

ROMANS 8 DEVOTIONAL

Life in the Spirit

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Romans 8
Life in the Spirit



Overview

I agree with reformer Martin Luther's description of Romans 8..."The chapter where the Lord through Paul comforts 'fighters'..."

Christians are involved daily with the spiritual fight within them against sin. How are we more than conquerors in such battles? The more excellent way is Life in and by the Holy Spirit. Let's glean from Paul's inspired thoughts together.



Romans 8

Life in the Spirit

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 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, 4 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. 5 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. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 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. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 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.

Heirs with Christ

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 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. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 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!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 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.

Future Glory

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 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. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 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. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 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. 27 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. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 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. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God's Everlasting Love

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 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? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 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. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 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.



DAY ONE

ROMANS 8:1-2

"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.

A New Way to Live..."In the Spirit"

Set Free...from the law of sin and death...no longer bound to sin...no longer bound by the anxieties of dying and the judgments thereafter. Good News for sure!!!

No Fear...of being dominated by sinning and not afraid of being destroyed by sin's penalty and power. Good News for a lifetime.

A New Way to Live...In the Spirit...

Confident...that there is now no righteous judgment for those who are in Christ Jesus...

Assured...Romans 8:28,29...that the Father's choosing...the Son's dying...and the Spirit's living in and through believers...was and is sufficient to secure us and sanctify us forever...

Humbly Grateful...Romans 8:29..."For whom God foreknew before they were born, He predestined them to be conformed to the image of His Son...8:30...and those whom God predestined He also called, and those He called He justified and those He justified He glorified."

A New Way to Live...In the Spirit...

"Father, You make it clear who justifies...You do...we do not. You make it clear who assures heaven to all who believe Jesus. You do...we do not. And how do You do it? You give us the Spirit who lives in and through us...exciting...thanks Father." Great News!!!



DAY TWO

ROMANS 8:3-4

“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.”

What Could the Law Do?

“Through the law comes the knowledge of sin”...Rom. 3:20

“If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin...” Rom. 7:7

“I no longer count on my own righteousness that comes from trying to keep the law...” Phil. 3:9

But rather...I am righteous through faith in Jesus Christ...for God’s way of making us right with Himself depends on faith that He gives us.

So what could the law not do?

Though the law could condemn sin it could not remove sin. Only Christ could condemn sin and remove it (along with death) by taking sin and death upon His own body on the cross on our behalf. And therefore the righteous requirement of the law was fulfilled for us...

The law could not make us right with God...only Jesus could do that!!!

“Father, for all of the good things that Your law did and does for Your people, You make it clear that it was never intended to make us righteous...You Son would do that! Once more Jesus is better!



DAY THREE

ROMANS 8:5-6

“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.”

Who is Paul referring to when he speaks of those who are “living according to the flesh”? In my opinion, they are the ones who are living as they were born, carnal and corrupt in nature. I believe that he is referring to those who have “only the flesh”. They do not have spiritual life in Christ to govern them. And therefore, they cannot do anything but set their minds on fleshly pursuits rather than on spiritual ones. Their minds are bent toward things sinful. Their affections are set upon things that are natural to them, not spiritual to them. Their hearts and thinking are opposite to God but sadly agreeable to them.

But those who have “been born again”, by grace and through faith in Jesus Christ, do have “Holy Spirit life” in them to govern their minds and hearts toward things of the spirit instead of the flesh. And this is completely the work of the Holy Spirit in us. And it is a work that is just “begun” in our lives as believers...begun...not perfected...even in the life of the most mature of disciples. Every true Christian struggles with sin. But life in the Spirit provides a way to escape and turns the once sweet taste of sin too bitter to indulge for long.

“Thanks Father, for the life and peace in the Spirit that You have blessed us with in Your great salvation. We gladly accept it by the faith You have given to us. And Holy Spirit, we don't want to grieve You. Forgive us of our sins today. Cleanse us of all unrighteousness. We want You to perfect Your work in us and use us to bless the church on her gospel mission to the world.”



DAY FOUR

ROMANS 8:7-8

“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.”

