

LIFE
in the
SPIRIT

Romans 8

5pm/7pm Gatherings
INTEGRATED BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

How to get best value out of these studies...

Welcome to series of studies on the Book of Romans. These Study Guides are designed in a three part format:

1. Opening questions to get you thinking are listed as **Appetisers**.
2. Those which get you to investigate the text are contained in the **Main Course**.
3. The **Take Away** section prompts you to reflect on what you've looked at and consider how it will change you and those in your group.

If you're using these guides in a Small Group, it is vital to do preparatory work *before* you get to your meeting. This will be of great benefit not only to you, but to the other members of your group.

If you're doing these studies individually, let someone know you are doing so and arrange a time to meet with them when you've finished (or even before) to let them know how your life is being changed by God's Word.

If you're after good commentaries or resources to complement your looking into the Bible, speak to your Small Group Leader or one of the staff, and we'll try to be as helpful as possible. Most people aren't going to spend lots of dollars on theological works, so we're constantly on the look out for good quality titles that will result in money well spent.

We trust you'll find the guides helpful, and we welcome any feedback you can give us as you use them.

Always surround your time looking into God's Word with **prayer**, asking God to change your heart and life so that you – with God's people – might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recommended Reading:

Romans (Marshall Pickering)	St Helen's Church and Bishopgate
The Message of Romans (BST)	John R W Stott

Reviewing The First Seven Chapters...

Before launching into Romans 8, it is a good idea to review the flow of the argument to date, given that chapter 8 operates as the summary and pinnacle of the argument of the first half of the letter.

- 1: 1-17 A summary of the gospel and the main idea Paul explores in the letter ie. God's gospel is powerful to save all who believe.

- 1: 18 - 4:25 Outlines the problem of the wrath of God rightly poured out on all ungodliness. We all face his wrath because we have all rebelled against him. God himself has provided the way for unrighteous people to be declared righteous. It is by faith in Jesus' death.

- 5: 1 - 8: 39 Explores what it means to be justified by faith. In chapter 5 we see we are saved from God's wrath and that God has created a new humanity of followers of Jesus. In chapter 6 we looked at the way Christians are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. In chapter 7 we considered the ongoing struggle with sin as a result of the fact that we live in the 'now, but the not yet'.

1 Life In The Spirit

Romans 8: 1-11

From chapter 5, Paul has been explaining that the Christian is freed from sin and the law which lead to death and condemnation (Romans 6: 21 & 7: 5) Because we have died with Christ we therefore now live to serve God our new master. Turning to chapter 8 Paul now shows that the Christian cannot therefore be condemned or separated from God.

Appetisers...

1. What is your first thought (ie. don't think too much) when asked the questions:
 - Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - What does the Holy Spirit do?
2. Write down, in one sentence, the relationship between the Holy Spirit and Jesus and how you see it working.
3. The 'spirituality' of the new age is fundamentally an internal journey of self discovery. How is this different from the 'spiritual journey' of a Christian?

2

Heirs Of Glory

Romans 8: 12-17

Appetisers...

1. In what ways do you think Christians are better off than non-Christians? Do you think there are certain aspects of life where non-Christians are better off?
2. Read through vv12-17 and list all the benefits and privileges of being Christian.
3. When you become aware of sin in your life, how does it make you feel?

Main Course...

4. Often our experience and discussion about the work of the Holy Spirit can seem abstract and the person of the Holy Spirit distant. What do the following verses tell us we should expect the Spirit to be doing in our lives?

vv9-11

vv13-14

vv15-16

5. In the New Testament there are two references to being 'led by the Spirit of God'. One of them is in v14. Some have taken it to be a reference to the guidance of God in day-to-day situations, eg. What work should I do? Who should I marry? Where should I buy a house, etc? However, looking at the verse in context, what is the leading of the Spirit referring to?

6. According to these verses should the fact that we struggle with sin cause us to question our salvation or should it be taken as an indication of the fact that we are saved?

7. Some have argued that 'sinless perfection' is possible here on earth for Christians. What do you think about this and why?

8. Why will you 'put to death the deeds of the flesh' if you are a Christian?

How does the Spirit make this possible?

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9. According to v17 what is our inheritance as God's children?

Take Away...

10. After reading through vv12-17 what should be our attitude to sin? How does this compare with your present attitude? Are there issues you need to ask God to change your thinking about in your life?

11. What assurance do we get from this passage if we are struggling with sin?

12. Why is being able to speak to God as 'Abba! Father!' (v15) such a great privilege? What affect does it have on you that you can talk to God in this way?

