



Book of Romans
Lesson 4: Romans Chapters 8 & 9

1. Walking in the Spirit

Romans 8:1, 2

Everything written in the previous chapters leads us to this point.

We saw how keeping the law with all its rules and regulations does not save us. It only brings condemnation because we can never measure up to God's standards.

But when we received Jesus, we have a new walk!

We now _____ . We are not trying to live a perfect life by the flesh.

Romans 8:3

The law was weak and could not justify man.

Jesus did what the law could not do/

Romans 8:4

The requirements of the law are fulfilled in us as we live for Christ! As Christians we fulfill the law when we walk in the Spirit.

We decide every day between two things – _____

Romans 8:5

Galatians talks about walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:14

We see again that we fulfill the law when we walk in the Spirit.

When I love my neighbor, that is not the flesh. That is the Spirit.

What does it mean that I fulfill the law?

Definition of FULFILL:

- Satisfy
- _____
- Make complete or perfect
- _____

Walking in the Spirit – or loving our neighbor – fully preaches God’s goodness to the world around us!

Galatians 5:15

This verse describes walking in the flesh. This is done through our words.

Galatians 5:16

This is commanded. It is a choice for me to walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:17, 18

The root of walking in the flesh is selfishness. The foundation of walking in the Spirit is loving your neighbor.

Romans 8:6, 7

Whenever you see the word “carnal” in the Bible – it is talking about the flesh.

The Greek definition of carnal is “meat”.

Walking in the flesh and having a carnal mind produces death. Your mind is not in harmony with God.

Walking in the Spirit and being spiritually minded produces life and peace. Did you know that walking in the Spirit is the key to prosperity in your life?

Definition of PEACE: Peace, quietness, rest, and prosperity

A spiritual mind has peace! That peace prospers you in every area of life.

3 John 1:2

Prosperity in your finances, your marriage, and your physical body all begin with prosperity in your mind.

Prosperity in your mind begins with _____

Prosperity in your mind begins with loving other people more than you love yourself.

When we walk by faith, there might be a war going on all around us, but inwardly we have peace because we are walking by the Spirit.

Romans 8:8

Romans 8:8 – Amplified Bible Bible

So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.

Romans 8:8 – The Message Bible

And God isn't pleased at being ignored.

Walking in the flesh is ignoring the Spirit. It is ignoring God!

Romans 8:9, 10

Life in Christ and walking by the Spirit is our key to victory!

2. What the Holy Spirit does for the believer.

- _____

Romans 8:11

- The Holy Spirit helps us put to death the deeds of the flesh.

Romans 8:12, 13

- _____

Romans 8:14

- The Holy Spirit helps us to have a relationship with the Father.

Romans 8:15

- The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Romans 8:16

Definition of BEARS WITNESS: To testify jointly, corroborate by evidence, testify with

- The Holy Spirit helps us to pray when we don't know how to pray.

Romans 8:26**3. Heirs of God****Romans 8:16, 17**

What does it mean to be an heir? Answer: It means that you inherit all that Christ inherited.

Romans 8:18

Anything we suffer now for Jesus in this world cannot be compared to the glory that awaits us!

Romans 8:19-25

The entire world, creation, and people are waiting for what comes next.

4. Important points about Romans 8:28**Romans 8:26-28**

Romans 8:28 is one of the most misunderstood verses in the Bible.

- _____

Romans 8:28

This is what is inferred by most people when they quote this verse.

- It does not say that God sends bad things so that in the end they will work together for our good.

People talk about "God's Sovereignty" meaning that everything is under God's control and even in bad things, God has a purpose.

James 1:17

Gifts that come from God are good and perfect.

Definition of GOOD: Good and for your benefit

Definition of PERFECT: Complete and perfect

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Sometimes there are things that happen in our lives, and we can't understand what good could possibly come out of it. But when you are a Christian, you can count on it!

God can take what the devil did in a situation and turn it around.

- The promise in this verse is not for every Christian.

Romans 8:28

There are two requirements for all things to work together for your good.

First – _____

John 14:15

John 14:21

How do we know you love God? Answer: You are obeying His commandments.

How do we do that? Answer: Remember, in context, this chapter in Romans is talking about walking in the Spirit and not walking in the flesh.

If you are not walking in obedience to God's will (and living a selfish life of the flesh), the best thing for you is for all things to work together against you.

One of the worst areas of deception is to be walking in total disobedience to God and "think" that some good things happening to you are "God's blessing".

Second – This promise is for those you are called according to God's purposes.

Definition of CALLED: Invited, appointed, or a saint

If you are born again, you are called.

In other words, for all things to work together for you, you must be born again and walking in the Spirit.

If you are a sinner, things will not work together for you. If you are a believer, but walking in the flesh, you are sowing problems for yourself and you are going to reap problems.

5. Predestination

Romans 8:29-30

Definition of PREDESTINED: _____

It is important to understand that God exists outside of the limits of time.

You live within a 24-hour day, 7-day week, and a 365-day year. God is separate from time.

He has perfect knowledge and knows events before they occur.

God does not predetermine who will be saved and who will not be saved. His will is that none should perish.

However, God does see everything before it happens. He sees your choice. He knows if you reject Christ or receive Him.

6. Chapter 8 includes incredible realities for those who are saved.

• _____

Romans 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

When we read this in the English language, we tend to think it means God is on our side. – “God is for us.”

That is true. However, He is “for” us, when we are “under” Him.

Definition of FOR: **Over, the place above, superior to**

When you are submitted to God, He is on your side.

James 4:7 *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

How can you tell if you are submitted to God? Answer: You are submitted to His Word.

