



No Condemnation No Separation No Defeat

Romans 8 Bible Study



ROMANS 8:

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT VS. LIFE IN THE FLESH:

1. NO CONDEMNATION (ROMANS 8:1)
2. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN LIFE IN THE SPIRIT AND LIFE IN THE FLESH (ROMANS 8:2-4)
3. THE FUTILITY OF TRYING TO PLEASE GOD IN THE FLESH (ROMANS 8:5-8)
4. CHRISTIANS EMPOWERED TO LIVE IN THE SPIRIT (ROMANS 8:9-11)

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ROMANS 8:

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ROMANS 8:

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ROMANS 8:

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ROMANS 8:1-11:

- 1** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- 2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
- 3** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
- 4** That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- 5** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
- 6** For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
- 7** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.
- 8** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
- 10** And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
- 11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

ROMANS 8:

NO CONDEMNATION:

There is therefore now no condemnation: The simple declaration of **no condemnation** comes to those who are **in Christ Jesus**. Since the Father does not condemn Jesus, neither can He condemn those are **in** Him. They *are* not condemned, they *will* not be condemned, and they *cannot* be condemned.

If we are one with Jesus and He is our head, we can't be condemned. You can't acquit the head and condemn the hand. You can't drown the foot as long as the head is out of water. Joined to Him, we hear the verdict: "no condemnation."

If you are not in Jesus Christ, there is condemnation for you. "It is no pleasant task to us to have to speak of this matter; but who are we that we should ask for pleasant tasks? What God hath witnessed in Scripture is the sum and substance of what the Lord's servants are to testify to the people. If you are not in Christ Jesus, and are walking after the flesh, you have not escaped from condemnation." (Spurgeon)

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ROMANS 8:

NO CONDEMNATION:

While it is true that those who are **in Christ** *should* not and *do* not consistently **walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit**, this is not a *condition* for their status of **no condemnation**. Their position in Jesus is the reason for the standing of **no condemnation**.

We receive this glorious declaration from God's court: "no condemnation." We don't receive it because we don't deserve condemnation; we certainly do deserve condemnation. We receive it because Jesus bore the condemnation we deserved, and our identity is now found in Him. As He is condemned no more, neither are we.



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ROMANS 8:

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT VS. LIFE IN THE FLESH:

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death:

The **law of the sin and death** was a strong and seemingly absolute law. Every sin we commit and every cemetery we see proves it. But **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ** is stronger still, and the law of the Spirit frees us from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1 tells us we are free from the guilt of sin. Romans 8:2 tells us we are free from the power of sin.

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh: The **law** can do many things. It can guide us, teach us, and tell us about God's character. It can show us God's standard, but it cannot give us the **power** to live pleasing to God. The Law was separate from the empowerment we receive through the Holy Spirit.

Morris, quoting Manson: "Moses' law has right but not might; Sin's law has might but not right; the law of the Spirit has both right and might."

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ROMANS 8:

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT VS. LIFE IN THE FLESH:

In that it was weak through the flesh: The law is weak because it speaks to our **flesh**. It comes to fleshly men and speaks to them as fleshly men. But the work of the Spirit transforms us by the crucifixion of the old man, and it imparts the new man - a principle higher than the flesh.



"A vine does not produce grapes by Act of Parliament; they are the fruit of the vine's own life; so the conduct which conforms to the standard of the Kingdom is not produced by any demand, not even God's, but is the fruit of that divine nature which God gives as the result of what he has done in and by Christ." (Hooke)

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ROMANS 8:

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT VS. LIFE IN THE FLESH:

What the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son: The law could not *defeat* sin; it could only *detect* sin. Only Jesus can *defeat* sin, and He did defeat sin completely through His work on the cross.

By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh: In order to defeat sin, Jesus had to identify with those bound by it, by coming **in the likeness of sinful flesh**. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul carefully chose his words here, indicating that Jesus was not sinful flesh, but He identified with it entirely.

He condemned sin in the flesh: Sin was **condemned** in the **flesh** of Jesus as He bore the condemnation we deserved. Since we are *in Christ*, we have already had that condemnation come and pass us over.



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ROMANS 8:

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT VS. LIFE IN THE FLESH:

That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us: Because Jesus fulfilled the **righteous requirement of the law**, and because we are in Christ, **we fulfill the law**. The law is fulfilled in us in regard to *obedience*, because Jesus righteousness stands for ours. The law is fulfilled in us in regard to *punishment*, because any punishment demanded by the law was poured out upon Jesus.

