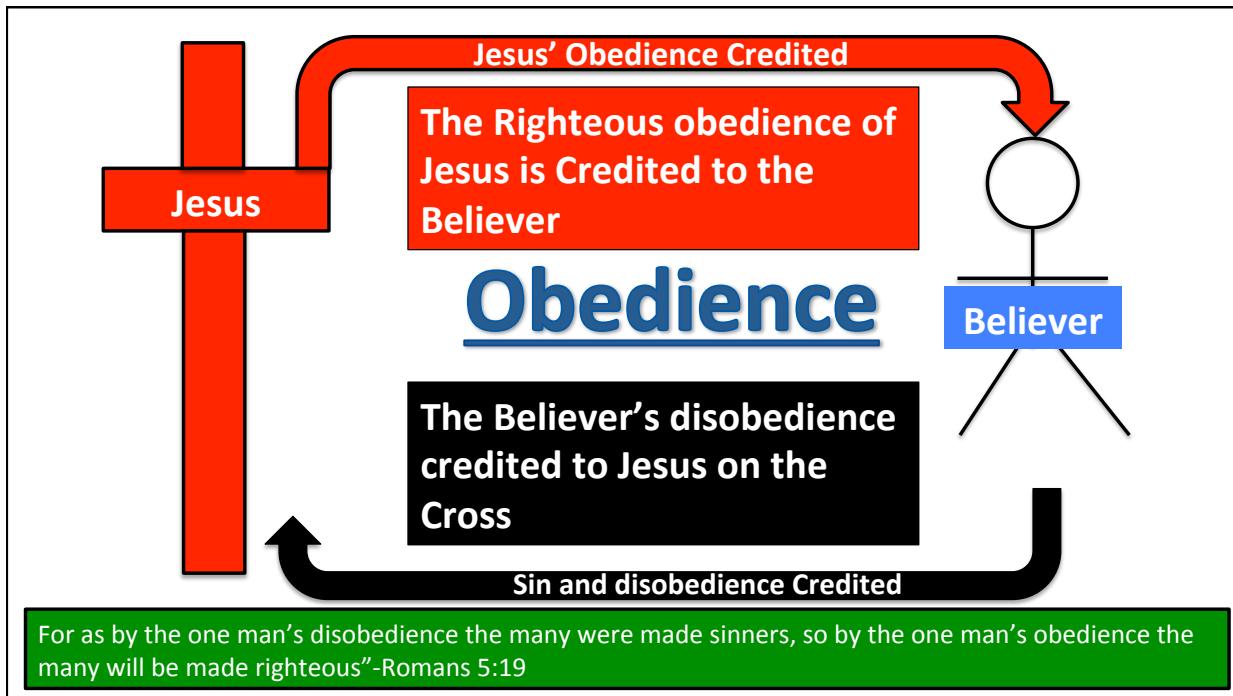
- Paul has been building to a logical deduction and the **therefore** is important to note because it draws our attention to the earlier texts in order to draw an immediate conclusion.
- “Therefore, since we have been **justified** by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we **stand**, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”-**Romans 5:1-2**
- The believer now has a correct **standing** or **position** before God through Jesus by grace this is the believer’s **positional righteousness**.
- Paul has established thus far that our **legal standing** before God has been satisfied by the blood of Jesus and the believer is now justified-righteous by faith in the work of Jesus upon the cross.



- No human is exempt from sin. "Therefore as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death **passed** to all men, **because all sinned.**" -Romans 5:12
- The original sin of Adam causes a condition within the very fabric of humanity that now produces in man thoughts and actions that are contrary to the heart and will of God.
- **Sin is now a disposition in the heart of man that produces** in man thoughts, words, and actions **contrary** to the heart and will of God.



- When Adam sinned each one of us sinned **in** him. After being born again, by confessing and believing in our heart that Jesus is Lord, we are **born anew** into the righteousness and life **in** Jesus.
- There was through Adam's disobedience a **condemnation** to death: but life and **righteousness** through the obedience of one—Jesus Christ.
- I inherited a nature from **Adam** that thinks, talks and acts in **disobedience** to God in every way; but thanks be to **Jesus**, Who through His **perfect life of obedience** became my obedience through faith.
- This is the believers **positional sanctification** or holiness.



- Something has changed within the believer that he no longer desires to walk according to the flesh and follow the general course of this world.
- The truth that the believer has **died to sin** does not mean that **sin is dead** in the believer and sin no longer appeals to him.
- **Died to sin** means we no longer want to sin, we enjoy God, and we delight in His way of living.
- The believer is to **know** the truth of the Scriptures testimony that we have **died to sin** and we have **union** with Christ in His **death and resurrection** (**Romans 6:2-9**).

- Unless we know and live in the reality that our union with Jesus is fixed then our life in and towards holiness will be oppressive and impossible to attain.
- Holiness is not a bunch of rules to follow but is the life of God empowered **within us** to live out His character **through us** bringing compassion, kindness, grace and His deep felt affection for the poor, the down trodden, and the broken hearted.
- Although a believer falls into sin and often doing the same sin repeatedly; he **never is satisfied** with sin nor is a believer content to **live** in sin.

- Paul concludes that there is **now no condemnation**.
- **Condemn** means: “To express an unfavorable or adverse judgment on; indicate strong disapproval of; censure. to pronounce to be guilty; sentence to punishment: to **condemn** a murderer to life imprisonment; to give grounds or reason for convicting or censuring: His acts **condemn** him.”-Different Dictionaries
- The phrase, “**not condemned**” is a legal term that means to be free from any penalty or charge against you.
- A believer in Christ Jesus can rest assured that he is not under any **condemnation**. God holds no charge against the believer!

- “However, the phrase Paul uses is not simply that Christians are ‘**not condemned**.’ This is a much stronger phrase than that. He says that for Christians there is **no condemnation** at all. It doesn’t exist for us.... Many want to limit the meaning of this phrase to our past, or to our present. But Paul is saying categorically that condemnation no longer exists at all for a believer. It is not waiting in the wings to come back and cloud our future!”-Keller, Timothy
- This amazing truth is only for **those who are in Christ Jesus.**

- The Father sent His own Son, Who was without sin, in order to be identified with man in the likeness of sinful flesh to **condemn sin for us**, so that believers can now identify with Him according to the Spirit Who is the very life of Christ in us.
- This is the reason there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus because the Father has declared it to be so by the obedience of His Son a sufficient and perfect offering for condemned mankind.
- “**For God has done** what the law, weakened by the flesh, **could not do.** By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the **righteous requirement** of the law might be fulfilled in us...”-Romans 8:3-4a

- “Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”-**Romans 8:33-34**
- The outcome for the believer is not **less condemnation**.
- People tend to assume that their standing has **improved** in Jesus.
- It has not been improved since the flesh cannot be improved: “It is the **Spirit** who gives life; the **flesh** is no help at all.”-**John 6:63**

- The believer has been completely transformed and **now** our position in Christ is **no condemnation**.
- “for whenever our heart **condemns** us, God is greater than our heart, and **he knows everything**.”-**1 John 3:20**
- Even when we feel low and our heart condemns us we as believers can have assurance before God since God **knows everything** about us but still loves us, cares for us and sent His Son for our salvation!
- Our relationship with God is based on **His greatness** not upon our feelings!

The Law of the Spirit

- **Romans 8:1**, speaks to our freedom from the **guilt** of sin. **Romans 8:2**, speaks to our freedom from the **power** of sin.
- Living by the power of the Holy Spirit is how God delivers us from the dominion of sin.
- “The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ and the **love** of God and the **fellowship/communion** of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” **-2 Corinthians 13:14**
- We have fellowship/communion with the Spirit Who internalizes and communicates the **love of God** to our heart and mind.

- “God’s **love** has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” **-Romans 5:5b**
- “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might **understand the things freely given us by God.**” **-1 Corinthians 2:12**
- The Holy Spirit develops within the believer His life-changing and life-giving power towards holiness.
- “to be saved through the **sanctifying work** of the **Spirit** and through belief in the truth. **-2 Thessalonians 2:13**

- The Holy Spirit brings to our heart a conviction of sin; the sense that I am selfish and prideful.
- “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the **Helper** will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will **convict** the world concerning sin”-**John 16:7-8a**
- Yet at the same time the Holy Spirit brings the strength and comfort to over come our sin.
- “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the **Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he will **teach** you all things and bring to your **remembrance** all that I have said to you.”-**John 14:25-26**

- The Holy Spirit as my **Helper** brings **conviction** but also provides **remembrance** of the words of Jesus and is my **Guide** into all truth.
- The Holy Spirit **Glorifies** Jesus! Jesus **Glorifies** the Father! The Father **Glorifies** the Son!
- “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the **Spirit of truth** comes, he will **guide** you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will **glorify** me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”-**John 16:12-15**
- How does the Spirit of God deliver believers from the power of sin?

- Our transformation is a direct result of the work of Jesus on the cross **for us** and of His on going work of transformation through His Spirit **within us**.
- The Holy Spirit is **laser focused** on Jesus and His work on the Cross which He continues to remind believers.
- “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding** the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from **the Lord** who is **the Spirit**.”-2 Corinthians 3:17-18

- “It is ever the Holy Spirit’s work to turn our eyes away from self to Jesus; but Satan’s work is just the opposite of this, for he is constantly trying to make us regard ourselves instead of Christ... We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul. If we would at once overcome Satan and have peace with God, it must be by **looking at Jesus**.”-Spurgeon, Charles
- The Father’s very identity is revealed in Scripture as loving the Son so when the Spirit pours out His love into our we are thus reflecting what is most characteristic to the Father when we love the Son!
- “therein consists the principal part of our renovation into His image. Nothing renders us like unto God as our love unto Jesus Christ.”-Owen, John

- “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow **strangely** dim, In the light of His glory and grace.”-Helen H. Lemmel
- The Holy Spirit troubles our soul with conviction and then guides us into the truth by reminding us of the work of Jesus.
- **The number one work of the Holy Spirit is draw our attention away from our sin onto Jesus and His work.**
- The Holy Spirit is at work even in the most dismal days when we see little progress over our sin we need to remember that He is still at work. The sun is still shining on cloudy days!

Walk

- Believers are instructed to **walk** not according to the **flesh** but according to the **Spirit**.
- The word for **walk** in the original indicates an all around conduct of a person life's activities.
- Walking **in the Spirit** means that the course, the direction, the progress of one's life is directed by the Holy Spirit. It is a continued and a gradual moving forward.
- Walking **in the flesh** means we are “...following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience carrying out the **desires of the body and the mind** (Eph. 2:2-3).

Romans 8:5-8

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

Mind-Set

- For those who **live** according to the flesh **set their minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who **live** according to the Spirit **set their minds** on the things of the Spirit.-**Vs 5.**
- The Spiritual Battle takes place in the **mind**.
- The original Greek word for **mind** means: to keep on giving serious consideration to something – ‘to ponder, to let one’s mind dwell on, to keep thinking about, to **fix one’s attention** on’-Louw and Nida, Greek-English Lexicon
- The question is will we **focus** our **minds** on gratifying the **self-flesh**, or will we **focus** our **minds** on the things of the **Spirit**: Jesus?