In this passage, Paul gives the very reason why the mind set on the flesh is death...as we read in verse 6. That mind is first and foremost hostile toward God in every way possible.

18th century English pastor, John Gill, preached that the carnal mind is not only an enemy of God it is the very “enmity” toward God...that is, the epitome of hostility toward God...totally opposite of God...totally against God...it reasons against God...it even wishes that God was not...it endeavors to bury God in forgetfulness...and erase out of its mind all memorials of Him...it is hostile toward God’s perfections, either denying His omniscience or bitterly opposing His justice and faithfulness...it despises God’s goodness and abuses God’s grace and mercy; it quarrels with His providences and it is without a doubt hostile against God’s word and the gospel of Christ...especially related to the doctrines of grace...the Father’s grace in election...the Son’s grace in redemption...and the Spirit’s grace in regeneration.”

And to think, before the work of the Spirit in my life, that was me... hostile to God...”Thanks for your mercy upon me, O Lord.”

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DAY FOUR

ROMANS 8:7-8

“Further...“It” (the carnal mind) does not submit to God’s perfect laws. The mind that is not governed by the Spirit of God hates and despises the law of God. The carnal mind will not see that God did something good for His own when He gave them His laws. They cannot see it nor can they submit to them...only avoid them and deny them vehemently.

And those who are in the flesh...unsaved...they cannot please God...for they are incapable of making peace with God...they are incapable of obtaining the good will of God. Jesus is the only one who could do that...and He has already done it on the cross.

“Thank You Jesus...because of all that You have done for us, we get to experience the pleasure of God that we would have never known without You.”



DAY FIVE

ROMANS 8:9

“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.”

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.”

In my understanding, that was the apostle Paul saying to his Roman friends in Christ, “You and I are no longer carnal people. Now we do live in a carnal world and sin crouches at the door. But we are spiritual people...empowered by the Spirit of Christ to overcome our struggles with sin. We are indwelt by the Spirit. We are led by the Spirit. We are protected by the Spirit. You and I are governed, illumined, regenerated, and gifted by the Spirit. And this person known as the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, produces spiritual fruit in us that is evidence of His presence in us...never to leave us nor forsake us.”

You and I, friends in the faith of Christ, are not in the flesh, to be bullied by sin and death. But we are in the Spirit and He dwells in us. And by the way, I like what John MacArthur says in his study Bible on the word, “dwell”...“meaning: being in ones own home...the Holy Spirit has made our bodies His own home on earth.” Thank you, brother John. Now let us remind one another of that truth and be encouraged by it.

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DAY FIVE

ROMANS 8:9

“Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Christ”...

In other words, they are not yet His regenerated, called, and sanctified ones. And in further words, they have no interest, no claim to the Kingdom of God...or communion with Him...or enjoyment of Him.

“Father, You and the Son, didn’t just send the gifts and the graces of the Spirit to aid us. You sent us the person of the Spirit...the third person of the triune Godhead...and He lives in us to comfort and guide us, among so many other things, on the journey that You have planned for us. Thanks, Father.”



DAY SIX

ROMANS 8:10

“But if Christ is in you, although the body, is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

If Christ is in us...Then the Holy Spirit is “life”
 (“God life”) in us...not death.

...all because of the righteousness of God
 worked out in and through the one perfect sacrifice,
 Christ Jesus on the cross for us who believe...Wow...
 How Awesome!

Why is our body considered dead?

Because our body is under the curse of sin and death...

...our spirit is alive by the Holy Spirit within us...

That is why we, who are in Christ and He in us, can say
 with confidence, even on our death beds, “this old body
 May die, but my spirit and soul will live on with Christ.

“Father, thank You for the Bible...Your very words to
 our hearts. You give us living and dying grace from these
 Scriptures. Love You...help Us love you more.”



DAY SEVEN

ROMANS 8:11

“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.”

Another Spirit of God
Promise to all He indwells...

Your mortal body will die and it will decay into the ground...

BUT...that same dead body will be raised to life one day and Reunited with your eternal Spirit and soul...

