



CROSSWINDS  LIFE NIGHT
LIFE  GROUP

A STUDY ON ROMANS 8

ASSURANCE
not
INSURANCE

BIBLE



Introduction to the Bible Study on Romans 8

Welcome to our Bible study on Romans 8, a chapter often celebrated as one of the most profound and comforting in the entire Bible. As we embark on this journey through Romans 8, it's essential to understand the context and the depth of what the Apostle Paul conveys in this powerful segment of Scripture.

Background of Romans 8:

Romans, written by the Apostle Paul, is a book rich in theological insight and doctrine. It's often considered Paul's magnum opus in terms of theological depth and breadth. Romans 8 sits at the heart of this letter, providing a climax of thought that began in earlier chapters.

In the first seven chapters of Romans, Paul lays out a comprehensive case for the human condition – our entrapment in sin and the law, and the subsequent need for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. He elaborates on the struggles that believers face, even after accepting Christ, particularly the struggle against sin.

Themes in Romans 8:

As we delve into Romans 8, we encounter themes of profound theological importance:

1. **Life in the Spirit:** One of the central themes of Romans 8 is the contrast between living according to the flesh and living by the Spirit. Paul emphasizes the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.
2. **Assurance of God's Love:** This chapter reassures believers of God's unchanging love and the security of their salvation in Christ Jesus. It's a message of comfort, especially in times of doubt and hardship.
3. **Future Glory:** Paul also speaks about the future glory that awaits believers, a hope that sustains us through the trials and tribulations of this life.
4. **Victory in Christ:** The chapter culminates in a triumphant affirmation of the believer's victory over life's trials through Jesus Christ.

As we explore Romans 8, remember that this chapter is not just a theological treatise but also a source of immense practical and spiritual encouragement. It addresses fundamental questions about our identity, our struggles, and our future hope.

Approach to the Study:

Each lesson in this study will focus on a specific passage from Romans 8, helping us understand its meaning and how it applies to our lives. We will explore the richness of Paul's writing, understand the profound truths he presents, and reflect on how these truths impact our daily walk with God.

This study is designed to be interactive and reflective, encouraging questions, discussions, and personal insights. As we go through each lesson, let's open our hearts and minds to the transformative power of God's Word, allowing it to shape us, comfort us, and guide us in our faith journey.

Lesson 1: Romans 8:1-4

"Prayer & Care – Ask Everyone These Questions, Then Pray for Each Other in Pairs or as a Group

- How was following this week?
- How was fishing this week?
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Ice Breaker Question:

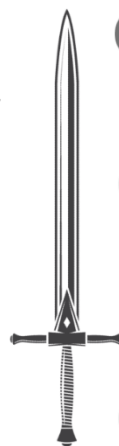
"Have you ever experienced a situation where you felt truly free after being forgiven or absolved from a mistake? How did that feel?"

Verse Text (ESV):

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."

SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD

Sins to avoid?
Promises to claim?
Examples to follow?
Commands to obey?



1 What do we learn about
GOD?

3 What do we need to
OBEY?

S.P.E.C

What do we learn about

2 **PEOPLE?**

Supplemental Questions:

1. How does the concept of "no condemnation" change our view of God's character and our relationship with Him?
2. In what ways does the law of the Spirit of life differ from the law of sin and death?
3. Discuss the significance of God sending His Son in the "likeness of sinful flesh."
4. What does it mean to walk "according to the Spirit" rather than "according to the flesh" in practical terms?
5. How can we apply the truth that the righteous requirement of the law is fulfilled in us through Christ in our daily lives?

Lesson 2: Romans 8:5-11

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Can you recall a moment when your mindset or attitude significantly influenced your actions or decisions? How did your thoughts at the time impact your behavior?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:5-11: *"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. 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."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How can we practically set our minds on the things of the Spirit in our daily lives?
2. Discuss the contrast between 'life and peace' and 'death' as presented in the text. What does this mean for believers?
3. What does it mean to be 'in the flesh' versus 'in the Spirit'? How does this distinction affect our relationship with God?
4. In what ways does the presence of the Spirit in a believer's life manifest itself?
5. Reflect on the promise that "he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies." How does this assurance affect your perspective on life, struggles, and mortality?

Lesson 3: Romans 8:12-13

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Have you ever had to make a conscious decision to give up something harmful for something better, even if it was difficult? How did you feel during and after making that decision?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:12-13: *"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."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. What does it mean to be a debtor 'not to the flesh' in the context of our Christian walk?
2. How can we identify if we are living according to the flesh or according to the Spirit?
3. Discuss the concept of 'putting to death the deeds of the body.' What are some practical steps in doing this?
4. In what ways does this passage challenge our daily choices and behaviors?
5. Reflect on the promise of life for those who live by the Spirit. How does this shape our understanding of true life in Christ?