- Those whose life is determined by the **flesh** regard the things in the world with an attitude of affection and thus; live their lives **according to the values and desires of this world!**
- “But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not **setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.**”-**Matthew 16:23**
- Is it possible for the believer who has been born again by the Spirit can set his mind on the things of the flesh?
- “The unhappy truth is that he can and he does. Perhaps the first step in the process of true Biblical sanctification is the recognition of this terrible fact...Our positional sanctification is sure, certain, and eternal. But our practical sanctification is that with which the Spirit of God is now occupied.”-Barnhouse, Donald Grey

- Those whose life is determined by the **Spirit** regard the things pertaining to godliness with an attitude of affection and thus; live their lives **according to the values and desires of our Father!**
- **“Set your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”-**Colossians 3:2**
- Believers are encouraged to “Have this **mind** among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,”-**Philippians 2:5**
- “And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I **always do** the things that are **pleasing** to him.”-**John 8:29**

Walking by The Spirit

- If we are to walk **according to Sprit** then we do **not set our minds** on the **flesh**.
 - For the **mind** that is set on the **flesh is hostile** to God.-**Vs. 6**
 - The **mind** that is set on the **flesh** means the **mind** is being conditioned by a person’s own carnal self. His thoughts and interests are for nothing but for his own selfish desires.
- God has declared your **flesh**, the old man to be dead!
 - Dead to sin!- **Romans 6:11**
 - Dead to self!-**Romans 6:6**
 - Dead to Law!-**Romans 7:6**
 - Dead to the Kosmos!- **Galatians 6:14**

Walking By The Spirit

Not setting our minds on the flesh is setting our minds on the Spirit

Dead to Sin = Not sin Focused

Alive in the Spirit = Christ Focused

Dead to Self = Not self Focused

Alive in the Spirit = Others Focused

Dead to Law = Not Law Focused

Alive in the Spirit = Grace Focused

Dead To Kosmos = Not worldly focused

Alive in the Spirit = Godly Focused

A Sin Focused Walk

- Meditating and focused upon my sin.
- The mind is fixed on something other than God and therefore is hostile to God!
- Sin's primary aim is centered towards our heart to go against God and His word!
- Sin draws our **mind** away from God on to something or someone that we think will bring satisfaction to our life but in the end does not!
- The Holy Spirit is what gives the believer the power to go against sin by bringing the **focus of our attention back to Jesus** and His work on the Cross.

- The mind that is set on the flesh is **death**!
- The **death** that is produced by the mind that is set on the flesh is living a spiritual life on a lower level than what God has designed it to be.
- Spiritual deadness is a loss of communion with the Father, our union with Him is fixed, but when we focus our minds on things contrary to His nature, the result is a loss of fellowship.
- In contrast, the **Spirit is life and peace**, means that life in the Spirit is nothing less than the abundant and joyful fullness of fellowship with the Holy Spirit.
- Anything less than this truth is spiritual death!

Christ Focused Walk

- **Meditate** upon what God has done for me in Christ!
- **Commune** with God through the **Spirit** and pray without ceasing.-**1 Thessalonians 5:17**
- Make your **vision** for your life **vertical** so that “In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”-**Proverbs 3:6**
- **Worship** Him in Spirit and Truth!-(**John 4:24**)
- The best tool we have for living according to the Spirit is His **Word**!
- “All Scripture is **breathed** out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for **training in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work”-**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

The Spirit Matures Believers

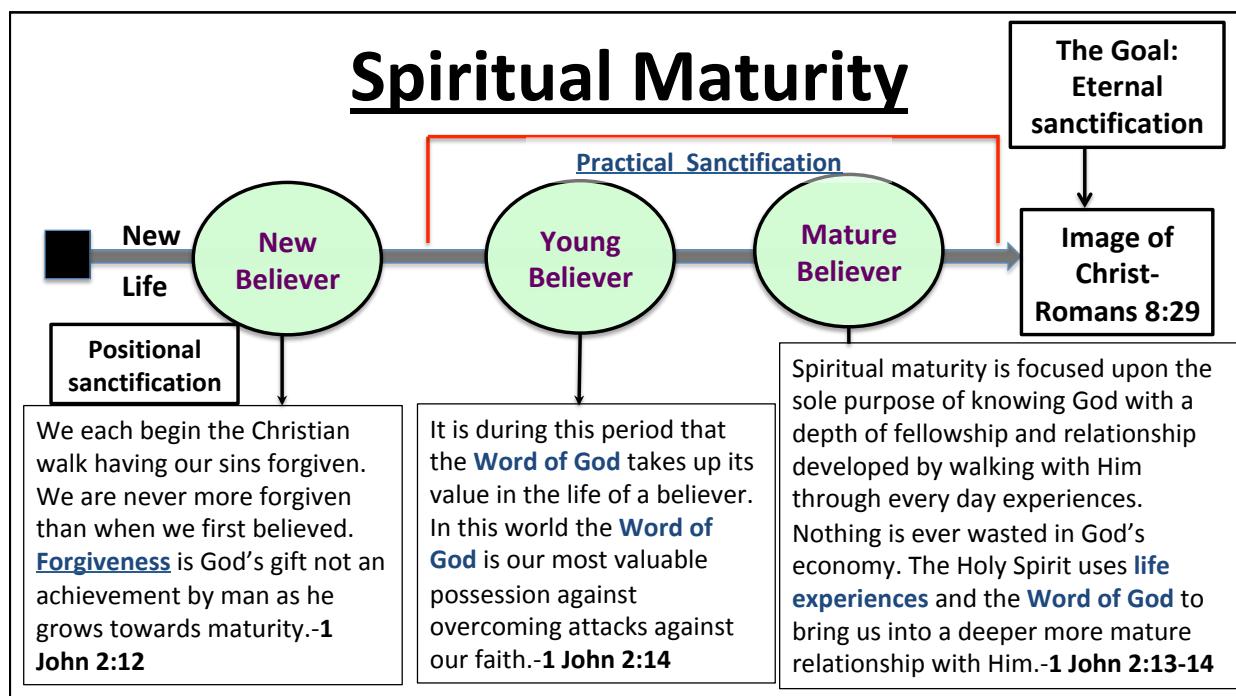
- There is not a set order of steps to take to for spiritual maturity.
- Every believer matures in Christ differently and in various ways according to the working of the Holy Spirit in their life.
- Spiritual maturity is simply Christlikeness attained by growing in the grace and knowledge of the Son of God—a **mature person**, attaining to the **measure** of Christ’s full stature (2 Peter 3:18; Eph. 4:13 NET).
- Spiritual maturity is a **total dependence** upon the Holy Spirit.
- Any means to attain spiritual maturity otherwise would be of the flesh which is hostile towards the work of the Holy Spirit.

- Spiritual maturity is never completed in this life and we should never be content with where we are spiritually but always be pressing on in our faith.
- “Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and **go on to maturity**”-**Hebrews 6:1**
- “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect (**mature**), but I press on **to make it my own**, because Christ Jesus has made me **his own**. Brothers, I do not consider that I **have made it my own**. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and **straining** forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are **mature** think this way....”-**Philippians 3:13-15a**

- “You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and **hold fast** to him, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise. He is your God...”-**Deuteronomy 10:20-21a**
- The word for **hold fast** in the original Hebrew carries the idea of being glued together.
- One Hebrew scholar translated **hold fast** as to **hug** which is reciprocal in that God **hugs** us back.
- Rabbinic literature teaches that to **hold fast** is a high and deep phase of walking with the Lord where the seeker attaches himself to God and exchanges his individuality for a mind-set in partnership with the Holy One.
- The foundation behind **hold fast** is a trust in the character and love of God which develops a desire to be closer to Him and walk with Him in partnership.

- God **poured out His Holy Spirit** to internalize within the believer the actual experience of His love (Rom. 5:5)!
- God **demonstrated His love** for us while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8)!
- Jesus prayed for believers to know this love, “I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the **love** with which you have **loved me** may be **in them**, and **I in them**.”-**John 17:26**
- “So we have come to **know** and to **believe** the love that God has for us.”-**1 John 4:16**
- Who would not desire to be drawn into such perfect love? Who would not want to commune with such a perfect Father?

- “There is no fear in love, but **perfect** (mature) love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been **perfected** (matured) in love.” **-1 John 4:18**
- A person can be a immature in his faith at age 50 while a person who is 15 of age can have a deep mature faith.
- “Let no one despise you for your **youth**, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” **-1 Timothy 4:11**
- However, a person also can be stuck in their spiritual growth at an immature stage of their development not moving forward in their faith.
- “Age is no just measure of wisdom. There are beardless sages and grey-headed children.” **-Trapp, John**



Spiritual Maturity

- Spiritual maturity is not **automatic** but requires **cooperation** with the Holy Spirit.
 - “About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the **mature**, for those who have their **powers of discernment trained** by **constant practice** to distinguish good from evil.”-**Hebrews 5:11-14**

- “Several Years ago I talked with one of the outstanding devotional leaders of the past generations. We came to the agreement that spiritual discernment was rarest of all gifts of the Spirit. Discernment is the ability to see the sharp distinctions of spiritual thought. Discernment is the gift which enables one to see all the various shades of meaning in a spiritual problem...sin brings dullness of vision...Green appears red and red appears green so that the whole stop-and-go pattern of life is altered and the believer moves when he should be still and is anchored when he should be driven before the wind of the Spirit.” –Barnhouse, Donald Grey
 - “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.”-**Romans 8:5**
 - “If we live by the Spirit, let us also **keep in step** with the Spirit”-**Galatians 5:25**

- The Holy Spirit creates in the believer a **desire to grow** in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.
 - Continue “to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”-**2 Peter 3:18**
- The Holy Spirit creates a **craving** for God’s Word in our life.
 - “Like newborn babies, **crave** pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may **grow up** in your salvation.”- **1 Peter 2:2**
- The Holy Spirit is **teaching** and **training** the believer as he responds to the Holy Spirit’s leading!
 - “Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train yourself for godliness...Practice these things, immerse yourself** in them, so that all may see your progress. ”-**1 Timothy 4:7;15**

Romans 8:9-11

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

The Indwelling Spirit

- The standing or position the believer possesses is that we are **not in the flesh but in the Spirit.**
- The Holy Spirit comes and brings assurance within us(Vs.16)!
- The Holy Spirit is a unique person and not simply a power or an influence.
- He is spoken of in Scripture as **He not it.**

- In the Bible the **Spirit of God** is personal. As a person, He may be **grieved** (Eph. 4:30), He may be **quenched** in terms of the exercise of His will (1 Thess. 5:19), and He may be **resisted** (Acts 7:51).
- The Holy Spirit is the **cause** of our **new birth** in Christ. “Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and **the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”-**John 3:5**
- The Holy Spirit **cultivates** within the believer His life-changing and life-giving power towards holiness.
- “to be saved through the **sanctifying work** of the **Spirit** and through belief in the truth.-**2 Thessalonians 2:13**

- The believer is being **renewed** daily, “by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit”-**Titus 3:5b**
- He is the Person Who dwells within us and takes hold of our lives **conforming us into the image of the Son** (Rom. 8:29).
- The new man is the workmanship of God, born of the Spirit, and has the **Spirit of Christ** dwelling in him.
- This is a mind blowing truth that can make our life a moment by moment dependence upon the Holy Spirit’s fresh ever flowing spring of grace, kindness, and love.

- Paul says that **if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you**.-Vs.9
- In English the word **if** has a tendency to mean uncertainty or possibility.
- The Greek word used here is **eiper**, which is used of something that is **assumed** to be a fact.
- Here it represents a condition that Paul assumed was true to reality.
- Literally translated: **since indeed** the Spirit of God dwells in you

- Everyone who trusts in Jesus in this present age in which we live possesses the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the **promised Holy Spirit**”- **Ephesians 1:13**
- “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the **Lord who is the Spirit**.”- **2 Corinthians 3:18**

- "Here the great mark of a true Christian is, that the Spirit of God dwells in him."-Newell, William
- "Though we have the Holy Spirit, does the Holy Spirit have us?-Tozer, A.W
- If a person is not filled with the Holy Spirit they are not a Christian at all.
- In Romans Chapter 1, Paul told us that believers are called to belong to **Jesus** (vs.6).
- Here Paul says, anyone who does not have the **Spirit of Christ** does not belong to Him.