13. What inheritance do we have as God's children (v17)? Why is this inheritance conditional on suffering with Christ?

14. How does this passage teach us to:

- encourage one another?

- warn one another?

- praise God?

3

Why Suffering?

Romans 8: 18-30

Appetisers...

1. What do you think will be the biggest difference between life in the present age / world and the one to come?
2. Personally, what do you find most distressing about the suffering you observe and experience in our world?
3. 'God doesn't want anyone to suffer'. Agree or disagree?

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8. In v26 we are told that the Spirit, literally, 'groans' too. Why is the Spirit groaning? How is this connected to the groaning of the created order and our own groaning? What does this tell us about God's concern for us and the world he has created?

9. When does the 'groaning' stop? (v21)

10. Read through verses 28-30.

How is God at work in a 'groaning' world?

Who is God working for the good of?

What is the 'good'?

Take Away...

11. What has this taught you about how God helps us in the midst of suffering?

12. What should we pray for when someone is going through suffering?

13. How would you respond to someone who said that God wants everyone to be healed of their diseases, etc, now?

14. What perspective does this give us as we think about our response to:
 - the environmental debate?

 - injustice?

 - famine in an overseas country?

 - war?

15. What does this passage teach us about God's plans for our world?

16. Do we dwell enough on the glory that is to be revealed? How could we do this more?

4. Who can oppose God's plan to glorify us is the question of v31. How do the following verses demonstrate that 'God is for us'?

v32

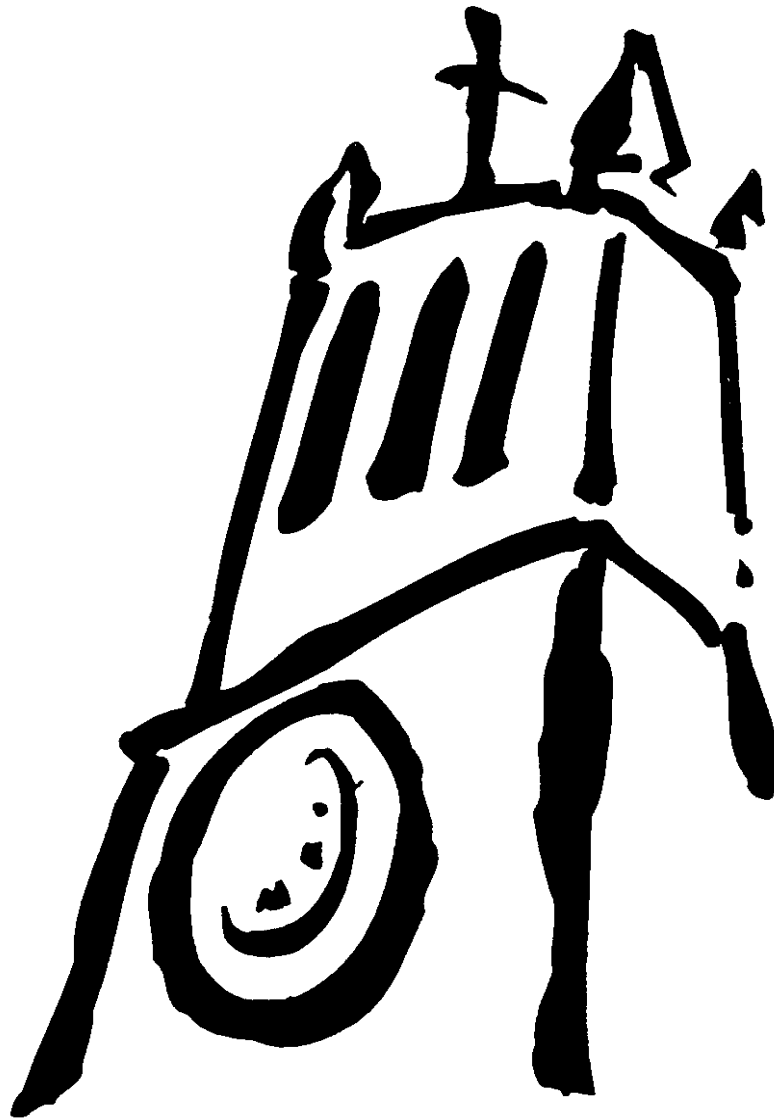
v33

v34

5. The next few verses change direction and talk about the possible ways we could be separated from Jesus' love.

Why do you think Paul is so confident these things can't separate us from the love of Christ? (v38)

6. How does Paul demonstrate that God's plan is unstoppable?



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