

# CLASS 8: VICTORY THROUGH THE SPIRIT (Romans 8)

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## 5. From justification to glory, ch. 8

Paul does not conclude on a negative note. While sin does continue to exert its power, we have a greater power within us, and we shall finally overcome totally.

The believer comes to faith by the Holy Spirit, given in regeneration. The Holy Spirit (mentioned many times in Rom 8) indwells us, overcoming the sinful nature more and more. This is the power that raised Jesus from the dead, and will raise us too (v. 11). The Spirit assures us that we are God's children, heirs of eternal life.

The glory that is coming far surpasses present sufferings. The whole creation waits for the new age, inaugurated when Christ returns to earth.

Meanwhile, we are sure of God's care, protection, and preserving power. If we have been chosen to salvation and have been justified, we shall certainly be glorified. This assurance gives us blessed peace in this world filled with enemies and trials. We are always and will always be in the love of God.

### The Gift of the Spirit

*8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> 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.*

"Spirit" – 21 times in Rom 8

Christianity offers power to live, not just rules or techniques

### *The Spirit's authorization (v. 3)*

Condemned sin "in the flesh" – his flesh (Rom 6:9-10; Heb 10:10; 1 Pet 3:18)

### *The Spirit's condemnation (vv. 1, 3)*

Condemned (*katakrino*) sin

### ***The Spirit's liberation (v. 2)***

"You" – singular, personal liberation

"In Christ Jesus" modifies "made you free" – liberty of a certain type

"Law of sin" – Cf. Rom 6:11-14, 20-22

"Law of death" – Cf. Rom 8:10-11

### ***The Spirit's enablement (v. 4)***

"In order that" – purpose of v. 3

"Righteous requirement of the law" (*dikaionoma*), in Rom 2:26 (not justification – 5:16)

### **The mind of the Spirit**

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> 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.

### ***Direction of the mind (v. 5)***

"Set their minds" (*phroneo*) – think, reason

### ***Destination of the mind (v. 6)***

Dead mind → "deader" mind in next life (cf. C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*)

Mind of life and peace (accepts reality, in harmony with it)

### ***Downfall of the mind (vv. 7-8)***

Flesh is dead (Eph 2:1, 5), hostile (Rom 1)

Hates God and his Son (Marx, Paul before conversion)

Cannot please God (Paul's earlier life "dung" in Phil 3:8)

### ***Distinction of the mind (v. 9)***

Begins series of 6 "ifs"

Salvation makes the difference, not a "second blessing" (John 3; Eph 2:20-22; 4:3-13)

### ***Deliverance of the mind (vv. 10-11)***

Dead body vs. live spirit (cf. Rom 7)

Future resurrection in v. 11b; perfect body and perfect mind

### ***Debt of the mind (vv. 12-13)***

Obligation not to flesh, a cruel master

Obligation to the Spirit, to please him, not grieve him (Eph 4:30)

Duty to "mortify" (put to death) the sinful members

Compare Augustine's convicting verse, Rom 13:14

## **The Spirit of adoption**

*<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> 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!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> 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.*

Indwelling Spirit produces assurance of adoption (John 1:12)

### ***Adoption brings life (v. 14)***

Cf. Charles Hodge, *The Way of Life*

"For" relates to v. 13; sonship gives the right and power to life

OT – 3 adopted people preserved: Moses, Hadad's son Genubath (1 Kgs 11:20), Esther

### ***Adoption brings assurance (vv. 15-16)***

15 – mind of bondage ("again" implies that readers are Christians)

Vv. 15b-16 – spirit of adoption

“Adoption” (*huiothesia*, literally “placing as a son”) – Eph 1:5; found frequently in non-literary papyri from NT times

Adopted children receive benefits from parents: appearance, attitude, assurance

### ***Adoption brings an inheritance (v. 17)***

Inherit “from” the Father, “with” Christ

“And if” = “seeing that” (*eiper*), see v. 9

### **Our earnest expectation**

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

### ***Our knowledge of the future***

V. 23 – new position

- Adoption (1:4)
- Redemption of the body (1 Cor 15:42-44, 51-54)

V. 21 – new liberty

- No curse (Gen 3:17-19; 9:2-3)
- Glorious liberty (Isa 11)

Vv. 18-19 – new glory

- Revealed in us (cf. v. 17)
- Revealed as sons of God

### ***Our desire for the future***

Creation’s desire:

- 19, eager expectation

- 20, present futility (*mataiotes*)
- 22, groaning, childbirth

Christian's desire:

- 18, anticipate with mind
- 23, long for with the heart ("groan," *stenazo*; cf. 2 Cor 5:2, 4)

Our attitude in view of the future—realize the following:

- 20, God is sovereign now
- 23, longings come from the Holy Spirit
- 24, hope led us to salvation
- 25, hope gives us patience, endurance (*hupomone*)
- Therefore, be content (not satisfied) and patient (not passive)

### The Spirit's intercession

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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.

V. 26a – our weakness in prayer

V. 26b – Holy Spirit's help in prayer

- "Likewise" – groaning (v. 23) and hope (v. 24)
- "Help" – Luke 10:40
- "Make intercession"
- *Against* in Rom 11:2
- *For* in Rom 8:34; John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7
- "Unspoken groanings"

V. 27 – Father's hearing our prayer

- Knows the Spirit (opposite of 1 Cor 2:10-11)
- "That" or "because" (*hoti*); probably "that"
- Prayer will be answered (1 John 5:14-15)

## A tapestry of blessing

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

V. 28, the principle

Vv. 29-30, the reason: the same people

The unbroken chain:

- Foreknow (same as “fore-love,” “decide in favor” – Granville Sharp rule in Acts 2:23)
- Predestine (Eph 1:5, 11)
- Call (= effectual call = regeneration; required; Greek of Rom 6:16-18)
- Justify (Rom 3:24, 26, 28, etc.)
- Glorify (proleptic [futuristic] aorist, “used to describe an event that is not yet past as though it were already completed” [Wallace, *GGBB* 563])

“Conformed to Christ’s image” – good for us

“Firstborn” – glory for Christ

## More than conquerors

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> 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? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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.

## Our enemies

Charge and condemn us (vv. 33, 34)

Persecute us (v. 36; quoting Ps 44:22-26)

Try to separate us from God's love (vv. 35, 38-39)

- Attacks on body
- Attacks on soul

### *Our victory*

The stronghold

God (vv. 31-33) → love (v. 39)

Christ (v. 34) → love (v. 35)

Love of both in v. 37

The victory

Full justification (vv. 33-34)

Jesus in prophecy makes same claim (Isa 50:7-9; cf. context in vv. 5-6)

Full blessing (v. 32)

Full assurance and security (vv. 37, 39)

This blessing comes only in Christ (v. 39)