



Lesson 9

Freed to Walk in the Spirit as Sons *Romans 8*

Every person who belongs to Christ has been transferred into this new domain in which the Spirit rather than the flesh rules. The present possession of life by the Spirit will lead to the enjoyment of physical life through the resurrection of the body. This will be accomplished through the power of the Spirit, who now indwells us and empowers us through trial, trouble and suffering. (Adapted from D.A. Carson)

Summary

“There is no reason why those who are in Christ Jesus should go on doing penal servitude as though they had never been pardoned and liberated from the prison house of sin.” (F.F. Bruce) Romans 8 shows us how we live in the freedom and power of God’s Spirit while yet groaning and suffering. While we walk in the Spirit, we do so in the world until the Lord comes.



The S e r v i c e of God's Spirit (v.1-17)

Godly living begins with the truth that there is no condemnation for us (v.1) and ends with our personal testimony that there is no one to condemn us (v.34).

To C h a n g e us by God's Righteousness (v.1-8)

Because of S p i r i t u a l T r u t h s (v.1-4).

Through C h a n g e d M i n d s e t (v.5-8).

Here is the primary function of the Spirit in practical terms of changing us: He gives us a new mindset that transforms us. Notice, those who mind the flesh, live according to the flesh, are hostile to God, do not and cannot submit to God's law, do not please God and all this is death, God's judgment.

To I n d w e l l us as God's Life (v.9-13)

The present possession of spiritual life in dying and mortal bodies anticipates the possession of spiritual life in a living and glorified body at the resurrection.

by the Spirit"Here we are called by faithfulness to the Scriptures to hold in tension two clear truths: that the indwelling of the Spirit infallibly secures eternal life, and that a lifestyle empowered by and patterned after God's Spirit is necessary to inherit eternal life. The Spirit is given to empower our activity in righteousness." (Carson, *NBC*).

To A s s u r e us as God's Sons (v.14-17)

His work affecting us in the p r e s e n t.

His work aiming us toward the f u t u r e.

¹ James Luther Mays, *Harper's Bible Commentary* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1996, c1988).



The S t r u g g l e of God's Children (v.18-30)

We are now experiencing present suffering while longing for a future glory. What we have here is groaning and glory. There is groaning and glory for creation, in the Christian, by the Spirit for our good and God's glory.

wait eagerly **hope** **Its E x a m p l e in the Creation (v.18-22)**

The creation is now subject to the curse because of the fallenness of man.

Its E x p e r i e n c e in Ourselves (v.23-25)

We share in creation's groaning and hope.

first fruits Most errors concerning the v i c t o r i o u s or the v i c t i m i z e d Christian life flow from not understanding verses 23-25. You are delivered, but not yet. You are adopted, but not yet. You have the Spirit, but not fully. You groan now in suffering and struggling because there is a splendor of glory to come.

Its E x p r e s s i o n by the Spirit (v.26-27)

Its E x p e c t a t i o n due to God (v.28-30)

In the midst of groaning, in the midst of struggling with sin while walking in the Spirit, we know that God is at work in all our situations to transform and conform us into the likeness of Christ.

We lean towards the glory to come in the present experience of groaning now because God is at work to mold us to be like Christ.

Need to check this paragraph carefully for a clearer heart orientation.

The S u r e t y of God's Love (v.31-39)

We are now inseparable from God's love while experiencing no condemnation and becoming more than conquerors.

In our A n s w e r s (v.31-36)

successfully We will have an ever greater experience of the s u r e t y and r e a l i t y of God's love *in the midst of all the groaning circumstances outlined here.*

In our A f f i r m a t i o n s (v.37-39)

We are gloriously sure of God's love because we more than c o n q u e r s.

Here is our conviction and our c o n f i d e n c e - we are more than conquerors – over sin, law and self.



Lessons for Living