- The struggle that Paul talked about in Romans 7, is a confirmation to us of the indwelling Spirit.
- "The experience of this conflict is the one thing in which the true child of God differs from the mere religious professor. The latter knows nothing of the abiding sense of inward corruption which this experience always creates. The very fact, therefore, of this experience of the conflict, is the best, and indeed, the only real assurance we can have that we are **born of God**-Bullinger, E.W.
- "No one **born of God** makes a practice of sinning, for God's **seed abides** in him, and he **cannot keep on** sinning because he has been **born of God**."-1 John 3:9
- The Holy Spirit creates an inward turn in the believer towards Jesus and away from the sin!

- “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. **But if anyone does sin**, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”-1 **John 2:1-2**
- ***If anyone does sin...THEN WHAT?***

- We are **not condemned**
 - “There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.”-**Romans 8:1**
- We are **not reminded** of what we have done and that we should turn our thoughts inward.
 - “**looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”-**Hebrews 12:2**
- We are **not reminded** of our failure and weakness.
 - “But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in **weakness**.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my **weaknesses**, so that I the power of Christ may rest upon me.”-**2 Corinthians 12:9**

- We are **reminded** of what Jesus has done; therefore we turn our thoughts upon Him (Spirit) in confession and repentance striking a death blow once again to the flesh.
 - “In this **the love of God** was made manifest among us, that God **sent his only Son** into the world, so that we might live through him. In **this is love**, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and **sent his Son** to be the propitiation for our sins.”-**1 John 4:9-10**

- “But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of the **great love** with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with **Christ by grace** you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the **immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.** ”-**Ephesians 2:4-7**
- **We are reminded of His propitiation**
 - “...Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins...”-**1 John 2:1b-2a**

Christ In You

- The **Spirit of God** dwelling in a person is used synonymously with the **Spirit of Christ**.
- Christ dwells in our heart through faith -**Ephesians 3:17**
- Our **outer** body is dying everyday because of **sin** but we are being renewed daily by the Holy Spirit in our **inner** being.
- Paul uses the traditional word for body in the Greek, **soma** which refers to the physical outward structure.
- The Holy Spirit is creating a **new disposition** in the believer that is being made alive because of the transformation of God's **perfect righteousness** being formed in us through the **Spirit of righteousness** that now indwells the believer (Vs.9,10).

- The **new man** is being created after the likeness of Jesus in true **righteousness** and **holiness**."-**Ephesians 4:24**
- The obedient sinless life Jesus lived in the flesh, forever condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be **fulfilled in us**.-Vs 3,4
- The believer **stands** under death because of sin, in contrast, the believer **stands** under life because of the **Spirit of Christ** that dwells within us.
- The Believer is both alive to righteousness in Christ Jesus and dying a sinner born in Adam.

- It is striking in **Romans 8:10** that the noun **life** is opposed to the adjective **dead**. Our spirits before they were new-created in Christ, were alive so far as existence is concerned but had no life as God counts life—for that is only in Christ and by the Spirit.-Newell, William
- The Holy Spirit is the only One Who can make these conflicting natures, the **old** man and the **new** man, understandable and He uses God's Word to do so.
- "For the **word of God** is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the **division** of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and **discerning** the thoughts and **intentions** of the heart."-**Hebrews 4:12**

- **2 Timothy** tells us that, All Scripture is **breathed** out by God....-**2 Timothy 3:16a**
- The Holy Spirit energized the words of God as they were written down by the prophets.
- "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were **carried along by the Holy Spirit.**"-**2 Peter 1:21**
- Peter clearly reveals that the authorship of Scripture was corporative between man and God.
- As fallible men turned towards God He moved the thoughts of their minds to write down His Words often using their sins to communicate His kindness and mercy.

- It was, for instance, both Jeremiah and God, because Jeremiah was moved or carried along as the Holy Spirit inspired Him with the Words of God.
- “Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, Behold, I have **put my words** in your mouth.”-**Jeremiah 1:9**
- Lamentations is prime example of a man, Jeremiah, struggling to understand and apply God’s Word to his life and to his culture.

- This is reason we study the Bible because it is a book that exists as a result of the **out-breathing** of the **Holy Spirit**.
- “**Seek** and **read** from the **book of the LORD**: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the LORD has commanded, and his Spirit has **gathered** them.”-**Isaiah 34:16**
- The **Holy Spirit** is the author of the Scriptures and uses the Word of God to change us as we read, interact, and apply it to our lives .
- “For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one **comprehends** the thoughts of God **except** the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might **understand** the things **freely given** us by God.

- And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, **interpreting** spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. "-**1 Corinthians 2:11-13**
- The Holy Spirit uses God's word like a scalpel skillfully exposing unbiblical thoughts and attitudes contrary to God.
- As we present our minds to the word of God the **Holy Spirit** begins to **shape our thoughts** into **His thoughts**.
- The word in **Hebrews 4:12** for **divides** is **merismos** which also carries the idea of **distribution**.
- The **Holy Spirit** utilizes the Word of God not only by separating between soul and spirit but also **distributes** to each one of us the **ingredients** we need in order to mature, to overcome, and to walk in the newness of life.

Life in the Spirit

- The Spirit of God did the impossible in raising Jesus from the dead never to die again.
- The **same power** of the Holy Spirit that raised **Christ Jesus from the dead** now **dwells** in the believer.
- "concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God **in power according to the Spirit of holiness** by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord"-**Romans 1:3-4**
- "I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of **God's power** for us who believe him. This is the **same mighty power** that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."-**Ephesians 1:19-20**

- “And the **Spirit of God** was **hovering** over the face of the waters.”-**Genesis 1:2b**
- As an eagle stirs up its nest, **Hovers** over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings...” **Deuteronomy 32:11**



- The imagery painted in verse two of Genesis is of the Holy Spirit as a loving protective power brooding over His young assuring their success and growth into maturity as they take their first steps in life.

- “to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by **God’s power** are being **guarded** through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”-**1 Peter 1:4-5**
- Believers are saved by faith in Jesus, the power of God unto salvation, and the believer’s salvation in Jesus is **kept** and **guarded** by God’s same power, the promised Holy Spirit.
- “And behold, I am sending the **promise of my Father** upon you. But stay in the city until you are **clothed with power from on high.”-Luke 24:49**
- “But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you,”-**Acts 1:8**
- The **promise** Jesus said was of my **Father** is the **power** from the **Holy Spirit**.

- Although we exist today in **mortal bodies**, our **mortal bodies** are subject to **death** because of **sin** entering the world (**Rom.5:12**).
- The power of Holy Spirit gives **new life** to our **mortal bodies**.
- Not **physical** life but the **spiritual** life that was mentioned back in **Romans 6:4 Walking in the newness of life...**
- And as we cooperate with the **Spirit** although imperfect, sometimes we do get it right, “ **put off the old self**,...and **put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”-**Ephesians 4:22a;24**
- “There is a fundamental principle of the Christian life... **dependent responsibility**...we are responsible to put to death the sins in our lives...At the same time, we do not have the ability within ourselves to carry out this responsibility. We are in fact totally dependent upon the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.”- Bridges, Jerry

Mortal Bodies

- This word **mortal** means, **subject to physical death**; and is used in Scripture only of the **physical body**.
- Our **inner man** is being renewed and given life by the indwelling Spirit but our outer **mortal bodies** either need to die and be raised immortal or it needs to be **changed** from mortal to immortality at the Rapture.
- “Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be **changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be **raised** imperishable, and we shall be **changed**. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this **mortal body** must put on **immortality**. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality”-**1 Corinthians 15:51-54a**

- “So we do not lose heart. Though our **outer** self is wasting away, our **inner** self is being renewed day by day.”-2
Corinthians 4:16
- “Who shall deliver me?” That question of Chapter Seven is abundantly answered here in Chapter Eight! Not only from guilt, by the shed blood of Christ (in Chapter Five); but from the “law of sin” in the members, over which even man’s quickened will was so impotent; and from a “mind” that is death, into the mind and walk of the blessed indwelling Spirit Himself: into a mind that is “life and peace.” But further, now, we find that God, by that same indwelling Spirit, will bring our very mortal bodies,—now dead to God, and subject to death, to share that life in Christ which our spirits now have!”-Newell, William

Romans 8:12-14

“So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

Debtors

- The **so then** refers back to verses 9-11. It is because the **Spirit** has given life to our **mortal bodies** that we are not **debtors** to the **flesh** but to the **Spirit**.
- Paul was well aware that the flesh still exists and he warns of the danger of living **according to the flesh**.
- The **Holy Spirit** will direct our thoughts to remember the purpose of Christ's death and resurrection.
- Our only obligation according to Paul is live for Christ: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and **gave himself** for me."- **Galatians 2:20**

Deeds of the Body

- The **deeds of the body** are naturally selfish.
- "Now the **works of the flesh** are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do **[practice]** such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."-**Galatians 5:19-21**
- "And those who **belong to Christ Jesus** have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."-**Galatians 5:24**
- The **flesh** and all its desires **belong to the world** but all those who **belong to Christ** are prompted and empowered by the Spirit to live for Jesus!

- "For we must note most carefully that a holy life is to be lived *by us*. It is not that we have any power,—we have none. But God's Spirit dwells in us **for the express object of being called upon** by us to put to death the doings of the body."-Newell, William
- The **Holy Spirit** brings a change to our natural disposition that we need and He does it through the preaching of the gospel.
- "What, then, is holiness? Holiness is nothing but the implanting, writing and living out the gospel in our souls."-Owen, John

- As believers we need to lean into the **gospel message** and rely on the **Holy Spirit** to reveal more and more of His grace and mercy to our heart allowing His kindness to change us after the likeness of Jesus in true **righteousness** and **holiness** (Eph. 4:24)!
- The Spiritual life is not **behavior modification** but **spiritual transformation** which turns our heart toward God only then will we want to turn our behavior toward Him.
- Our natural disposition to sin rebels against spiritual transformation and seeks to conform to the pattern of the world.
- "Do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewal of your mind"-**Romans 12:2a**

Sons of God

- One qualifier for being a **son of God** is a person whose is **led by the Spirit of God**.
- The Holy Spirit leads **objectively** through the **Scriptures** and through our **life experiences**.
 - “but these are **written** so that you may **believe that Jesus** is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”-**John 20:31**
 - “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you **meet trials of various kinds**, for you **know** that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”-**James 1:2-4**

- The Spirit leads **subjectively** through internal promptings.
 - “The Spirit himself **bears witness** with our spirit that we are children of God, ”-**Romans 8:16**
 - “Then Jesus was **led up by the Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ”-**Matthew 4:1**
- Another qualifier in Scripture for being a **son of God** is **faith**.
- “For you are all sons of God through **faith** in Christ Jesus.”-**Galatians 3:26**

- If you have been born again of the Spirit and have repented of your sins and trusted alone in Christ for your salvation then you are a **son of God!**
- “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children** of God, who were **born, not** of **blood** nor of the will of the **flesh** nor of the will of **man, but of God.**”-John 1:12-13

Romans 8:15-17

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

Spirit of Adoption

- In Genesis 3, after the Fall, Adam and the woman hid from God because they were **afraid**.
- The human spirit is not designed to be **afraid** of God but is created to draw near to God as our Father.
- When we believed in Jesus we did not receive **the spirit of slavery**.
- The word used for **fear** caused by the **spirit of slavery** means literally a **paralyzing fear**.

