

Abide in Me

John 15:4

*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



Volume 9 - Number 24

The Week of May 5, 2024

Dying to Live
The Spirit of Life
Romans 8:1-17

Welcome to the 5th week in our series *Dying to Live* (Romans 6-8). We have arrived in the 8th Chapter of the book of Romans which will be our focus for the next month. What's so great about Romans 8? Everything! It begins with the pronouncement of *no condemnation* and ends with a triumphant *no separation*. In between we learn that every Christian is possessed by the Holy Spirit, led by the Spirit, and enabled by the Spirit to cry out *Abba Father*. We learn that our earthly sufferings are momentary and that in our weakness the Holy Spirit intercedes for us by groaning with us. In the golden chain of salvation (vss. 29-30) we learn that what God starts He finishes and He will not leave one of His own behind. Let's begin soaking in Romans 8.

OBSERVATION (*What does the passage say?*)

Before meeting with your Growth Group, read through the passage at least twice and perform the following prompts:

- Place an ← above the word *therefore* in verse 1.
- Place a Δ over each reference to God the Father.
- Place a † over each reference to God the Son.
- Place a ☁ over each reference to God the Holy Spirit.
- Circle the phrase *the Spirit of life* (v. 2).
- Underline in verses 1-7 every reference to the flesh.
- Double underline in verses 1-7 every reference to the Spirit.
- Circle the words, *You, however* in verse 9. Write in the left margin beside it, *Every believer*.
- Draw a line that connects *you* (v. 9) to *brothers* (v. 12).
- Place brackets around verse 11. Write in the left margin beside it, *The fulcrum of the Spirit's activity*.
- State in less than five words the main idea in each paragraph and record it on the line above.

¹ 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, if 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.

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.

Icebreaker: What is your gut reaction when you hear about the Holy Spirit?

INTERPRETATION (*What does the passage mean?*)

1. Looking back to Romans 7:14-25, what is the significance that there is *no condemnation* for every believer in their daily lives?
2. In what sense does the Spirit of life set us free?
3. Read Romans 8:5-11. What are the ways Paul contrasts living by the flesh and living by the Spirit? What is his point in making these contrasts?

4. How does anyone know whether or not the Spirit of God indwells you?

5. What does it mean to *put to death the deeds of the body*?

6. What does adoption reveal about God's disposition to you?

7. What does it mean to be *heirs of God* and *fellow heirs with Christ*?

APPLICATION (*How does the passage apply to our lives?*)

8. How do believers go about setting their mind on the Spirit? What does that look like every day?

9. How is our daily battle with sin both an encouragement and an assurance?

10. How do all the remarkable realities in verses 12-17 help you in seasons of turmoil, or how do they help you prepare for them?