You cannot say, “I love the Lord”, but then knowingly disobey His Word.

For example, if you are not tithing, then you cannot come to God in a financial crisis and expect that he will be on your side.

Submission brings victory!

- He freely gives us all things.

Romans 8:32

Definition of ALL THINGS:

- All things
- Anything
- _____
- The whole thing
- All manner of things
- _____

Freely he gives us these things!

Definition of FREELY:

- Without reluctance
- Ready to give and meet us with favors

This is saying that God gave us the greatest thing He could give – His Son! Through His Son we have salvation.

It stands to reason that if He gave us the greater thing, How can He not do the lesser thing?

Psalm 68:19

Luke 12:32

- _____

Romans 8:33, 34

Our justification results in “no charge” against us.

Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for us.

- Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus.

Romans 8:35

Romans 8:38, 39

This is talking about the life of persecution.

- When we are persecuted, we are more than conquerors.

Romans 8:36, 37

Notice that the famous verse about being more than conquerors refers to being persecuted.

Definition of MORE THAN A CONQUEROR:

- To vanquish beyond
- _____
- More than conquer

Romans 8:37 – Amplified Bible

Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us.

Romans 8:37 – God’s Word Translation

The one who loves us gives us an overwhelming victory in all these difficulties.

Romans 8:37 – Good News Translation

No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us!

Romans 8:27 – New Living Translation

No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

Romans 8:37 – The Voice

But no matter what comes, we will always taste victory through Him who loved us

This is about believers who are suffering death because of their faith in Christ!

Romans 8:36-39

From Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Bible – Romans 8:36, 37

We are conquerors: though killed all the day long, yet conquerors. A strange way of conquering, but it was Christ’s way; thus he triumphed over principalities and powers in his cross.

The enemies have sometimes confessed themselves baffled and overcome by the invincible courage and constancy of the martyrs, who thus overcame the most victorious princes by not loving their lives to the death.

Revelation 12:11

From Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible – Revelation 12:11

We are more than conquerors. In our patiently bearing these trials we are not only conquerors, but more than conquerors, that is, triumphers.

Those are more than conquerors that conquer, First, with little loss. Many conquests are dearly bought; but what do the suffering saints lose? . . . It is no great loss to lose things which are not—a body that is of the earth, earthly.

Did you know that some of us are actually destined to be martyrs?

Revelation 6:9-11

Acts 1:8

The word WITNESS in the Greek language is MARTUS (Martoos), which actually means martyr.

7. The Apostle Paul's heart for the Jewish people

Romans 9:1-3

Paul was willing to exchange his own salvation for that of the Jews.

Romans 9:4, 5

The blessings of the Jewish people in these two verses:

- Adoption into the divine family
- _____
- The covenants
- The law
- _____
- Promises
- The fathers (patriarchs of the faith)
- Christ in the flesh

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But as we know, natural heritage does not determine spiritual inheritance!

Romans 9:6-18

8. What we learn from Romans chapter 9

- God chose only one of Abraham's sons to receive the covenant.
- Even before their birth, the choice was made between Jacob and Esau.

Romans 9:11

- Pharaoh was raised up to demonstrate God's power.

Romans 9:17

9. The hardness of Pharaoh's heart

Romans 9:18

Definition of HARDENS: To make dry, hard, or tough

It does not seem like God's character – to harden someone. What does that mean?

We have two options when God is dealing with our hearts.

- We can humble ourselves and receive mercy.
- We can be stubborn, exalt ourselves and the result is a hardness of the heart

Mercy is the result of the right attitude. Hardness is the result of stubbornness – or a wrong attitude.

The right attitude of humility is like wax. The wrong attitude of stubbornness and pride is like clay. Sunshine is like God.

If you put wax and clay in the sunshine there are different results. Wax melts. Clay hardens.

The same sunshine hardens one and softens the other.

The responsibility is with the materials, not with the sun.

With this in mind, did God harden Pharaoh's heart?

Answer: God hardened Pharaoh's heart by giving Pharaoh an opportunity – an occasion when Pharaoh had a choice to reject God, therefore hardening his own heart or to obey and receive mercy.

This goes right to the core of this kind of thinking – “God blesses some people, but not everyone.”

We cannot accuse God about His decisions to bless some and not bless others. He makes His decisions based on each individual's faith and obedience.

10. Vessels

Romans 9:19-24

People have used these verses to say that God has created some people to specifically have mercy upon them and save them. Others He has created to show His wrath.

However, this is not what this teaches.

Remember that Paul, when writing to the Roman church, had to deal with the division between the Jewish believers and the Gentile believers.

What is Paul saying here? – “Who are you to blame God for your sinfulness? If God wants to save men who will obey Him, Jews or Gentiles, is that not up to Him?”

“If He wants to judge those who harden themselves against Him, is that not His right to do so?”

The “vessels of wrath” were _____

Romans 9:25, 26

This is prophetically speaking of _____

They were not God's people. But Jesus Christ made a way to God for Jews and Gentiles that will put their trust in Him.

Everyone comes to God the same way – through Jesus Christ! A Jew must do this too.

Romans 9:27-33

The Jews were relying on their efforts to keep the law. They observed rituals outwardly, with no inner change.

When the Gospel came along offering free salvation to Gentiles, as well as Jews, on the basis of grace and faith without works, they were offended and rejected it.

Instead of a Rock they could stand on, that Rock became something they stumbled over.

People today are offended at Jesus.

What causes people to stumble over Jesus, instead of receiving His free gift of salvation?

The greatest problem for the Jews in Paul's day was ignorance. We are going to see that in Chapter 10.