- The unfaithful servant in Jesus' Parable of the Talents claimed: "Master, I knew you to be a **hard man**...so I was **afraid**, and I went and hid your talent in the ground."-(Matt. 25:24,25).
- The unfaithful servant sees nothing of his Master's goodness or kindness only his harshness which makes him afraid.
- Adam, who once believed in God's goodness, becomes afraid because **sin gives a spirit of slavery making people afraid of God** and only seeing Him as mean spirited and judgmental.
- " Satan labors to represent God by halves, only as a consuming fire, as clothed with justice and vengeance. Oh no! It is true he will not suffer his mercy to be abused by contemptuous sinners...but the main of his name is 'his mercy and goodness.' Take it as God proclaims it, and see if you have any reason to have hard thoughts of God"-Manton, Thomas

- True godly fear according to one writer, "arises from faith in the mercy and goodness of God: for when the heart of man has once felt a sweet taste of God's goodness, and found that in his favor only happiness consists, it is stricken with such an inward awe and reverence."-Gouge, William
- "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him."-**Psalm 103:13**
- The child is stricken with an overwhelming awe and reverence for the Father because of the Father's compassion towards him.
- True godly fear is an inward impression that so overwhelms a person that it changes them to the very core of their being.
- "True fear of God is a right response to God's full-orbed revelation of himself in all his grace and glory."-Reeves, Michael

- Instead of the believer being in bondage to a paralyzing fear of being perfect under the Law; we have received the **Spirit of adoption**, by Whom, we cry and pray to Him as our **Abba, Father!**
- He is the, “**spirit of adoption** because he is the witness to us of the free benevolence of God with which God the Father has **embraced** us in his beloved only-begotten Son to become a Father to us; and he **encourages** us to have trust in prayer. In fact, he supplies the very words so that we may fearlessly cry, Abba, Father!”-Calvin, John
- The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit and communicates that we are children of God which **should** create within us an overwhelming devotion to our Father as we marvel at His goodness and kindness given to us in His Son!

- “Under Roman adoption, the life and standing of the adopted child changed completely. The adopted son lost all rights in his old family and gained all new rights in his new family; the old life of the adopted son was **completely wiped out, with all debts being canceled, with nothing from his past counting against him any more.**”-Guzik, David
- “*Abba* is an Aramaic affectionate diminutive for ‘father’ used in the intimacy of the family circle; it passed without change into the vocabulary of Greek-speaking Christians” (Fung)
- We have entrance to the same intimacy with the Father that the Son, Jesus Christ had. Jesus addressed God the Father as “Daddy” when He prayed, **Abba, Father** as noted in **Mark 14:36**.

- Jesus stated, “but as many as received him, to them **he gave the right** to become God’s children....”(**John 1:12**).
- When we believe in Jesus we have become sons and daughters with all the **rights and privileges** that come with being a **child**.
- We too often see ourselves as hirelings performing a task that if we don’t perform the task perfectly we will be fired, let go, cast away which is the **spirit of slavery**.
- However, we are a **child** and **God is our Father** and even though we mess up we are still children and loved by our **Abba**, Daddy!
- Let the Law, sin, and the devil cry out against us until their outcry fills heaven and earth. The Spirit of God outcries them all. Our feeble groans, ‘**Abba, Father**,’ will be heard of God sooner than the combined racket of hell, sin, and the Law.”-Luther, Martin

The Spirit Bears Witness

- The Spirit working within the believer gives him an assurance that he is child of God!
- Believers find themselves crying out to God as **Father** in their prayers and in communion with Him.
- “O righteous **Father**, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that **the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them**.”- **John 17:25-26**

- “And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”-**Galatians 4:6**
- The Holy Spirit points our minds to Christ and His shed blood, which then, the Holy Spirit bears witness to our human spirit of the Father’s great kindness; which then, the Holy Spirit pours a deep love for the Son into our heart, Whom the Father has been loving since before the very foundation of the world.
- “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. ”-**1 John 3:1**
- The word for see literally means to **fix gaze** upon or **perceive within the mind**.

- Here the Father says, “you poor people that love me, you sick people, you unknown, obscure people, without any talent, I have published it before heaven and earth, and made the angels know it, that you are my children, and I am not ashamed of you. I glory in the fact that I have taken you for my sons and daughters.”- Spurgeon, Charles
- “I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”-**2 Corinthians 6:18**

Fellow Heirs

- Since we are God's children we have a **right** to participate in the blessing of inheritance.
- We have a double blessing as heirs:
 - First, as **heirs of God** because we are children of God.
 - Second, we are **fellow heirs** because we are in Christ and we share with Him in all He is and in all He has!
 - “in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the **heir of all things**”-**Hebrews 1:2**
- It's not all peaches and cream from the present until glory. If we are going to be **fellow heirs** with Jesus then being in Christ we will also **suffer with him**.

- The Greek word used for **suffer** literally means to suffer or feel pain **together**.
- Soldiers suffer together upon the battlefield and this is the kind of suffering this is referring too.
- It is used once more in the New Testament in **1 Corinthians 12:26**: “If one member suffers, all **suffer together**; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”
- It is not general suffering and trials that everyone faces that lives in this sinful world that is in view here but a more specific suffering.

- This is the **suffering** that comes from being involved in the family of the Father.
- Jesus faced suffering and rejection so also as believers we can expect to suffer and face rejection for being believers.
- As believers we hurt for the things the Father hurts for, our heart is broken by the things that breaks the Father's heart.
- “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”-**Romans 12:15**
- “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”- **Galatians 6:2**

- “Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, **arm yourselves with the same way of thinking**, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.”-**2 Peter 4:1**
- We arm our minds by **fixing our thoughts** upon Christ Who suffered in the flesh, therefore we shouldn’t be **surprised** if we suffer also for believing in Him.
- There is perhaps no greater time in our lives that faith is more refined, more resolute, or more clearly realized than when we undergoing suffering.
- Sin no longer is appealing when undergoing suffering, the world and its desires seem less and less desirable against the hope delivered to us in the Gospel.

- “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus** my Lord. For **his sake** I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ”- **Philippians 3:8**
- As a believer you may lose family members, friends and financial security but the surpassing worth of knowing Christ makes it all our loss worth it according to Paul
- “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but **the LORD delivers him out of them all**. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.”-**Psalm 34:19-22**
- “I beg you to remember that there is no getting quit of sin – there is no escaping from its power – except by contact and union with the Lord Jesus Christ.”-Spurgeon, Charles

- Fear is one of the devil’s primary weapons.
- He uses threats of death, persecution, and financial ruin upon believers specifically to get them turn from righteousness.
- “Satan may intend one thing, but God uses him for another. In all these things he is a minister – used for the ultimate blessing, comfort, and help of the people of God, and for their present spiritual profit... He was allowed to be the author of Job’s trials and losses: but all his labor was wasted; for it ended in Job’s receiving a double blessing for time, and for earth, and ‘the righteousness of God’ for ever and ever.”-Bullinger

- Job was an extremely righteous man that God chose to put through difficult trials as a witness to all of us that although a righteous man may suffer yet by God's grace and compassion he will always be strengthened and restored.
- "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then **with confidence draw near** to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." -**Hebrews 4:15-16**
- It is a deep comfort to know that **Jesus is advocating continually on our behalf as our Great High Priest.**
- "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but **I have prayed for you** that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." - **Luke 22:31-32**

Glorified

- Romans 8:17 says, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.**
- This verse is NOT teaching that the believer's **glorification** depends upon our **suffering** for Jesus' sake. This is the false doctrine of the ascetics who tortured and mutilated themselves.
- **Suffering** and **glorification** both originate as a result of the believer's identification as a **son of God** and a **fellow heir with Christ.**
- Non-believers suffer but they have **no hope** for glorification.
- Who are the people who will be **glorified** with Jesus when He returns?

- In **Romans 5:2**, Paul says that all Believer's rejoice in the **hope of the glory of God**.
- Jesus, “when he comes on that day to be **glorified in his saints**, and to be **marveled** at among **all who have believed**, because our testimony to you was believed.”-**2 Thessalonians 1:10**
- Jesus will one day be **glorified within** believers and believers will be filled with an overwhelming sacred admiration towards Jesus!
- "The idea is that the glory of that day will far surpass anything of which we can have any idea before we behold it, and **when we do behold it we shall be lost in amazement.**"-Morris, Leon

- “To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”- **Colossians 1:27**
- “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, **then you also will appear with him in glory.**”-**Colossians 3:3**
- “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that **when he appears we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is”-**1 John 3:2**
- All Believers will share in the **glory** that is in Jesus. There is a **reward** that awaits those who **suffer** more deeply for Christ but there is no such thing as a **partial glorification**.

Romans 8:18-19

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.”

Future Glory

- The word Paul uses for **consider** here in verse 18, is his old favorite throughout the book of Romans ***logizomai***, which means **credit to one's account**.
- Paul, who was well aware and not ignorant to the road of suffering, says that he **takes into his account** the promise of **future glory** against **the suffering** he was enduring in **this present time are not worth comparing!**
- Paul compares the present time with the future glory: Paul's faith resulted in the Holy Spirit giving Him understanding, wisdom, and confidence in regards to his **suffering** but also what awaited him in the **future**.

The Not Yet

- “Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. **At present**, we do **not yet** see everything in subjection to him.”-**Hebrews 2:8**
- “For **now** we see in a mirror dimly, but **then** face to face. **Now** I know in part; **then** I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.”-**1 Corinthians 13:12**
- All of creation is moving towards a time when the tension that has marked this world with all of its frailties and sinfulness will be redeemed, **but not yet**.
- As believers we already possess every spiritual blessing in Christ but we do not comprehend the **fullness** of these blessings yet.

- In Jesus, we have already been adopted, redeemed, righteous, sanctified, and saved; but in **this present time** the reality is **not yet** fully realized.
- Spurgeon believed the reason for the delay is that man couldn't handle the fullness of what God did for us in the here and now:
- “If we knew more of our own sinfulness, we might be driven to despair; if we knew more of God's glory, we might die of terror; if we had more understanding, unless we had the equivalent capacity to employ it, we might be filled with conceit and tormented with ambition. But [One Day] we shall have our minds and our systems strengthened to receive more, without the damage that would come to us here from overleaping the boundaries of order, supremely appointed and divinely regulated.”-Spurgeon, Charles

This Present Time

- In order to keep from being deluded about this present time we need to understand what the Scripture reveals to us about how God sees it.
- “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the **present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father.”-**Galatians 1:3-4**
- “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because **the days are evil.**”-**Ephesians 5:16**

- “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over **this present darkness**, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”-**Ephesians 6:12**
- “For the **present form** of this world is **passing away.**”-**1 Corinthians 7:31**
- There is not any illusion in Scripture concerning this **present time** and the spiritual forces of evil that are ruling in this **present time**.
- We will not be totally **delivered** from the existence of **this present time of** evil until we go to be with Jesus or He returns in glory. But we can experience **deliverance** from the **power** of **this present time** today through the blood of Jesus.

Creation

- All of creation was subjected to sin when Adam sinned. Creation presently is not the way in which God intended it to be in the beginning.
- The Lord told Adam: “**cursed is the ground** because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;”- **Genesis 3:17b,18**
- All of creation is waiting patiently with an **eager expectation** at the appearing of Jesus at His return and the revealing of the sons of God.