Therefore, just as Jesus' body was raised from the dead, so will yours and mine rise and be changed into a perfect body (with no taint or tinge of sin) one day to come.

“Praise You Father God... another promise to hold on to today and to be comforted by on another day as we draw near the crossroads to glory.”



DAY EIGHT

ROMANS 8:12

“So then brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.”

I love it when Paul calls his fellow followers of Jesus, brothers. He knew that they were in the same forever family of God through Christ. He knew that they were in the same spiritual relationship with the Father as he was. He called them brothers, relating them all to the same membership in the church of Jesus Christ. And coming from the great apostle, the greeting showed his humility and his great affection for these friends in the faith. They may have been different in nationality and ethnicity, but they were the same in the most important way. They were one in Christ through the ministry of the Spirit.

So Paul was saying, “We are brothers and sisters and we are also debtors. Paul used the term debtor earlier in this letter to the church in Rome. Romans 1:14,15: “I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise. So as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are at Rome also.” Given the context of these verses, Paul is stressing the fact that he felt obligated to preach the gospel to everyone. The Spirit had illuminated the truth of Jesus to Paul and gave him saving faith unto eternal life. Paul was once in darkness, but now he was in the light. To Paul, that spiritual regeneration made him a debtor to those who were in darkness...a debtor that owed them the gospel of life and light just as he had received.

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DAY EIGHT

ROMANS 8:12

In this verse, Paul is relating the concept of being a debtor to God... not a debtor to the flesh...not a debtor to his carnal temptations... but a debtor to God...to live according to His good will. Listen to what Paul wrote years earlier to the church in Corinth. "For you have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body..." (1 Corinthians 6:20). Paul knew that Christians had been bought out of the marketplace of slavery to sin and death by the blood of Christ. Knowing that, Paul was calling himself and his fellow church members to a spirit filled sense of grateful obligation to glorify their Savior God with all of their lives.

"Help us, Holy Spirit to live according to an humble, yet bold and loving sense of obligation to make much of Jesus with the rest of our lives. Thanks, Spirit of God."



DAY NINE

ROMANS 8:13

“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.”

“...you will die...”

The saved person dies once...physically, not spiritually. He dies in his bodily flesh and then he goes to live in heaven spiritually...awaiting the resurrection of his body. Let's listen to what Paul taught the church at Philippi chapter 1:21: “For to me to live (in my present body) is Christ and to die (in my present body) is gain.” Physical death for the Christian is possible. But what comes after that is gain. Let's listen to what Paul taught the church in Corinth letter ii chapter 5:8; “...we are of good courage, I say, now prefer to be absent from the body (present flesh and blood) and to be at home with the Lord.”... (in heaven)...and that is indeed gain for the saved.

But “If one lives according to the flesh he will die” (in his present body and he will die spiritually...the second death...the eternal death in the lake of fire, hell (Rev.20).

Said another way...If you live according to the flesh you are unregenerate ... unsaved ... and you will die eternally without God.

That is...the ones who live in unrepentant sinning are living contrary to the grace of God...which means they are lost and in need of being born again.

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DAY NINE

ROMANS 8:13

One more thing...what does it mean to “put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit”?

I agree with John MacArthur’s thoughts in his Study Bible. “It doesn’t mean that when sin approaches us the Holy Spirit suddenly makes us perfect. It doesn’t mean that when temptation to sin arises that the Spirit wants us to remain idle and let God take over. And it doesn’t mean that the Spirit takes us to a higher level of holiness that separates us from the reality of sin. But rather putting to death the deeds of the body refers to the Spirit within us providing us with energy and power to gradually and continually (imperfectly) kill our sinning as we obey the commands of Scripture”...that is the Holy Spirit sanctifying us all the way to heaven.

“Father, thank You for Your Word...now please keep us alert to Your will and strengthen us to be doers of Your Word.”



DAY TEN

ROMANS 8:14

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God.”

The Holy Spirit leads believers in Jesus! And that daily leading would be the mark of the true sons and daughters of God.