Lesson 4: Romans 8:14-17

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Ice Breaker Question:

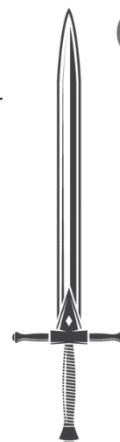
"Can you share an experience where you felt a strong sense of belonging or adoption, like becoming part of a family or a close-knit community?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:14-17: *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 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."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. What does it mean to be 'led by the Spirit of God' and how does this manifest in a believer's life?
2. Discuss the contrast between the 'spirit of slavery' and the 'Spirit of adoption.' How does this change our relationship with God?
3. How does understanding our identity as 'children of God' and 'heirs of God' impact our daily lives and decisions?
4. Reflect on the phrase 'Abba! Father!' What does this intimate form of address signify about our relationship with God?
5. The passage mentions suffering with Christ to be glorified with Him. How should we understand and embrace this aspect of our Christian journey?

Lesson 5: Romans 8:18-25

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Can you recall a time when you anticipated something greatly, maybe a major life event or a special occasion? How did that sense of anticipation affect your actions and mindset?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:18-25: *"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. 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 first fruits 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."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul's perspective on the 'sufferings of this present time' help us deal with our own struggles?
2. In what ways is creation described as waiting for the revealing of the sons of God? What does this imply about the scope of God's redemption?
3. Discuss the concept of 'groaning' in this passage. How does it relate to both creation and believers?
4. What does it mean to wait 'with patience' for what we hope for? How can we cultivate this kind of patience?
5. Reflect on the phrase 'the redemption of our bodies.' What does this promise mean for believers, both in the present and the future?

Lesson 6: Romans 8:26-27

Ice Breaker Question:

"Have you ever been in a situation where you found it difficult to express your thoughts or feelings, yet someone understood you perfectly? How did that make you feel?"

Verse Text (ESV):

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."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How does the Holy Spirit help us in our weakness, particularly in the context of prayer?
2. What comfort can we derive from knowing that the Spirit intercedes for us?
3. Discuss the meaning of 'groanings too deep for words.' How does this deepen our understanding of the Spirit's work in us?
4. Reflect on the role of the Spirit in aligning our prayers with God's will. How does this influence our approach to prayer?
5. Considering that God searches hearts and knows the mind of the Spirit, how does this affect your view of God's omniscience and care for us?

Lesson 7: Romans 8:28-30

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Can you share an experience where something initially seemed negative or challenging, but later you realized it contributed to something good or positive in your life?"

Verse Text (ESV):

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."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. What does it mean that 'all things work together for good' for those who love God? Can you provide an example from your life or from a biblical character?
2. Discuss the concept of being 'called according to his purpose.' How does this calling manifest in a believer's life?
3. How can understanding God's sovereignty in foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification influence our trust and reliance on Him?
4. What does it mean to be conformed to the image of Christ, and how does this process occur in a believer's life?
5. Reflect on the promise of glorification for believers. How does this future hope impact our present living and attitudes?

Lesson 8: Romans 8:31-34

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Have you ever felt an overwhelming sense of support or advocacy from someone in a challenging situation? How did that change your perspective or response to the challenge?"

Verse Text (ESV):

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."*

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Supplemental Questions:

1. How does the assurance that 'God is for us' impact our faith and daily living?
2. Reflect on the significance of God not sparing His own Son. What does this tell us about God's love and commitment towards us?
3. In light of the text, how should we respond to accusations or feelings of condemnation?
4. Discuss the role of Christ's intercession for us. How does knowing Christ intercedes for us at the right hand of God affect our confidence in our relationship with God?
5. Considering the depth of Christ's sacrifice and ongoing intercession, how can we live in a way that honors this profound truth?

Lesson 9: Romans 8:35-37

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Have you ever faced a situation where your commitment to a cause or a relationship was tested? How did you find strength to persevere?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:35-37: *"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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Supplemental Questions:

1. In what ways can the trials listed in this passage (tribulation, distress, persecution, etc.) impact a believer's faith, and how does Christ's love change that impact?
2. Discuss the meaning of being 'more than conquerors.' How does this apply to challenges we face in our spiritual journey?
3. Reflect on the phrase 'through him who loved us.' How does understanding the depth of Christ's love for us empower us in difficult times?
4. What comfort and assurance can we draw from the rhetorical question, 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?'
5. How can this passage encourage believers who are currently facing hardships or persecution?

Lesson 10: Romans 8:38-39

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Ice Breaker Question:

"Is there something in your life that you believe in unconditionally? What gives you such strong confidence in it?"

Verse Text (ESV):

Romans 8:38-39: *"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."*

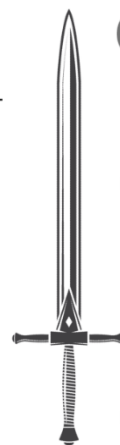
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Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul's certainty about the unbreakable bond of God's love challenge or encourage your own faith?
2. Discuss the various elements listed (death, life, angels, rulers, anything in creation etc.). Why is it significant that none of these can separate us from God's love?
3. Reflect on how the assurance of God's love in Christ can impact our response to life's uncertainties and fears.
4. In practical terms, how can this profound assurance of God's love affect our daily attitudes and actions?
5. Considering the comprehensive nature of this promise, how can we live in a way that reflects our security in God's love?