- According to Paul, the whole direction of the creation is moving towards an ultimate goal that is tied to the revealing and redemption of the sons of God.
- Just as the Father will give to each believer on the great day of the resurrection a new spiritual body (**1 Cor. 15:44**) so also creation itself will receive an equivalent new heaven and new earth.
- “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...”-**Revelation 21:1**
- “For behold, I create new heavens and new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.”-**Isaiah 65:17**

- “When Christ who is your life **appears**, then you also will **appear** with him in glory.”-**Colossians 3:4**
- “waiting for our blessed hope, the **appearing** of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,”-**Titus 2:13**
- “so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will **appear** a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are **eagerly waiting** for him.”-**Hebrews 9:28**
- Creation waits eagerly for the final word and when all of creation will sing, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and **they shall reign on the earth.**”-**Revelation 5:9-10**

Romans 8:20-23

“For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ”

Futility

- God in His infinite wisdom **subjected** all of **creation to futility**.
- Ecclesiastes, “begins **and ends with the exclamation**, Vanity of vanities! All is vanity (**Eccles. 1:2; 12:8**). The phrase pictures something fleeting and elusive. All the endeavors and pleasures of earthly life are only temporary. When one sees the consequences of sin in this fallen world, one is left in utter frustration, anger, and sorrow. The more one tries to understand life, the more mysterious it becomes.”-ESV Study Bible
- “Our days on the earth are **like a shadow**, and there is no abiding. ”-**1 Chronicles 29:15b**

- The creation was not subjected **willingly** to futility.
- In other words it wasn't something creation itself wanted or did but was forced into because of sin.
- In fact it was God Himself **Who subjected it**.
- Only the Creator can subject His creation however He deems necessary to bring about its perfect beauty and fulfillment, in this case, futility is necessary to bring about His plan.
- Futility is designed into this present creation in order to bring about a dependence upon our Father for meaning and purpose.
- However, a believer can rest assured and have **hope** since although the creation itself is not in its original state nor in its final state, it will be restored as man will be through Jesus.

- “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”-**Isaiah 11:6-9**
- The word Paul uses for **know** in verse 22, is **oido** and means to **know** by experience, perception, or observation.
- We observe and experience all of creation groaning for redemption.
- “Creation is not undergoing death pangs... but birth pangs.”- Morris, Leon

Romans 8:23-25

“And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

Believers Groan Inwardly

- Not only does all of creation groan but **we ourselves, groan inwardly** along with creation.
- The **Holy Spirit** living in the believer makes this present world dissatisfying causing **a groaning** for the new creation and the new order.
- “For he [Abraham] was **looking forward** to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.”-**Hebrews 11:10**

- ***ekdechomai*** is the word used for **looking forward** and it literally means **to expect the the event to happen**. It is the same word used in verse 19, **eager longing**, verse 23, **wait eagerly**, and verse 25, **wait for**.
- This is a word that conveys a testimony to us of Abraham’s **eager expectation** for the city of God and how he was prepared to take hold of the **expected promise** that God had given to him, we also **wait eagerly** for the redemption of our bodies and expect that event to happen.
- Believer’s **groan inwardly** every time a loved one gets sick or dies, we **groan inwardly** as we age and face our own mortality, and we **groan inwardly** towards the injustices against mankind we observe in this present world.

- As believer's we **wait eagerly** for the redemption of our bodies to be once and for all delivered from this wretched body of death Paul spoke of in **Romans 7:24**.
- "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an **eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison**,"-**2 Corinthians 4:16-17**
- The very nature of hope is that the object of our hope is unseen and not yet fully realized but has its fulfillment in the future.
- Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?-**Romans 8:24**

This Hope

- The believer's **hope** is in the **promise** that the whole creation and the believer's **bodies** will one day soon be **redeemed**.
- Paul announced in **verse 24**, For in **this hope** we **were saved**.
- The verb tense in the original describes the idea of an event having begun at a certain point that causes the carrying out of a certain action in the present. The English language has no equivalent to this particular verb tense.
- "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."-**Philippians 1:6**
- The work begun in us in the **past** is bringing about a change in our life in the **present** with the promise the He will complete His work in the **future**.

- A hope was created in the believer the moment faith took hold of his heart.
- “Now faith is the **assurance** of things **hoped** for, the conviction of things not seen.”-**Hebrews 11:1**
- The word for **assurance** in the original text is the word **hypostasis** which literally means ground or foundation.
- Faith is the foundation of the things hoped for that is not in our possession.
- Our bodies have not yet been redeemed but though faith the Holy Spirit produces an **assurance of things hope for** as we become fully convinced in the promise of Scripture that one day all of creation and all of believers will receive redemption, restoration and completion.

- We all hope for many things but the question is, what or better yet, **Who is the foundation for our hope?**
- Hope and faith are the work of the Holy Spirit within us!
- “For **through the Spirit, by faith**, we ourselves eagerly wait for the **hope** of righteousness.”-**Galatians 5:5**
- “**hope** does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts **through the Holy Spirit** who has been given to us.”-**Romans 5:5**
- We know by faith and the Spirit confirms it to us that our best days are ahead of us; though the road will be bumpy and painful at times we know that it is only a temporary situation.
- We wait with patience, **groaning inwardly**, expecting and anticipating the Great Day of our redemption.

Romans 8:26-27

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

Likewise The Spirit

- We have just read how hope produced by faith helps us look forward to the day of redemption **likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness** as believers wait patiently for His appearing.
- As creation is **groaning** and as believers are **groaning** within themselves so also the Holy Spirit is **groaning** in us as He **intercedes for us helping in our weakness**.
- “We know that Christ maketh intercession for us at the right hand of God, but here the Spirit is making intercession within us: The Spirit, who knows the vast abysmal need of every one of us, knows that need to the least possible particular.”-Newell, William

- The Lord has done everything possible to provide for our salvation.
- The Father sent His Son in love to deliver us from this present evil age we live.
- According to **Hebrews 7:25** Jesus is continually making intercession for believers!
- “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he **always lives to make intercession** for them.”-**Hebrews 7:25**

- What a great comfort and assurance it is to realize that Jesus Christ Himself is praying for us constantly!
- And here, in **Romans 8:26**, we discover that the **Holy Spirit** helps in our weaknesses by **interceding** for us!
- The Father has truly given us **all things** pertaining to life and godliness (**2 Peter 1:3**).
- The Father has, “...saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his **own mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit”-**Titus 3:5**

- Our Father is full of grace and mercy. He gives mercy to us not because we deserve mercy but because He **delights** in mercy. **Mercy is His nature.**
- “But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and **abundant in mercy** and truth.”-**Psalm 86:15**
- “**What then shall we say to these things?** If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”-**Romans 8:31-32**

- The word for **weakness** in the original language carries the idea of **wanting strength but are incapable of getting it**, leading ultimately to sickness of health.
- Like swimming upriver we will lack strength against the current and unless we are helped we will drown. We may begin strong but will grow weak.
- Our lack of strength caused by the **sickness of sin** within our flesh puts believers in the position of not knowing **what to pray for as we ought.**
- Studies have shown through surveys that **90%** of Evangelical believers say they do not have a **meaningful** prayer life.

- A possible reason that we don't pray as often as we should or as passionately as we should is that we simply do not know how really weak we are in this spiritual battle.
- Most of the time we pray according to the flesh thinking we know how God needs to solve any given situation but the **Holy Spirit intercedes** and prays for us in our weakness helping believers to be conformed in the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29).
- It is encouraging to note in this passage that God does not condemn us for being weak and sinful but instead sends His Spirit to help us in our **weaknesses**.
- It's a human dilemma. Paul includes himself by saying **our** weakness, not **your** weakness.

- We simply **do not know** how or what we should pray for so the Holy Spirit **intercedes** for us praying for what need.
- **Intercede** means simply pleading in **support** of someone. The Holy Spirit is continually pleading and supporting believers **according to the will of God**.
- "There is with them [believers] the sense of utter and boundless **need**, and along with this the sense of **ignorance** and **inability**. Yet, still, bless God! there is, with all this, the sense of the **limitless help of the Holy Spirit!**"-Newell, William
- Believers pray in **ignorance** but the Holy Spirit prays for us with **perfect knowledge**.
- Even when we pray for something or someone **we do not know** God's perfect timing in any given matter.

- Sometimes the issues within our life are **too deep for words** to express and our needs, of which our minds know nothing, causes the Holy Spirit to **groan** with us.
- The word for **groaning** literally means **to sigh**, or to **exhale**.
- The thought here is communication beyond our ability to find the words to express our true need..
- A believer's **groanings** within are sometimes **too deep for words** but we can be comforted knowing that the Holy Spirit matches our **groanings** and **intercedes** on behalf of the believer who cannot express his need.

- “Paul is saying ... that our failure to know God’s will and consequent inability to petition God specifically and assuredly is **met by God’s Spirit**, who himself expresses to God those intercessory petitions that perfectly match the will of God. When we do not know what to pray for—yes, even when we pray for things that are not best for us—we need not despair, for we can depend on the **Spirit’s ministry of perfect intercession** on our behalf.”-Moo, Douglas
- We don’t know how to communicate what we need to grow spiritually so the Holy Spirit does it for us.
- The Father Himself is the One **who searches hearts** and **knows what is the mind of the Spirit!**

- “O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it...“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! ”-**Psalm 139:1-6;23-24**
- “When prayed sincerely, this is something of a dangerous prayer – worthy, yet dangerous. It is a serious thing to pray, because it invites painful exposures and surgery, if we truly mean it. Still it is what every wise believer should desire.”-Boice, James Montgomery

The Spirit Helps

- This is one of the main roles the Holy Spirit performs in the believer’s life. As the Father exposes our deepest weaknesses the Spirit is our **divine Helper** and **continual Intercessor**.
- “But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will **teach** you all things and bring to your **remembrance** all that I have said to you.”-**John 14:26**
- The Holy Spirit loves us and the Holy Spirit desires for us to have the Highest and best of God since He is God. Just as Jesus wept over Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit prays for us on a deep emotional level.
- The content of the Holy Spirit’s prayers would go beyond what we would understand or could even stand to hear since the Father, Son and Holy Spirit our communicating with each Other for the overall welfare of the believer.

The Will of God

- The Holy Spirit is God and when He prays for us the Father knows that His groanings of intercession are according to His divine will.
- All prayers that are in harmony with **His divine will** are answered.
- “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”-**1 John 5:1-15**

- The intercession of the Spirit is for the **Saints**,(vs.27) those who have put their **faith in Christ** and are **set apart to God** and a part of **His family**.
- While we are inadequate in our prayers, we have the assurance that **when** we pray **we never pray alone** and our Father hears and works out what is best for our spiritual life.
- “We know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit makes intercession in us, “according to God,” according to His nature (of which we are partakers); **according to our needs**, which He discerns; **according to our dangers**, which He foresees—**according to all the desires** He has toward us.”- Newell, William

- These scriptures here in Romans 8, teach us about **prayer** and what happens within the life of a believer when we **pray**!
- We know from Scripture that **our Father cares** for believers and all of our spiritual and earthly needs; Our Father desires for us to make our requests known to Him.
- “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your **requests** be made known to God.”-**Philippians 4:5b-6**
- “casting all your anxieties on him, because he **cares** for you.”-**1 Peter 5:7**
- In the Lord’s prayer believers are taught by Jesus to ask our Father for our earthly provisions “Give us this day our **daily bread**...”-**Matthew 6:11**

- The Lord cares for all of our **earthly needs** but He also cares about our **spiritual needs** and the Spirit’s transforming work within our heart.
- In any given conversation there is always someone **speaking** and someone **listening**. Faith comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** through the word of Christ.-**Romans 10:17**
- Revelation always begins with God the foundation of all truth. Man never creates the truth but **receives** the truth as revealed and **spoken** in the Word of God.