I can't help but remember how the children of God were led by the Lord their God out of Egypt and through the wilderness all the way to the promised land. That's what God has always done for His kids.

The Holy Spirit, who indwells followers of Christ, leads those disciples throughout their lives and ministries on earth.

So who are the sons and daughters of God?...All who are led by the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit leads us, friends. And He always leads us toward the Lord and His truth and His righteousness. And He does this leading not so that we can double down and try harder at obeying God. But rather, the Spirit guides us so that we can truly trust that God's desire for us is our ultimate joy and happiness in Him.

“Thanks, Holy Spirit, for infilling us to worship the Father and to bear witness to Christ in the world... and all of that to bring the most glory to God our Savior.”



DAY ELEVEN

ROMANS 8:15

“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.”

Sons and Daughters of God...

...are not slaves but freemen...no longer held captive by sin and death...but free to love, worship, and serve God with all their hearts.

Sons and daughters of God have received the Spirit of adoption... adoption into God’s forever family...whereby they cry out in connected prayer, Abba Father.

What a confidence the Spirit gives the spiritually adopted to passionately cry out to Almighty God and express love and dependence upon their new Father. How awesome is that.

In the days of Christ, Jews only allowed freemen to use the term Abba Father. Slaves were forbidden to use it. Jesus used that very term of endearment in His Lord’s prayer toward His heavenly Father...“Our Abba, hallowed be thy Name...”

“O Abba, You have set us free to worship You and enjoy You...Abba, You have adopted us into Your family and into Your kingdom... through Jesus Christ the Son...we humbly and excitedly thank You for such a privileged relationship. How awesome You are.!”



DAY TWELVE

ROMANS 8:16-17

“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 of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in Order that we may also be glorified with him.”

Who Bears Witness with our spirit that we are the children of God?

The Holy Spirit within us...

The Spirit testifies to our spirit that we are the children of God. Without the Spirit's testimony to our inner man, we would have no confidence to call God, Father. And neither could we run to Him with confidence for grace and love and forgiveness.

And if we are children of God, then who else are we?

We are Heirs of God, and fellow heirs with Christ.

How spiritually rich are the children of God?

We are as rich as Jesus!

“Father, You are our Father...The Spirit told us. And we are humbled and very grateful. You are our Father and our Almighty God. Being your children is not to be ignored or disrespected, but to be amazed by every day. Help us to never forget that, Thanks Father . Love You!”



DAY THIRTEEN

ROMANS 8:17

“...and if children...then fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”

What Does Paul Say About Being Glorified with Jesus?

It is related to suffering with Christ for the sake of the gospel.

In Christ makes us one with Him...as Jesus lived, the Spirit will live in and through us...all the way to our own cross...our own suffering for following Him.

So the road to being glorified with Christ will at least include suffering for the sake of Christ and His gospel.

“Father, thanks for giving us the Spirit to live in us the courageous life of Jesus...especially when we are called to suffer for the gospel... that You would be glorified.”



DAY FOURTEEN

ROMANS 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

How did Paul consider his sufferings?

After all of his beatings by the Jews...after all the whippings and scars upon his body...after being stoned and left for dead...after three ship wrecks and days and nights afloat at sea...after several unjust imprisonments including stocks and chains...after experiencing perils in the cities and perils in the wilderness...after all of that and much more...

...Paul thought that his sufferings on earth, while spreading the gospel around the world, were not worthy to be compared with the glory that God would show and share with him both on earth and in heaven one day.

Through all kinds of dangers, oppositions, and God sized interventions, Paul served the purposes of his Lord...always giving praise to God for the privilege of preaching the gospel.

“Father, use us one more time to be actively on mission with You... loving people and sharing our testimonies of Jesus with those You place in our lives. Thanks Father...no matter what!”



DAY FIFTEEN

ROMANS 8:19

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.”

Just What Is Creation Waiting For?

The creation of God...like the snow capped Alps...like the ocean waves as far as you can see...like the thick green forests surrounding lakes teeming with fish and water fowl gliding over the lake and into the trees where they nest...like the jungles of Southeast Asia, filled with exotic animals nowhere else to be seen and scented sculpted flowers of colors you won't find anywhere else in the world...all of this beauty and majestic presence and much, much more is from God...a gift to us...

