

LESSON 8

THE KEY TO CONFIDENT LIVING

ROMANS 8:1–39



1 Think of a time when you felt especially close to God—what was he doing in your life? Think of a time you felt distant from him—what caused the distance?



Read Romans 8 and the following notes:

☐ 8:1 ☐ 8:5, 6 ☐ 8:9 ☐ 8:14–17 ☐ 8:17 ☐ 8:24, 25 ☐ 8:26, 27 ☐ 8:28
☐ 8:29 ☐ 8:31–34 ☐ 8:35, 36 ☐ 8:35–39

2 Against what destructive forces were the Roman believers struggling? What might have caused them to feel separated from God's love?

3 What are some ways the Holy Spirit empowers Christians to live victoriously?

4 With all the help God makes available, why do we still struggle?



5 What undermines our confidence in God's promises and keeps us from trusting fully in him?

6 What differences in one's outlook on life are there between someone living by the Spirit and someone living by the sinful nature?

Apart from Christ, we are doomed to failure and condemnation. But God did not leave us to this fate. He provided a way out, and he sent his Spirit to give us victory over sin. Our hope is not only in eternal life in the future—we can have a taste of that life right now. All we have to do is allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. We can know God's will; we can have God's peace; we can triumph over sin; we can profit from our trials; and we never can be lost to God's love. Be confident of God's constant care now and an even better future with him in eternity. You can't lose! No matter what happens, God will give you the victory. So go wherever he leads!

7 The way Paul describes life in the Spirit, we have every reason to be confident, no matter what challenges we face. What evidence of this confidence should we see in the life of the believer?



8 The Holy Spirit will express our deepest needs to God even when we don't know how to put them into words. How should this affect how we pray or what we pray for?

9 How do we frustrate the Holy Spirit's work in our life?

10 Recall a difficult experience that helped you grow significantly. How did God work everything out in your best interests?

11 How do we balance relying on the Holy Spirit's power with relying on our own planning and resources? How do you need to change your thinking and acting?



12 What can you do regularly to support the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

A In 8:2–4, what reasons does Paul give for his confidence? How can you be confident in Christ?

B How do we know that we belong to Christ?

C Why did Paul describe our status as God’s children in terms of adoption? What does this suggest concerning our relationship with God?

D At one point, Paul seems to say that God is going to give us whatever we ask for. How might we abuse this promise? How can this promise help us?

E How do we share in Christ’s sufferings? What impact should this have on our life?

F What do we have to look forward to with the coming of the new heaven and the new earth that God has promised?

G What does Paul mean by the phrase *God knew his people in advance* (verse 29)? How can we explain this in a way that is consistent with God’s love, mercy, and justice? What difference does it make in your life to know that you have been chosen by God?

H How do angels and demons operate in the world today?

I What reasons does Paul give for rejoicing and triumphing over suffering in Romans 8:31–39? What specific evidence of God’s love do you have in your life?

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