- If God has not spoken then man would have only his own vain imaginations of Who God is; thus, creating his own life purpose separate from God. Non-believers live their lives as though God has not spoken.
- Man is different from any other creature in all of God's creation. Man was created to be a **hearer of the Word** of God and when we **hear the Word** and respond in obedience to it we are falling in line with God's purpose for us and all of creation.
- “In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was **with** God, and the **Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God... “And the **Word** became flesh and **dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”- **John 1:1,14**

- “And we know that the **Son of God has come** and has given us **understanding**, so that we may **know him** who is true; And this is eternal life, that **they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ** whom you have sent.”-**1 John 5:20a; John 17:3**
- “God's Word is himself, His most vital, his innermost self: his only-begotten Son...We inundate him with problems, with demands for information, for clues, for an easier path, forgetting that in his Word he has given us the solution to every problem, and all the details we are capable of grasping in this life”.-Urs Von Balthasar, Hans

- Since the fullness of the Godhead dwells in us (Col. 2:9) maybe it would be important for us to develop the practice **to stop** and **to listen** for what the Father is saying to our **soul through the Spirit!**
- “For God alone my soul **waits in silence**; from him comes my salvation...For God alone, O my soul, **wait in silence**, for my hope is from him.”-**Psalm 62:1,5**
- “Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the **word of the LORD** was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision...Then the LORD **called** Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me”.... Now Samuel did not yet **know the LORD**, and **the word of the LORD** had not yet been revealed to him. Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.

- Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘**Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.**’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.”-**1 Samuel 3:1,4,7,9**
- Blessed is the man... his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he **meditates day and night**. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”-**Psalm 1:1,2-3**
- Psalm One encourages the blessed man not to listen to the advice of the ungodly but **to hear and to think** about the Word of God **day and night** by which the Father produces spiritual transformation within us!

Romans 8:28-30

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son”

“in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

A Great Promise

- This is a wonderful **promise** to hold to and is often done so by believer's in times of need.
- It is important to understand the context in which this verse is used which makes this promise seem even greater to hold on to.
- In **verse 18**, Paul's topic is suffering in **this present time**.
- The Holy Spirit **prays for us** and His prayers are always answered.
- We may pray for the Father to take the suffering we are experiencing away (as Paul did in 2 Corinthians 12). But the Holy Spirit may be praying differently to keep the **thorn** in our life in order to use it to develop His character within us.
- "Everything is **needful** that He sends; nothing can be **needful** that He withholds".-Newton, John

- "So to keep me from **becoming conceited** because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from **becoming conceited**".-**2 Corinthians 12:7**
- God is producing within us His ideas and thoughts, the **mind of Christ**, but He is also molding us into the character of His Son, the **image of Christ**.
- However, when our trial remains, we have the promise that our Father is working **all things** together for **His good** and thus, the believer's good.

We Know

- Paul uses that same old word for **know** that means **knowing** by **observation and experience** that God works all things for good.
- We **know**...that **God**. It is **God Himself** Who makes all the dynamics of life work towards the good of the believer.
- By virtue of God's sovereign providence all of the various experiences in the believer's life have demonstrated that God turns them all **for good**.
- "The lot is cast into the lap, but its **every decision** is from the **LORD**."-**Proverbs 16:33**

- The **knowledge** that we have is based upon our past observations, our past experiences, and the testimony of others, from which the Father has shown Himself to **be good**.
- This should bring an ease of mind to **know** that all of our life's circumstances do not come through blind fate but by the hand of a good and loving Father!
- "All the **paths** of the **LORD** are **steadfast love** and **faithfulness**, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies."-**Psalm 25:10**
- If every path the believer walks has our Father's **steadfast love** and **faithfulness** then every path works for **good**.
- We may not see it as **good** from our perspective but through faith and the Holy Spirit's help during **times of weakness** we can be assured that **all things work for good**.

Lovers of God

- This promise in **Romans 8:28**, is not for everyone but only for **those who love God**.
- “Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will **keep my word**, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”-**John 14:23**
- Our love for God is based upon His love for Us! Believers respond to His love by dwelling upon Him, the Living Word.
- “In this is love, **not that we have loved** God but **that he loved us** and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”-**1 John 4:10**

- The Father by sending His Son Has **produced** in us a **love for His Son through the Holy Spirit** by pouring love for His Son into our hearts by which we cry **Abba, Father (Romans 5:5)**.
- The Father **demonstrated** His love by sending His Son! “but **God shows his love** for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”-**Romans 5:8**
- The primary meaning of the word **love** in Scripture is a **purposeful commitment to sacrificial action for another**.
- “There is the aspect of love for persons who are not attractive or virtuous or productive. In this case, love is not a delight in what a person is, but a deeply felt commitment to helping him be what he ought to be.”-Piper, John

- The love of God abounds to those who are **weak, ungodly, sinners** while we were **enemies we were reconciled** to God by the death of **His Son** (Romans 5:6,8,10).
- “The better we are acquainted with His love-its character, fullness, blessedness-the more will our hearts be drawn out in love to Him.”-Pink, Arthur
- Jesus prayed for it, “I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the **love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.**”-John 17:26
- “So we have come to **know** and to **believe** the love that God has for us.”-1 John 4:16a

- **Faith** and **love** walk hand-in-hand. We will not **love** someone that we cannot trust or believe.
- Faith is the glue that ties our soul to the spiritual truths taught in Scripture
- The only thing that counts for anything is **only faith working through love**.-Galatians 5:6b
- **Apart from faith we will not know the truth of this promise nor its many benefits.**
- “I believe that Paul had a special reason for using the term **love** rather than the term **believing** at this point. One of the best ways whereby we can decide immediately [if] we love God or not is our reaction to adversity...There are many people...who... when trials and tribulations arise...they give up. They feel they have been let down.”-Lloyd Jones, Martyn

- “For we know, brothers **loved by God**, that he has **chosen you**, because our **gospel** came to you not only in **word**, but also in **power** and in the **Holy Spirit and with full conviction**. ”-**1 Thessalonians 1:4-5a**
- “To feel God’s love is very precious, but to believe it when you do not feel it, is the noblest.”-Spurgeon, Charles
- Faith is **believing regardless** of proof. Faith is **obeying regardless** of the consequences.-paraphrased from a quote by Studdert-Kennedy, Geoffrey
- Paul prayed, “...that **Christ** may dwell in your hearts through faith that you, being rooted and grounded in **love**, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and **to know the love of Christ** that surpasses knowledge, that you may **be filled with all the fullness of God**.”-**Ephesians 3:17-19**

All Things

- It is **all** things not **some** things the **work together** for the **good**!
- “Yet LORD, you are our **Father**; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we all are the **work of your hands**.”-**Isaiah 64:8**
- “The LORD is **good** to all, and his mercy is over all that he has **made**.”-**Psalm 145:9**
- We as believer’s are the work of our Father’s hand Who is always **working** and Who is always **good**!
- **All things**: our sin, our afflictions, our trials, our victories and our defeats although unpleasant at times are all **working together for good** because Our good, good Father is the One **doing the working**!

- Paul is **not** promoting a **promise** to believer's that everything in their life is going to be pleasant.
- Paul is **not** promoting a **promise** that non-believer's will suffer more than believer's.
- Paul is promoting a **promise** that the good and the bad **things** of our lives have a **good outcome** because our Father uses them and turns them towards the good.
- The good and bad events of life have a different effect upon a non-believer as they should a believer.

- The **good things** in life can **harden** a non-believer against God because he believes he is the author of his own making becoming prideful, self sufficient, and selfish.
- The **bad things** in life can **harden** a non-believer against God because he believes that **bad things** would not happen if a good God is running the universe.
- For the believer the **good things** in life give opportunity to praise and glorify Him for His many benefits.
- “The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is **good to all**, and his mercy is over all that he has made.”-**Psalm 145:8-9**

- The **bad things** in life can be used by God to keep us dependent and humble. The Holy Spirit uses the **bad things** in life to move us towards God and learn from Him; training us in the discipline and in the sanctification that comes through trials and suffering.
- “For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for **our good**, that we may **share his holiness**. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of **righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**”-**Hebrews 12:10-11**
- “their heart is **unfeeling** like fat, but I delight in your law. It is good for me that **I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.**”-**Psalm 119:70-71**
- Our feelings are unreliable and should not be trusted because they change with any given circumstance. The God of the universe is reliable and He can be trusted to work together all things for the good of believers.

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Work Together

- Everything that a believer encounters in this life is working together for our good!
- All of God's divine power and His divine attributes are **working all things** in the believer's life towards His **good purpose**.
- "for it is God who **works** in you, both to **will** and to **work** for his good pleasure."-**Philippians 2:13**
- "In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who **works all things** according to the counsel of his will,"-**Ephesians 1:11**

- "This expression **work together** refers to medicine. Several poisonous ingredients put together, being tempered by the skill of the apothecary, make a sovereign medicine, and **work together** for the good of the patient. So all God's providences being divinely tempered and sanctified, do **work together** for the best of the saints. He who loves God and is called according to His purpose, may rest assured that everything in the world shall be for his good."-Watson, Thomas
- The promise of this verse is that the full responsibility is upon God to **work all things** in the lives of His children towards His absolute divine good.
- It is the believers duty to rest in this promise by faith in the assurance and conviction that our good **Father** is **working together all things** for good even though it doesn't appear to be the case sometimes.

- We can keep our hearts secure knowing that God is sovereignly **working together all things for good**.
- Our life and our world is not chaotic and random, but planned and purposed by the hand of a loving Father.
- “for we walk **by faith**, not **by sight**...as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”-**2 Corinthians 5:7;4:18**
- The unseen world encountered by faith is true and real whereas the world around that we see everyday is temporary and fading.



It is like the front and back of a tapestry. If we're looking only at the back we see only chaos and randomness. But this is only half of the story. If we turn the tapestry over and look at the front we see design and purpose! **Walk by faith, not by sight!**

Purpose

- All things working together for the good of His divine purpose. It is **according to His purpose!**-Vs. 28
- His **purpose** is specific towards **those who are called**.
- “It is very likely that the word “called” means more than merely “named” and refers to the **effectual action of God** the Father ...specifically Who calls effectually by His grace.”-Murray, John
- All of the redemptive work that God does upon the heart of the believer it all begins by **His divine call** which ushers us into fellowship with His Son Jesus and union with Him.
- “You did not **choose** me, but I **chose you...**”-John 15:16

- “God gives a reward as a just Judge, not to the worthiness of our works—but to the worthiness of Christ. God as a just Judge rewards us, not because we have deserved it—but because He has **promised** it. God has two courts, a court of mercy, and a court of justice: the Lord condemns those works in the court of justice, which He crowns in the court of mercy. Therefore that which carries the main stroke in our salvation, is **the purpose of God.**”-Watson, Thomas
- There is nothing in this known universe that is capable of thwarting the plans and the purposes of God towards **those who are called** by Him.