But know this, that which God originally created for man was infinitely more beautiful, more breathtaking, more captivating than what we can see and experience now. What we have now has experienced the curse of sin just as Adam and Eve and all of humankind. Satan's slimy presence has touched all of nature.

But...a day is coming...when nature too will be a part of God making all things new.

And that day is called “The revealing of the sons of God.”...The day when God reveals who His children really are...

That will include Jew and Gentile...the chosen and the called...the justified and the glorified...all predestined by God for His kingdom even before the foundations of the world.

“Father, what a day that will be...the new heaven and new earth...and as nature eagerly longs for it, so stir our hearts to long for that day too.”



DAY SIXTEEN

ROMANS 8:18-21

“That’s why I don’t think there’s any comparison between the present
Hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can
Hardly wait for what’s coming next. Everything in creation is being
more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the
creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the
Glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.
(MSG)

The Glorious Times Ahead

What exactly is that?

God’s awesome kingdom reign in the new Jerusalem within the new
heaven and new earth...

...only those whose names are found in the Lamb’s book of life will
live and worship and serve there....

Within the new Jerusalem there is found no temple for God the
Father and Jesus the Lamb will be the light in God’s eternal kingdom
in the new heaven and earth...

The gates of God’s kingdom will never be shut...the nations will walk
in the light of Christ and will bring their splendor into the City to
bless all those residing in the four square new Jerusalem...

The new heaven and new earth will be filled with the glory of God as
found in his own eternal and majestic perfection...as found in the
resurrected and perfected bodies of all the saints who have trusted
in God through the ages.

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DAY SIXTEEN

ROMANS 8:18-21

The joyful anticipation should only heighten for believers in Jesus Christ everywhere.

The created world itself is about to burst forth in exuberant praise and worship just thinking about what is to come when the earth will indeed be filled with God's glory...as it was forever meant to be.

God Himself holds his created world back until just the right and perfect time when the Lamb makes all things new!!!!

"Father, what a day that will be...nothing to compare it to...only our Spirit filled imaginations can conjure up the splendor that you yourself will share with your new creations for eternity in a brand new heaven and a brand new earth to explore. Can hardly wait, Father...thanks seems inadequate... but thanks anyway."



DAY SEVENTEEN

ROMANS 8:22-23

“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 first fruits of the Spirit groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

The Spirit gave Paul a vivid picture to help explain his message concerning the times of waiting on God to finish His work on earth... and usher in His Kingdom in a new heaven and new earth. “We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth.” The sin stained creation of God on earth waits for the birthing of the last Jews and Gentiles elected and called into the Kingdom of God. The spiritual regenerations of multitudes of people around the world for these thousands of years have been awesome but have also been costly and painful for the apostles, the prophets, and pastors, and teachers, and missionaries, and churches and all the individual witnesses at home and abroad. Waiting is hard... waiting on God is hard. It can even include much pain. But it will be worth it.

“And we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit groan inwardly.” Who is the ‘we waiting’ that Paul refers to here? I believe the clue is in the words “first fruits of the Spirit.” Pentecost was and is the Jewish feast of first fruits. The first fruits that showed on the vine or on the tree or in the fields were celebrated because they were a promise of a great harvest to come and to enjoy. I join the English reformed pastor, John Gill of the mid 1700s, who preached and wrote that the first spiritual fruit of the gospel, as connected with the Spirit’s outpouring on Pentecost, were Jewish converts to Jesus. I believe that Paul was saying that creation was not the only voices waiting and groaning for God to finish His perfect spiritual work on earth that would pave the way for the Kingdom of God.

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DAY SEVENTEEN

ROMANS 8:22-23

Jewish believers were groaning from and for more spiritual births among the Jews around the world. Paul may have been the apostle to the Gentiles, but He wrote that Jewish converts to Christ were eager for more spiritual births among the Israeli nation.