In us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit: The people who enjoy this are those **who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**. Their life is marked by obedience to the Holy Spirit, not by obedience to the flesh.

"Observe carefully that the flesh is there: he does not walk after it, but it is there. It is there, striving and warring, vexing and grieving, and it will be there till he is taken up into heaven. It is there as an alien and detested force, and not there so as to have dominion over him. He does not walk after it, nor practically obey it. He does not accept it as his guide, nor allow it to drive him into rebellion." (Spurgeon)

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ROMANS 8:

THE FUTILITY OF TRYING TO PLEASE GOD IN THE FLESH:

Set their minds on the things of the flesh: Paul gives an easy way for us to determine if we walk in the Spirit or walk in the flesh - to simply see where our *mind* is **set**. The mind is the strategic battleground where the flesh and the Spirit fight.

We shouldn't think of those who **set their minds on the things of the flesh** are the notorious sinners. They may be noble people who have good intentions. Peter meant well when he told Jesus to avoid the cross. Jesus responded to Peter with these strong words: *you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.* (Matthew 16:23)

For to be carnally minded is death: When our minds are set on the things of the flesh (**carnally minded**) we bring **death** into our lives. But walking in the Spirit brings **life and peace**.

We must, however, guard against a false spirituality and see that Paul is talking about the flesh insofar as it is an instrument in our rebellion against God. Paul is not talking about normal physical and emotional needs that we may think about, only the sinful gratification of those needs.

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ROMANS 8:

THE FUTILITY OF TRYING TO PLEASE GOD IN THE FLESH:

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: The flesh battles against God, because it does not want to be crucified and surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ. It does not want to live out Galatians 5:24: *those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires*. In this battle to tame the flesh, the law is powerless.



Paul didn't say that the carnal mind was *at* enmity with God - he put it even stronger than that. **The carnal mind is enmity against God.** "It is not black, but blackness; it is not *at* enmity, but *enmity* itself; it is not corrupt, but corruption; it is not rebellious, it is rebellion: it is not wicked, it is wickedness itself. The heart, though it be deceitful, is positively deceit; it is evil in the concrete, sin in the essence, it is the distillation, the quintessence of all things that are vile; it is not envious against God, it is envy; it is not *at* enmity, it is actual enmity." (Spurgeon)

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ROMANS 8:

THE FUTILITY OF TRYING TO PLEASE GOD IN THE FLESH:

It is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be: We can try to do good in life without being **subject to the law of God**. We may hope to put God "in debt" to us through the doing of good works, putting God under obligation to us. But it doesn't work. **In the flesh we cannot please God**, even if the flesh is doing religious things that are admired by men.

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ROMANS 8:

CHRISTIANS ARE EMPOWERED TO LIVE IN THE SPIRIT:

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you: Because the Holy Spirit is given to each believer when they are born again, every Christian has within themselves a principle higher and more powerful than the flesh.

Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His: This means that every believer has the Holy Spirit. It is a misnomer to divide Christians among the "Spirit-filled" and the "non-Spirit-filled." If a person is not filled with the Holy Spirit, they are not a Christian at all.

How do I know
that I have the
Spirit? Ask these
questions:

- Has the Spirit led you to Jesus?
- Has the Spirit put in you the desire to honor Jesus?
- Is the Spirit leading you to be more like Jesus?
- Is the Spirit at work in your heart?

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ROMANS 8:

CHRISTIANS ARE EMPOWERED TO LIVE IN THE SPIRIT:

And if the Spirit of Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin: Because Jesus lives in us, the old man (**body**) is dead, but the Spirit lives and reigns, and will live out His salvation even through our mortal bodies through resurrection.

Not only are we *in Christ* (Romans 8:1), but He also is in you, and because God cannot abide a sinful home, the body (old man) had to die when Jesus came in.



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ROMANS 8:12-17

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

ROMANS 8:

OUR DEBT IS TO THE SPIRIT, NOT THE FLESH:

We are debtors - to the flesh, to live according to the flesh: The **flesh** (again, in the narrow sense of sinful flesh in rebellion against God) gave us nothing good. So we have no obligation to oblige or pamper it. Our debt is to the Lord, not to **the flesh**.