- “The LORD of hosts has sworn: ‘As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,’- **Isaiah 14:24**
- “For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?”- **Isaiah 14:27**
- “Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”-**Proverbs 19:21**
- God’s purpose for all of history can be summed up by this one phrase: **to be conformed to the image of his Son.**

Purpose Revealed

- This gives us a different definition for **good**. We usually think that **good** is when things work out the way in which we **expect them to happen** and when they don’t work out it’s **bad or evil**.
- We have to be careful and not think that man is in charge and God is answerable to man to produce good things in our life.
- The good the Father intends for us is to be **conformed to the image of His Son** and all things work together towards that end.
- He adopts believer’s into His family (**Rom. 8:15**) for the **purpose of making us like Jesus Christ** molded into **His likeness in mind** and **His likeness in character!**

- “whoever says he abides in him ought to **walk** in the same way in which he **walked**”.-**1 John 2:6**
- “Therefore be **imitators of God**, as beloved children. ”-**Ephesians 5:1**
- “Be **imitators** of me, as I am of **Christ**.”-**1 Corinthians 11:1**
- The believer’s life is not only about whether we go to heaven or hell but whether **we love the Son and want to be like him**.
- We are to obey and **become like Jesus**, Who loves His Father, and because we love Jesus **the Father loves us** as He has been loving His Son since before the foundation of the world (**John 17:24**).
- “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is **who loves me**. And he **who loves me** will be **loved by my Father**, and I **will love him** and **manifest myself** to him.”-**John 14:21**

- God **foreknew** and he also **predestined** His purpose to be fulfilled in conforming many sons into the **image of His Son**.
- **Foreknew** means to **know before** the event happens.
- **Predestined** means to **decide or determine** the outcome before the event happens.
- “What did he predestinate of them? Not that they should love God. Not that they should believe; nor that some should be saved and others damned; but that those who he saw beforehand would love God, should be conformed to the image of his Son. **The only thing predestinated, or foreordained, is that those who love God as revealed in Christ shall become Christ-like in life, and like Christ in eternity. This is the only decree in the passage.**” (People’s New Testament Commentary)

- “who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of **his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began**, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus,”-**2 Timothy 1:9-10a**
- “in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, **promised before the ages began** and at the proper time **manifested in his word**”-**Titus 1:2-3a**
- ““knowing that you were **ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious **blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was **foreknown before the foundation of the world** but was made **manifest** in the last times for the sake of you who through him are **believers in God**”- **1 Peter 1:18-21a**

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he **chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he **predestined** us for **adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose** of his will”-**Ephesians 1:3-5**
- “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke** to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has **spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also **he created the world**. He is the radiance of the **glory of God** and the **exact imprint of his nature**, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”-**Hebrews 1:1-3a**

- “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For **by him** all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created **through him** and **for him**. And he is before all things, and **in him all things** hold together.”-**Colossians 1:15-17**
- “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, **to see my glory that you have given me** because **you loved me before the foundation of the world.**”-**John 17:24**

- “But when one **turns to the Lord**, the veil is removed. Now the Lord the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another**. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”-**2 Corinthians 3:16-18**
- The Father’s **predetermined purpose** before creation was and is His Son. The Father’s **predetermined purpose** for believers before creation was and is to be **conformed to the image of His Son**. In loving the Son we love the Father. In loving the Father we love the Son Whom He sent to demonstrate His love for us.
- People want to know how they can change. The only lasting change in a person’s life is when they **turn to the Lord** and **behold the Son**, or rather, **fix one’s gaze intently upon the Son** as revealed to us in the **Word of God**.

- “This **purpose**, or decree of God, is the fountainhead of our spiritual blessings. It is the **moving cause** of our effectual calling, justification, and glorification. It is the highest link in the golden chain of salvation...Let us then ascribe the whole work of grace to the pleasure of God's will. **God did not choose us because we were worthy—but by choosing us He makes us worthy**. Proud men are apt to assume and arrogate too much to themselves, in being sharers with God. While many cry out against church sacrilege, they are in the meantime guilty of a far greater sacrilege, **in robbing God of His glory**, while they go to set the crown of salvation upon their own head. But we must **resolve all into God's purpose**.

- The evidences of salvation are in the saints—but the cause of salvation is in God”.-Watson, Thomas
- “Now, my dear brother, you cannot read God's foreknowledge, neither can you enter into the secrets of predestination; but you can tell whether you are **called**, or not; you can know whether you are **justified by faith**, or not; and if you get hold of those links, you have got a grip of that endless chain.”-Spurgeon, Charles

Conformed to His Image

- The word in the original for **conform** means to be in the **same likeness**, or to be **fashioned together in the same form**.
- As a believer reads and studies God's Word the Holy Spirit begins to **conform** our **minds** and our **character** into the **image of Jesus**, Who is the exact imprint of God's nature (Heb. 1:3).
- As believers we are **totally responsible** and **totally dependent**. It is our **responsibility** to read His Word, but we are **dependent** upon Him to make the changes necessary to **conform** us into the **image of His Son**.
- "All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one **knows** the Son except the Father, and no one **knows** the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to **reveal** him.

- **Come to me**, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and **learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls.
"-Matthew 11:27-29
- What this wonderful truth means is that God has given a blueprint or a master design for all believers to be **conformed to the image of his Son the firstborn among many brothers**.
- Therefore **all things** that we go through in life **good or bad** are used by the Holy Spirit to **mold** and **shape** us into the **image of the Son**, the Father's master design.
- This is not behavior modification with the believer simply doing church culture but unchanged on the inside. The Holy Spirit is doing an inside job transforming our **mind** and our **character** into **the image of His Son**.

- It is not something that we will fully realize in this present world but like Paul testified: “Not that I have **already obtained** this or am **already perfect**, but I press on to **make it my own**, because **Christ Jesus has made me his own**. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward **call of God in Christ Jesus**. Let those of us who are **mature** think this way...”.-

Philippians 3:12-15a

- We have God’s **promises** that give a steadfast anchor to the soul during difficult times that one day we will shed this body of death and put on the glorious body awakened into His likeness.

- God, “has granted to us his precious and very **great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature...**” - **2 Peter 1:4a**
- The born again believers, born by the power of the Holy Spirit, are instructed by James to, “receive with meekness the **implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.”- **James 1:21b**
- We commune with God through His promises given to us in His Word.
- “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has **not yet** appeared; but we know that when he appears **we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is.”-**1 John 3:2**

- “Arise, O LORD! Confront him, subdue him! Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, from men by your hand, O LORD, from **men of the world** whose portion is in this life. You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants. **As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.**”-**Psalm 17:13-15**
- “No man need **fear** the years, for they bring him **nearer**, not to death, but to God.”-Barclay, William
- “Set your **minds** on **things** that are **above**, not on **things** that are on **earth.**”- **Colossians 3:2**
- “Do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewal** of your mind,”-**Romans 12:2a**

God’s Purpose For Believer’s

- Paul, inspired by the Holy, gives us four active elements that work in the believers life to fulfill God’s purpose to conform us into the image of His Son.
- ***Those whom he foreknew:*** With God's foreknowledge He knows and He plans for blessing and provision for man based on this foreknowledge He knew that man would sin and His Son would need to come and make provision for our redemption.
- “this Jesus, delivered up according to the **definite plan and foreknowledge** of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”-**Acts 2:23**

- **Those whom he predestined:** God predestines us to be conformed to the image of Christ. In this purpose He provides equal opportunity for every believer.
- **He also called:** God calls us to be a part of His predetermined plan by sending His Holy Spirit to draw the sinner to faith in Christ.
- **He also justified:** Justification declares the believing sinner to be righteous by which the believers are acceptable to God in Jesus.
- **He also glorified:** The end of God's purpose is that we receive the glory that God's master plan holds for us.

- “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, **to see my glory that you have given me** because you loved me before the foundation of the world.”-**John 17:24**
- “So if you want to define heaven, you just got the definition. It’s all glory and all love, all glory and all love. God is love and eternally loved His Son - infinitely loved His Son, intimately loved His Son; and eternally, infinitely, and intimately loves all of His sons, all of us. And His eternal Son wants to bring us all to glory so that we can see the manifestation of how much the Father loves Him, and so that we can also experience it ourselves. God cannot love His Son any more than He does; He cannot love us any more than He does. His mediatorial work, to bring us to glory, is to bring us into that incomprehensible love; and **He will get us there.**”-MacArthur, John

Romans 8:31-34

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.”

“Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died more than that, who was raised who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Believers Response

- This section of verses gives us an insight into the response a believer should have towards all that God has done for us in Christ.
- Paul asks six questions:
- **Question #1:** *What then shall we say to these things?* (vs.31)
- “The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.”-**Psalm 126:3**
- One way to respond is simply by being glad and rejoice concerning **these things** that Paul has told us about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- **These things:** Many of the commentators on the Book of Romans seem to say that **these things** refers back to everything Paul has written so far about the gospel of justification by faith alone.
- This may be true but it probably also refers directly to **verse 28**, And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good.
- **All things** meaning the good, the bad, and the ugly things of this world are all under God’s sovereign control and therefore cannot hinder the accomplishment of His eternal purpose: and this, we have just seen, is to make us conformed to the image of His Son, adopted into the family of the Father as sons and daughters (**Rom. 8:15,29**).

- The answer to the first question is understood in the next question's promise. We can infer that **God** is **on our side**, or acting on **our behalf in all things** pertaining to our salvation.
- The answer to the second question is understood in the third question's promise. God **shows** that He is **on our side** by sending His **own Son** to die on our behalf.
- “Yet it was the **will of the LORD** to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be **accounted righteous**, and he shall bear their **iniquities**...All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has **laid on him the iniquity of us all.**”-Isaiah 53:10-11,6

- **Question #2: If God is for us, who can be against us?** (Vs.31)
- This is a great truth to know that the God of the universe, our creator, His Son, His Holy Spirit is **for us**...they are here, **with us**, on our behalf.
- The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **love** of God, and the **communion** of the Holy Spirit be **with you all**. Amen.-2 Corinthians 13:14
- This should take away any fears for tomorrow and it should give us a confidence that the Creator of all things is **for us** if we believe in the Son. **Why are we so afraid if God is for us?**

- “Our weak hearts, prone to legalism and unbelief, receive these words with great difficulty: *God is for us...* They have failed Him; but He is *for* them. They are ignorant; but He is *for* them. They have not yet brought forth much fruit; but He is *for* them.”-Newell, William
- Believe that God is **for you**...make the promise your own!
- “The LORD is on **my side**; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”- **Psalm 118:6**
- Sometimes we feel like Jacob, in response to the news that Joseph had been taken, said: All theses **things** are against me (**Genesis 42:36**).
- When in reality all these **things** are working **for us**! Jacob didn’t know that a famine was coming. God was protecting Israel.

- **Question #3: How will he not also with him graciously give us all things?** (vs.32)
- This question is in response to the truth that **He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all**.
- If God, in fulfilling His purpose for our lives, is willing to give up His most **precious Son**, will He not in His grace give us all things necessary for salvation? **Why do we worry so much about things we can't control?**
- “There can be no end to the bounty of God after he has given his Son. He that has given the jewel of the universe, the very eye of heaven — what! Will he not give to us all else really needed, and give freely, too?”-Spurgeon, Charles
- The Lord will give us all things **with Him**. All blessings from the Father **graciously** flow to us through **the Son**.

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in Christ** with **every spiritual** blessing in the heavenly places”-**Ephesians 1:3**
- “Who is a God like you, **pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression** for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not **retain his anger** forever, because **he delights in steadfast love**. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”- **Micah 7:18-19**
- If the Lord will **cast all our sins into the depths of the sea** then it means no sin will be held against us in condemnation because of Jesus’ work upon the Cross.
- It also means that sin is so serious to God that He had to send His Son to die in order to **pardon iniquity and pass over transgression**.

- If we fail to recognize the sacrifice that God made in sending His **Son to die** for us then we could lapse into thinking that **sin and forgiveness are easy** for God to give.
- If we fail to recognize that Jesus died for sin once and for all we could lapse into a **state of doubt** concerning His atoning work and our sins being truly forgiven.
- The Good news of the Gospel is that Jesus lived, suffered, and died to take away our sins.