And what especially was Paul and other Jewish believers waiting eagerly for?...“their adoption as sons, the redemption of their bodies.” I like what John MacArthur has to say here. “Adoption: the process that started with God’s choice (Eph. 1:5)...and then the actual becoming His adopted children through Christ’s death on the cross (Gal. 4:5-7)...and culminating in ones glorification, the full realization of our inheritance in Christ...brand new spirit, soul, and body...in the new heaven and new earth.

“Wow Father...Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...”



DAY EIGHTEEN

ROMANS 8:24-25

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.

In what Hope were we saved...?

The hope of adoption into God's forever family...

The hope of life after death...

In this hope we were saved!

How do we wait for the hope yet to come?

...With God given expectancy and His gift of love which is patient!

Like a pregnant woman waiting for the birth of her child ...waiting to see and hold her new born...she is not diminished in her waiting... her joyous anticipation is enlarged greatly!!!

'We are on our way home, Father. It's getting closer everyday. Thanks for preparing it for us. In the meantime, right here, strengthen us to work with you and enjoy the brethren on mission with us.
In Jesus' Name, amen!



DAY NINETEEN

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 groaning 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.”

Who helps us in our weakness, brethren?

Who helps us when we get tired of waiting on God's kingdom to come?

We don't even know how we should pray for ourselves.

It's the Holy Spirit within us who helps us, fellow disciples.

He intercedes before the Father for the saints according to the will Of God...

He intercedes before the Father for exactly what we need in order to wait on God and persevere on His mission...

...that is comforting...that is strengthening...that is an awesome faith building fact!!

“Thanks, Father...Thanks, Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to live in our lives!!”



DAY TWENTY

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 first born among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Friends, there is much more hope and comfort in Christ than we can imagine.

God causes all things to work together for good on behalf of those who are called according to His purpose.

That is you and me brethren. Let us cling to it in faith.

And whom did God call to be a part of his kingdom, conformed to the image of his Son and on mission with Jesus?...

...All those He predestined to be his...to be justified (declared righteous), and to be glorified (seated with Christ in the heavenlies... yes, even before the foundations of the earth were laid...)

“Awesome and awesome...O God...We are grateful for such a Savior, and such a ‘sure salvation’ in Christ our Lord. Thanks again Father. We love you...help us to love you more.”



DAY TWENTY-ONE

ROMANS 8:31-32

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?

“What shall we say to these things?” ‘These things’ could be the totality of Paul’s letter thus far. But RC Sproul picks out Romans 1:16,17: “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. As it is written the righteous shall live by faith.” In other words, Sproul believed that the entirety of the Roman letter embraced the central theme of the gospel...“free grace to lost sinners through the righteousness of God in Christ. So what about these things?

“If God is for us...if God is for our salvation, who can be against us?...” By the way, the Greek construction is better translated, ‘Since’ God is for us, our salvation, who can be against us?’ I believe Paul was making his case for the spiritual security of all who are in Christ. I am reminded of one of the Servant’s songs...one of the Messiah/Jesus songs in Isaiah 50:6-8: “I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me?” Jesus sang it and suffered it on the way to His death on Golgatha’s hill. And as He hoped, the Father was near and vindicated Him with the empty tomb. The Father was for Jesus and He is for us too...from here to heaven. And if we are still not convinced, let’s read verse 32.

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DAY TWENTY-ONE

ROMANS 8:31-32

“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?” I can’t help but remember the text in Genesis 22 where Abraham, in obedience to God, was willing to offer his son Isaac as a worship sacrifice to God. At the last moment, Abraham was not required to give up his son. But not so with the Heavenly Father and His beloved Son. The Father did not withhold His Son from death for us and our eternal salvation. And that would not only include a home in heaven forever, but also everything that we would need to become like Jesus on our pilgrimage and mission with Him here on earth.

“Oh Father, may we never forget that you are always for us...when it seems like all things are against us, the truth is, you are there and You are for us. And if we need persuasion, we will preach the gospel to ourselves of how You saved us by giving Jesus as the full price for our eternal life. Love You Father...In Your Son’s name we pray...”



