

It's All About Certainty  
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Romans 8

How about some questions to get our brains going this early in the morning?

- What would life be like at your house if you had an honored guest staying with you?
- How would it affect your conduct? How would it affect decisions about your entertainment?
- We've all heard the question: "If you could have dinner with any five people...who would they be?" Give me some of your answers.
- Let's take it up a notch. Think of a person who you admire greatly. Someone who is very wise in an area that's very important to you. Someone you'd give anything to spend time with and learn from...an adviser or counselor.

What would it be like to have that person living in your house? How much time would you spend with them? What would your conversations with that wise person be like? Any chance you would ignore that person? Or, forget they were staying with you?

Here's the point: We could live our lives with CERTAINTY if we had a wise and all powerful advisor, counselor, and helper living with us. Someone to guide us to the right MOVE each time we make a decision.

- If you are a Christian...you have such a person living with you 24/7. Who is that?

John 14:16; 14:26; 15:16 (All the letters in RED...words of Christ)

John 14:16

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—

John 14:26

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 15:26

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

26 "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

- In the NIV the word is "counselor or advocate"; In the KJV it's "comforter"; New KJV "helper".

We can live the Christian life with CERTAINTY because of the POWER of the Holy Spirit living in us. But what a tragedy if we don't pay any attention to this counselor, comforter, and helper as we live each day!

Romans Chapter 8 has been labeled by many theologians as the "greatest chapter" in the Bible.

Spurgeon said: "What a banquet this chapter has proved to be to the souls of God's hungry servants!"

John MacArthur wrote: "Someone has said that if Scripture were a ring, and the book of Romans were the precious stone in the ring, chapter 8 of Romans would be the sparkle in the jewel."

Charles G. Trumbull wrote: "The eighth of Romans has become peculiarly precious to me, beginning with 'no condemnation,' ending with 'no separation' and in between, 'no defeat.' "

He's referring to some of the most famous verses of Chapter 8:

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,[a] who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

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

Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV)

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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We COULD just read those five verses; sing the doxology; and close in prayer!  
But, there's so much more here in Romans Chapter 8.

- Last week in Chapter 7 Paul talked about how, even as Christians, we still struggle with the sinful nature.
- But in this chapter he says we can have VICTORY over that sinful nature!
- What "the law" was POWERLESS to do in our lives, the Spirit of God CAN DO.
- Because God sent His Son as a "sin offering" we're eternally saved and secure.
- But, we're not only headed to Heaven...we're EQUIPPED to live in THIS LIFE.
- Look at verses 9-11 of Chapter 8:

Romans 8:9-11

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

- What does verse 9 say about how a Christian's life is lived? Not controlled by sinful nature. Why? The Spirit of God lives in you.
- Verse 10 says our sinful nature is dead and our spirit is ALIVE
- What is the PROMISE in verse 11? If God raised Christ from the dead he'll also give LIFE to us THROUGH HIS SPIRIT, who lives in us.
- Regardless of which translation you have there are two words repeated: "in you" (look)
- Because of all those "in you"s what are these verses about? The PRESENCE of the Holy Spirit living IN US.
- QUESTION: How can we SENSE the the Holy Spirit's PRESENCE in our lives? (Discussion)
- If you are a Christian, you HAVE the Holy Spirit of God living in you! We just need to pay attention to Him!
- We have His PRESENCE, but also His GUIDANCE.

Romans 8:12-17 (NIV1984)

12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, 14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.[a] And by him we cry, “Abba,[b] Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

- Verse 14: If we are LED by the Spirit of God...WHO DOES THAT MAKE US?
- Verse 15: How can we approach God because of His Spirit living in us? Daddy!
- Now, some of you may not have had your daddy due to death or separation, or may not have had a very healthy relationship with your daddy. But imagine your HEAVENLY FATHER as the DADDY you would want to have.
- What does that kind of DADDY do when their children CRY OUT: "Daddy!"?
- If we ever have a doubt where we stand in the family, what does verse 16 say the Spirit does? Testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.
- Verse 17 goes further...what does it say we are? Heirs...co-heirs with Christ...in both his sufferings and in his glory.
- Bottom line: We have a DADDY who loves us enough to GUIDE us through His Spirit.

- Question: What changes in your actions or way of thinking reveal the presence of God's Spirit guiding you?

We have the Spirit's PRESENCE and GUIDANCE and we also have His PRAYERS.

- Do you ever just have trouble expressing yourself to God? You sit down to pray and go blank?

Romans 8:26-27 (NIV1984)

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

- Ever see a young mother (or sibling) "translating" for a toddler? What'd she say?
- Can't you picture it? The Holy Spirit of God says..."Father, here's what Allen is trying to say. Father, his mind went blank but I know his heart and here's what he's asking."
- It makes us feel great when we know we have HUMAN PRAYER WARRIORS.
- But, don't forget we have THE TWO GREATEST PRAYER WARRIORS: The Holy Spirit tells Jesus and Jesus is our ADVOCATE to the Father!

We have the Spirit's PRESENCE, GUIDANCE, PRAYERS, and ASSURANCE.  
This is where we start building up to something that makes want to SHOUT!

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,[a] who[b] have been called according to his purpose.

- What a PROMISE!

John Piper writes:

*"If you live inside this massive promise, your life is more solid and stable than Mount Everest. Nothing can blow you over when you are inside the walls of Romans 8:28."*

- How many times a week do I see people in person or on-line holding on to Romans 8:28. How many times in my life has God been FAITHFUL to PROVE that verse TRUE in my life...how about YOU?
- How does the promise of Romans 8:28 impact how you live your life?
- Verse 31: Paul says: "So, what do we have to say about all this?" What is the only conclusion we can come to? (pause for response)

31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

- I can't expound on verses 31 and 32 any better than Paul wrote them!  
(Read again)

..."If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

Charles Stanley writes in "The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life": *"The Holy Spirit is a change agent. He took a man who made his living destroying churches and changed him into the greatest church planter of all time! He took a group of uneducated fishermen and changed them into world-class evangelists and pastors. Through the years He has indwelt men and women with every imaginable habit, reputation, and persuasion and changed them into people of excellence. And He will do the same for you."*

So, What's The Takeaway?

- Imagine how CERTAIN we could be about our lives if we had a WISE COUNSELOR, HELPER, and ADVISER living with us 24/7. We DO...the Spirit of God living in us.
- We have his PRESENCE; His GUIDANCE; His PRAYERS; and His ASSURANCE.
- What a tragedy if we FORGOT He's here.
- Let's all agree to spend some time this week SEEKING the RESOURCES of God's Spirit living in us.