- We simply receive this forgiveness but it was earned for us on the merit of Jesus' atoning sacrifice!
- “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them...But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he **has perfected for all time** those who are being sanctified.”-**Hebrews 7:25;10:12-14**

- **Question #4: Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? (vs.33)**
- **It is God Who justifies.** The God of the universe justifies a person and declares that person free from guilt .
- God says you have worth because I loved you, my Son died for you, and I have given you my very righteousness. **Why ever feel guilty or not forgiven?**
- That term **elect** or chosen is used here to strengthen the case. Paul is saying in a sense: Who would dare to bring a charge against the one whom God has chosen and justified?

- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and **just** to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"-**1 John 1:9**
- It is interesting that in this passage of **1 John** it states that when we confess our sins He forgives because He is **just**.
- In other words God would be **unjust not to forgive** our sins because Jesus' life and death earned our acceptance before Him as John points out:
- "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an **advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ** the righteous. He is the **propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."-**1 John 2:1-2**

- Jesus took the punishment for our sins and cancelled the debt.
- It would be unjust for the Father to require two payments on the same debt. Therefore the Father is just to forgive our sins.
- "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by **canceling the record of debt that stood against us** with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross."-**Colossians 2:13-14**
- This is a profound truth that if fully understood will bring complete assurance, security, and rest to our heart as we walk in faith towards Him.

- **Question #5: Who is to condemn? (vs.34)**
- **Christ Jesus is the one who died more than that, who was raised who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.** And we also know the Holy Spirit is interceding for us according to our weaknesses (Rom. 8: 26-27). **Why ever feel guilty or not forgiven?**
- If anyone had a right to **condemn** it would be Jesus Christ. But He does not condemn believers. No, rather He **intercedes on our behalf**, in **our place**, before God.
- “There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.”-**Romans 8:1**

- “For we do not have a high priest who is **unable to sympathize** with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, **yet without sin**. Let us then with confidence draw near to the **throne of grace**, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can **deal gently** with the **ignorant** and **wayward**, since he himself is beset with weakness.”-Hebrews 4:15-16;5:1-2
- “But listen to me; do not imagine that if the Lord Jesus had sinned he would have been any more tender toward you; for **sin is always of a hardening nature**. If the Christ of God could have sinned, he would have lost the **perfection** of his **sympathetic** nature.”-Spurgeon, Charles

- “Now of all [infirmities], sin is the greatest and while yourselves look at it as such, Christ will look upon it as such only also in you. And he, **loving your persons**, and **hating only the sin**, his hatred shall all fall and that **only upon the sin**, to free you of it by its ruin and destruction, but his [deep affection] shall be the more drawn out to you; and this as much when you **lie under sin as under any other affliction**. Therefore fear not, ‘**What shall separate us from Christ's love?**’ Romans 8:35.”-Owen, John

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- **Question #6: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? (vs. 35)**
- There are times in our lives where we might see ourselves living from crisis to crisis. No sooner is one resolved and we stop to take a breath until another one hits.
- If God is **for us** by showing His love **for us** by not sparing His only Son then who has power greater to **separate us** from the love of Christ?-Nobody! Adversities will not **separate us** from His love.
- **Question #7: Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (vs.35)**
- There are so many trials and so much adversity in this world that challenge our hearts and minds.
- God’s love is the one constant that we can rely upon as believers as we walk through all of life’s trials and tribulations.

- Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, lists **seven things** that come against a believer in this present world. Sometimes in a weakened state we may become **discouraged inwardly** from the **outward adversity**.
- These **outward afflictions** can come at us either through the troubling circumstances of life or an attack from people.
- However, believers can rest in the assurance that nothing can **separate us from the love of God** in Christ.
- The list progresses in order of increasing intensity from **tribulation** all the way to **Death by the sword**.

- **Tribulation**: This is the affliction and pressure that comes as a direct result of following Jesus but cannot and does not **separate us from the love of Christ**.
- “As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when **tribulation** or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.”-**Matthew 13:20-21**
- The Scripture encourages us to “**be patient in tribulation**, be constant in prayer.”-**Romans 12:12**

- **Distress**: This word means **narrow in space** with no room to move. It is similar in battle when an enemy has a people boxed in with **no where to run** and **no way of escape**. **Distress** does not **separate us from the love of Christ**.
- “There will be tribulation and **distress (no room to run)** for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek”-**Romans 2:9**
- “In my **distress** I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears...“You have given me the shield of **your salvation**, and **your right hand** supported me, and **your gentleness** made me great. **You gave a wide place** for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip.”-**Psalm 18:6;35-36**

- **Persecution**: This word means, **to make to run**, or **to run swiftly to catch** those pursued in order to inflict harm. **Persecution** does not **separate us from the love of Christ**.
- “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted**,”-**2 Timothy 3:12**
- The world and all of its philosophies appear to have been against the One True God and His Son from the very beginning.
- God accepted Abel’s sacrifice, of which, he was killed by Cain. Jews and Christians alike have been persecuted and killed simply for believing in the God of the Bible to this very day.
- “If the world **hates** you, know that it has **hated** me before it **hated** you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world **hates** you.”-**John 15:18-19**

- The world **demands conformity** to its precepts and doctrine through the fear of punishment, the fear of a ruined reputation, the fear of economic bankruptcy, or the fear of being ostracized.
- However, if a believer's trust is in the Lord: "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; **what can man do to me?**"-**Hebrews 13:5-6**
- Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will **fear no evil**, for **you are with me**; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."-**Psalm 23:4**

- "**Bless** those who **persecute** you; **bless** and do not curse them."-**Romans 12:14**
- **Famine**: Lack of food creating hunger for both our necessary food but also can mean a famine for lack of the Word of God in the land and in our own lives. **Famine** does not **separate us from the love of Christ**.
- Job declared: "I have treasured the **words of his mouth** more than my **portion of food**."-**Job 23:12**
- Amos declared: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord GOD, 'when I will send a **famine** on the land not a **famine** of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.'" -**Amos 8:11**

- And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but **man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** "-**Deuteronomy 8:3**
- "You have never received spiritual life by your own feelings. It was when you **believed God's Word** that you lived; and you will never get an increase of spiritual life, and grow in grace, by your own feelings or your own doings. It must still be by your **believing the promises and feeding on the Word.**" –**Spurgeon, Charles**

- **Nakedness**: The state of being without clothes and poor. It also speaks to shame. **Nakedness** does not **separate us from the love of Christ.**
- "For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and **naked**. I **counsel** you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and **white garments** so that you may clothe yourself and **the shame of your nakedness** may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see."-**Revelation 3:17-18**
- "I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who **look to him** are radiant, and their faces shall never be **ashamed**. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of **all** his troubles."-**Psalm 34:4-6**

- **Danger**: Danger means the possibility of suffering bodily harm or injury and it is all around us every day. Danger does not **separate us from the love of Christ**.
- “on frequent journeys, in **danger** from rivers, **danger** from robbers, **danger** from my own people, **danger** from Gentiles, **danger** in the city, **danger** in the wilderness, **danger** at sea, **danger** from false brothers;”-**2 Corinthians 11:26**
- “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and **my fortress**, my God, in whom I trust.”-**Psalm 91:1-2**
- “The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who **takes refuge** in him!”-**Psalm 34:7-8**

- **Sword**: A great crowd came at Jesus with **swords** and clubs (**Matt.26:47**). Herod, the king, killed James the brother of John with the **sword** (**Acts 12:2**). **Hebrews 11:37**, says that the **sword** killed some believers because of their faith.
- This is the attitude of the world towards those who believe in Christ but the good news is the **sword** does **not separate us from the love of Christ**.
- Paul quotes from **Psalm 44:22**, as he faced his own beheading by the edge of the Roman sword. **Psalm 44** is a unique Psalm about God’s people remaining faithful to Him in the midst of some very difficult times. **See Psalm 44:9-16.**

- “All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant. Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way...Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”-**Psalm 44:17-18;22**
- **Psalm 44:22**, in this N.T. context, speaks to the early believer’s faithfulness to Jesus regardless of the consequences.
- Do not be afraid...**Be faithful unto death**, and I will give you the crown of life (**Rev. 2:10**).

- John Bunyan, who, when they said, that he might go free if he would promise not to preach the gospel, said, “I will lie in prison till the moss grows on my eyelids rather than I will ever make such a promise as that. If you let me out of prison to-day, I will preach to-morrow, by the grace of God.”
- I believe we are living in a day when God’s light has become more dim. These are volatile days we are seeing; and it is not unthinkable that in the near future we will see those who have disregarded the Word of God become like animals.
- Jesus speaking in regard to the state of mind of mankind preceding His return said, “And because **lawlessness** will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”-**Matthew 24:12**
- What is it about **lawlessness** that makes love grow cold?

- A lawless society considers its own desires more important than the welfare of the individual and because it is lawless the law changes upon a whim in order to control people which causes anger, frustration, and ultimately animal like behavior.
- For the Believer we have the promises of God. “For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my **God lightens my darkness**. For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.”-**Psalm 18:28-29**

- “Every thing that happens to you, ever will happen, that is happening now, however tragic, however difficult, however impossible, however hopeless, however inexplicable; in everything that has happened, will happen and is happening to you, **GOD leads in victory** to His own glory and to your eternal benefit...The sum and substance of these remarkable assurances is simply this, that the Christian cannot lose! He is utterly, totally, irrevocably secure in JESUS CHRIST. Whatever happens to him GOD turns to blessing and profit by the miracle of His grace ”- Halverson, Richard

More than Conquers

- Here is the conclusion: Christ loves us and in all these things we can have the victory.
- We don't simply have the victory. No! **In all these things we are more than conquerors.**
- We are more than conquers through **Him who loved us!**
- The Cross is the greatest proof of God's love **for us**, and it is the basis for our victory. It proves that God is **for us** because **He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?** -Romans 8:31,32

- “A holy arrogance of victory in the **might of Christ**”- Meyer, F.B..
- “But thanks be to God, **who in Christ** always leads us in **triumphant procession**, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.”-2 **Corinthians 2:14**
- In fact, Nothing **else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** -vs.39
- Paul says that he is **sure (Vs.38)** of this truth. The word for **sure** means to be **persuaded into believing, convinced by the truth** of something.

- Paul believed in his heart that nothing in all creation separates the believer from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
- “In these verses the confidence of the apostle is expressed in the strongest language. He heaps words together in the effort to set forth fully the absolute inability of all created things, separately or united, to frustrate **the purpose of God**, or **to turn away his love** from those whom he has **determined to save.**”- Hodge, Charles
- “But **I am not ashamed**, for **I know** whom **I have believed**, and **I am convinced** that **he is able** to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.”-**2 Timothy 1:12**
- Paul trusted in the character and truth of Who God is and held no trust in himself or confidence in the his flesh (**Php. 3:3**).

- “Thus says the LORD: Cursed is the man who **trusts in man** and makes **flesh his strength**...“Blessed is the man who **trusts in the LORD**, whose trust is the LORD.”-**Jeremiah 17:5,7**
- The LORD your God is in your midst, A **victorious warrior**. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. -**Zephaniah.3:17**
- “**Christ is the bond**; for he is the beloved Son, in whom the Father is well pleased. If, then, we are through him united to God, we may be assured of the immutable [unchanging] and unfailing kindness of God towards us. He now speaks here more distinctly than before, as he declares that the **fountain of love is in the Father, and affirms that it flows to us from Christ.**”-Calvin, John