DAY TWENTY-TWO

ROMANS 8:33

Romans 8:33

“Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.

The elect of God are a certain number of persons that God has loved and chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world for eternal life and spiritual salvation. The elect are peculiarly God’s, known by faith, hope, and love in the Lord above all things. And these qualities seen in the elect were and are not by their own perfections, but strictly by the grace of God Himself.

Now, who shall bring a charge against God’s chosen in Christ? For one, satan has and still does accuse the Jobs in the world before the Father. And he is probably just as stupid as he was back in Job’s day. Let’s read a prophesy of a day that is still to come found in Revelation 12:10,11: “And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, “...the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down...he who accuses them day and night before our God...(he is) conquered by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony...” Yes, satan’s accusations against God’s chosen ones have always been ineffective because of the blood of the lamb, the Lord Jesus, who was slain (in the heart of God) before the foundation of the world. Rev. 13:8.

According to our text, it is God who justifies. He declares elect sinners righteous. And we say how can God do that and still be a just God. Doesn’t Romans 6:23 say that the wages of sin is death? Yes. And doesn’t Ezekiel 18:20 say that the soul that sins, it shall die? Yes. So how can God justify elect sinners? Answer...God would have to die in the sinner’s place. And Jesus did just that on the cross. Friends, God justifies us through His Son’s righteous sacrifice on the Cross...taking our sins upon Himself and giving us His righteousness...His right standing with God forever. Hallelujah!



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DAY TWENTY-TWO

ROMANS 8:33

“Father, since we have been justified by faith, we have eternal peace with You through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1). In this position of being justified before You, we have access by faith into Your grace in which we stand (Rom 5:2)...and a childhood picture comes to mind... my little sister Janis and I grinning as we stood in a puddle of water on the kitchen floor that continued to grow bigger as the water rolled off our rain soaked bodies...giggling and pleased with the smile of our patient mom. Oh Father, how patient You are with us. Thanks. You are the One who justifies, forgives sin, and rains down grace everyday and all day upon our lives. Thanks, Father.”



DAY TWENTY-THREE

ROMANS 8:34-39

Romans 8:34-39

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

No one can condemn us who are in Christ. No one can declare us guilty and sentence us to eternal punishment. Paul lists four reasons for our assurance of no eternal judgment: a. Christ's death... He made atonement for our sins on the cross...He paid our debt by dying in our stead. b. Christ's resurrection...The Father verified Christ's message concerning the saving value of Himself, of His life and His death for His chosen ones. c. Christ's exalted position...at the right hand of the Father at His ascension from the Mount of Olives after His resurrection ministry days. d. Christ's continual intercession...Whoever the accuser of the brethren might be before the Father, Jesus intercedes and simply shows His hands and feet and scarred brow and back to the Father, reminding the court that His suffering covered the sins of the chosen ones...He took their guilt and punishment...making them as righteous as He is. Who can condemn us. No one. Thanks Lord Jesus!

35,36,37. "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."

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DAY TWENTY-THREE

ROMANS 8:34-39

Paul is not talking about our love for Christ, but His love for us. When sufferings such as the ones mentioned above crash down on us we are tempted to believe that Christ's love for us as changed... that it has gone away. Let us read as "it is written" again from Psalm 44:... "we are being killed all the day long..." Paul learned from the songs of David that the sufferings of God's faithful were not an unexpected novelty for them. Suffering was the common path for God's people all the way to sanctification...growing up spiritually... into the likeness of Christ. Paul says No! These sufferings shall not separate us from the love of Christ...ever! The Spirit in us makes us more than conquerors over pain and death through Christ who loved us. That's true Paul. The Spirit says so in us too!

38,39. "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."

And friends, I can't say it any better than that!

This list of experiences and persons that can't separate the believer from God's love in Christ was not just a theory to Paul. It was personal testimony from one who had personally survived these assaults upon his person and emerged triumphant, more than conqueror through the Spirit of Christ within him.

"Now that is a great way to live! Thanks Father...Thanks Jesus... Thanks Spirt!"