For if you live according to the flesh you will die: Paul constantly reminds us that living after the flesh ends in *death* and we need the reminder because we are often deceived into thinking that the flesh offers us *life*.

By the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body: When we **put to death the deeds of the body** (force the sinful flesh to submit to the Spirit), we must do it **by the Spirit**. Otherwise we will become Pharisees and spiritually proud.

Paul tells us that not only are we saved by the work of the Spirit, but we must walk by the Spirit if want to grow and pursue holiness in the Lord. We cannot be like some among the Galatians who thought they could *begin* in the Spirit but then find spiritual perfection through the flesh (Galatians 3:3).

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ROMANS 8:

LIVING IN THE SPIRIT MEANS LIVING AS A CHILD OF GOD:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. It is only fitting that the **sons of God** should be **led by the Spirit of God**. However, we should not think that being **led by the Spirit** is a pre-condition to being a son of God. Instead, we become sons first and then the Spirit of God leads us.

The test for sonship is whether or not a person is **led by the Spirit of God**.

How does the Holy Spirit lead us?:



- We are led by guidance
- We are led by the Holy Spirit drawing us
- We are led by governing authority
- We are led as we *cooperate with* the leading. "It does not say, 'As many as are driven by the Spirit of God.' No, the devil is a driver, and when he enters either into men or into hogs he drives them furiously. Remember how the whole herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea. Whenever you see a man fanatical and wild, whatever spirit is in him it is not the Spirit of Christ." (Spurgeon)

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ROMANS 8:

OUR DEBT IS TO THE SPIRIT, NOT THE FLESH:

Where does the Holy Spirit lead us?:

- 
- He leads us to repentance
 - He leads us to think little of self and much of Jesus
 - He leads us into truth
 - He leads us into love
 - He leads us into holiness
 - He leads us into usefulness

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption: Living as a child of God means an intimate, joyful relationship with God, not like the **bondage** and **fear** demonstrated by the law. A child of God can have a relationship with God so close that they may cry out, **Abba, Father!** (Daddy!)

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ROMANS 8:

OUR DEBT IS TO THE SPIRIT, NOT THE FLESH:

We cry out, "Abba, Father." It is easy for us to see Jesus relating to the Father with this joyful confidence, but we may see ourselves as disqualified for it. However, remember that we are *in Christ* - we have the privilege of relating to the Father even as Jesus Christ does.

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 anymore.



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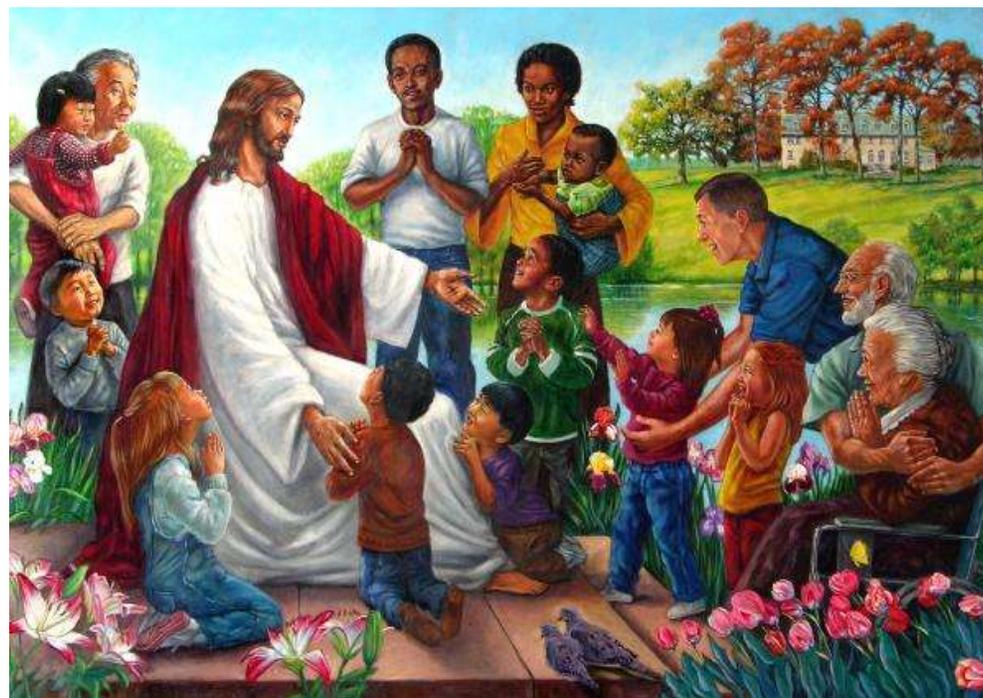
ROMANS 8:

EVIDENCE WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD: TESTIMONY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The Spirit Himself bears witness to our spirit that we are children of God: Plainly put, Paul says that those who are God's children, born again by the Spirit of God, *know* their status because the Holy Spirit testifies to our spirit that this is so.

We are children of God: We don't have to wonder if we are really Christians or not. God's **children** know who they are.

Jewish law stated that at the mouth of two or three witnesses everything had to be established (Deuteronomy 17:6). There are two witnesses to our salvation: our own witness and the witness of the Holy Spirit.



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ROMANS 8:

BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING GOD'S CHILDREN:

And if children, there heirs: Because we are *in Christ*, we have the privilege of relating to the Father as Jesus does - therefore, we are **heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**.

If indeed we suffer with Him: Because we are *in Christ*, we are also called to share in His suffering. God's children are not immune from suffering.

If indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together: In fact, our sharing in present suffering is a *condition* of our future glorification. As far as God is concerned, it is all part of the same package of sonship, no matter how our flesh may want to have the inheritance and the glory *without* the suffering.

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ROMANS 8:12-17

- 18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
- 19** For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.
- 20** For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,
- 21** Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.
- 22** For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.
- 23** And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.
- 24** For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?
- 25** But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.
- 26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
- 27** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
- 28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- 29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- 30** Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

ROMANS 8:

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT ENABLES US TO UNDERSTAND & ENDURE SUFFERING:

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared:

Paul was not *ignorant* or *blind* to the sufferings of human existence; he experienced more of them than most any of us today. Yet he still considered that the future glory far outweighed the present **sufferings**.

The glory which shall be revealed in us: Without a heavenly hope, Paul considered the Christian life foolish and tragic (1 Corinthians 15:19). Yet in light of eternity it is the wisest and best choice anyone can make.

Revealed in us: This coming glory will not only be revealed *to us*, but it will actually be **revealed in us**.

God has put this glory into the believer *right now*. When we are in heaven, the glory will simply be **revealed**. "The glory will be *revealed*, not created. The implication is that it is already existent, but not apparent." (Morris)

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ROMANS 8:

ALL OF CREATION IS AWAITING AND ANTICIPATING THIS COMING GLORY:

The earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits: Paul considers that creation itself is eagerly awaiting the **revealing of the sons of God**; because the creation was **subjected to futility** because of man's sin, and will benefit from the ultimate redemption of men.

Isaiah 11:6-9 describes this redemption of creation in that day: *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

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ROMANS 8:

ALL OF CREATION IS AWAITING AND ANTICIPATING THIS COMING GLORY:

Him who subjected it in hope: Only God could subject creation **in hope**. This was not ultimately the work of either man or Satan.

The promised **glorious liberty of the children of God** benefits not only the children of God themselves, but also all of creation. Until that day, creation **groans and labors with birth pangs**.

The revealing of the sons of God: Certain groups with a "super-Christian" mentality have taken the idea of the **revealing of the sons of God** to say that all creation is waiting for their particular group of super-spiritual Christians to be revealed in incredibly powerful fashion. This is a purely egotistical fantasy.

The whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now: "Creation is not undergoing death pangs ... but birth pangs." (Morris)

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ROMANS 8:

WE ALSO GROAN AND WAIT WITH PERSEVERANCE FOR THE COMING GLORY:

We, **who have the firstfruits of the Spirit**, have been given a taste of that glory to come. Can we be faulted if we long for the *fulfillment* of what we have received in the **firstfruits**?

Eagerly waiting for the adoption: We are waiting for our **adoption**; though there is definitely a sense in which we are already adopted (Romans 8:15), there is also a sense in which we wait for the consummation of that adoption - **the redemption of our body**.

We eagerly wait for it with perseverance: The fulfillment of our redemption is something still distant, yet we **hope** for it in faith and **perseverance**, trusting that God is faithful to His word and the promised glory will be a reality.

Morris on **perseverance**: "It is the attitude of the soldier who in the thick of battle is not dismayed but fights on stoutly whatever the difficulties."

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ROMANS 8:

GOD'S HELP THROUGH THE SPIRIT IS AVAILABLE TO US NOW:

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses: When we are weak, and do not know exactly how we should pray, God Himself (through the Holy Spirit) helps by making intercession for us.

The help that the Holy Spirit brings to express our **groanings which cannot be uttered** is simply the idea of communication beyond our ability to express - deep **groanings** within us, which cannot be articulated apart from the interceding work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's help in intercession is perfect, because He **searches the hearts** of those whom He helps, and He is able to guide our prayers **according to the will of God**.



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ROMANS 8:

GOD'S HELP IS AN ENDURING PROMISE:

And we know that all things work together for good: God's sovereignty and ability to manage every aspect of our lives is demonstrated in the fact that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, though we must face *the sufferings of this present time* ([Romans 8:18](#)). God is able to make those sufferings work together for our good and His glory.

God is able to work **all things**, not some things. He works them for good **together**, not in isolation. This promise is for those **who love God** in the Biblical understanding of love, and God manages the affairs of our life because we are **called according to His purpose**.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son:

The eternal chain of God's working is seen in the connection between **foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified**. God didn't begin a work in the Romans simply to abandon them in the midst of their present suffering.

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ROMANS 8:

GOD'S HELP IS AN ENDURING PROMISE:

To be conformed to the image of His Son: However, our participation in this eternal plan is essential, reflected in its goal: that we might be **conformed to the image of His Son**; and this is a process that God does with our cooperation, not something He just "does" to us.

The *reason* for this plan is expressed in **that He might be the firstborn among many brethren**. God has adopted us into His family ([Romans 8:15](#)) for the purpose of making us like Jesus Christ, similar to Him in the perfection of His humanity.

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ROMANS 8:31-39

- 31** What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?
- 32** He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?
- 33** Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.
- 34** Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.
- 35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- 36** As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
- 37** Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
- 38** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
- 39** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:

IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?:

If God is for us, who can be against us? If all we had were the first few chapters of Romans some might believe that God was *against* us. Now that Paul has shown the lengths that God went to save man from His wrath and equip him for victory over sin and death, who can doubt that God is **for us**?

Most all men say or think that God is for them - terrorists commit horrible crimes thinking that God is for them. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit guards this statement with an "if," so we may know that just because a man *thinks* God is with him does not make it so. God is only **for us** if we are reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ.

Who can be against us? Likewise, despite the suffering Christians face, if God is for them, what does it matter if others are against them? One person plus God makes an unconquerable majority.

We certainly can be deceived into thinking that **God is for us** when He actually is not (as do cultists and those like them). Yet it cannot be denied that for those who are in Jesus Christ, God is **for** them!

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ROMANS 8:

EVIDENCE THAT GOD IS FOR US: THE GIFT OF JESUS CHRIST

He who did not spare His own Son: If the Father already gave His ultimate gift, how can we think that He won't give us the smaller gifts?

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.



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ROMANS 8:

IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?:

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? We are secure from every charge against us. If we are declared "not guilty" by the highest Judge, who can bring an additional charge?

Who is he who condemns? We are secure from all condemnation. If Jesus Himself is our advocate, promoting our benefit, then who can condemn us?

In fact, none of the **sufferings of this present time** can separate us from the love of God. No matter what the circumstance, we **are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**

More than
Conquerors

- 
- He overcomes with a greater power, the power of Jesus
 - He overcomes with a greater motive, the glory of Jesus
 - He overcomes with a greater victory, losing nothing even in the battle
 - He overcomes with a greater love, conquering enemies with love and converting persecutors with patience.

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ROMANS 8:

IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?:

Nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord: Nothing which appears to be good or nothing which appears to be evil can **separate us from the love of God.**

Spurgeon speaks of the confidence great men and women of God had in God's love in ages past: "They did not speak of Christ's love as though it were a myth to be respected, a tradition to be revered; they viewed it as a blessed reality, and they cast their whole confidence upon it, being persuaded that it would bear them up as upon eagles' wings, and carry them all their days; resting assured that it would be to them a foundation of rock, against which the waves might beat, and the winds blow, but their soul's habitation would stand securely if founded upon it."

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