

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

In the previous chapter Paul discussed our freedom from the Old Testament law (Rom 7:1-6) and how we are no longer under the law but under grace (Rom 6:14). The law is the ministry of condemnation (2 Cor 3:9) and the intention of the law was to condemn us in order to bring us to our knees so we could turn to Christ (Gal 3:24). Since we are no longer under the law or the ministry of condemnation, now there is no condemnation for anyone who has received Jesus.

Under the Old Covenant law if man stopped sinning, they would not be condemned. Under the New Testament grace man is not condemned and that is what compels them to not sin. Jesus said to the women caught in the act of adultery that He did condemn her now she should live in sin no more (Jn 8:11).

Romans chapter eight is the victory chapter and goes into detail where a believer's source of power comes from and where we should be living from. A believer should live from the inside out, not the outside in. Walking in the spirit is to identify with our new man in Christ. Victory does not come from inactivity; it comes through resting in God's ability in our spirit.

Romans 8:2 *or the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

In order to experience the law of spirit of life we need to be walking in the previous verse. We should not come to the Father like Adam and Eve with an inferiority complex. A law is something that works the same for everyone and is a constant that does not fluctuate.

Anyone who has received Jesus as their Lord has a new identity and has escaped the law of sin and death. The law of sin and death is when you sin you get death. Deuteronomy 28:1-14 speaks of the blessings that belong to us now that we are in Christ. Deuteronomy 28:15-68 discuss all the curses that come upon man when they sin but Christ has redeemed us from the curses of the law having been made a curse for us. Therefore, we get what we don't deserve which are all the blessings of Abraham and we are not getting what we do deserve which are all the curses listed in Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

Anytime a believer indulges in sin they will reap death. We have a choice to either walk in the spirit which is the law of spirit of life in Christ and release life or we can walk in the flesh and produce sin and death; we choose (Deu 30:19).

Romans 7:1-6 says we have been released from the law. Romans 7:14-24 highlights our flesh's inability to serve God. Romans chapter eight is emphasizing that what we were incapable of doing in our flesh, we can now do by the power of the Holy Spirit in us. This is the good news or gospel!

The law of sin and death is what works in our flesh when our soul agrees with our flesh or vice versa.

Romans 8:3 *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,*

The law itself is not weak but we are weak in our flesh's ability to fulfill it. Jesus said, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mt 26:41). In Romans chapter seven, Paul speaks of our flesh and how it is impossible to fulfill the law through our own ability so God sent Jesus to come and live under the law and fulfill it for us (Mt 3:15, Mt 5:17).

Jesus condemned sin in the flesh meaning He became the condemnation that we deserved and all of God's wrath fell upon Him (Jn 12:32). If God were to judge us for sin he would have to apologize to Jesus because He placed the punishment we deserved on His Son (Is 54:12).

Romans 8:4 *that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

God placed our condemnation on Jesus so now we are made righteous (Rm 5:19, 2 Cor 5:21). As the previous verses stated, Jesus fulfilled the law on my behalf so now anyone in Christ has fulfilled the righteous requirements of the law.

The newness of life that we now have in Christ is to draw from within and live by the spirit not the flesh. The flesh may feel like getting even or offended at someone but the Spirit always wants to do the will of God.

The Greek word walk is *peripateo* and means to follow. We should let our spirit man lead us and we follow him, not our flesh. Whenever our soul agrees with our spirit our flesh loses power. Religion's focus is always on the flesh and man's ability to rely on self-effort. Anytime we focus on sin we empower it. Paul's letters do not advocate for a believer to stop sinning, rather he constantly writes "Don't you know, Do you not know" (1 Cor 6:19, 1 Cor 3:16, 2 Cor 13:5). He points man back to who they are, not what they need to do.

Romans 8:5 *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, the things of the Spirit.*

We are three part being (1 Thess 5:23). We are a spirit, we have a soul which is our mind, will and emotion, and live in physical body. Our spirit is already complete and is the real us (James 2:26). Our body is just a tent to house our spirit in and our soul is the control factor. The soul determines whether we win or lose. The soul can choose to agree with who we are in the spirit or we can live based off our flesh which connects to our five senses. Our flesh is driven by what we see, smell, taste, hear, and touch. If we want to know if we are in the spirit or the flesh, we need to pay attention to what we are thinking. The battle is in our mind and if the enemy can get us to go by our five senses instead of what God said we will lose every time (2 Cor 5:7).

The children of Israel did not enter the promised land not because the people occupying the land were more powerful but because they were defeated in their mind. They saw themselves as grasshoppers and said they were not able to go against the people (Numbers 13:31-33). The two

people that did enter the promised land (Joshua and Caleb) saw themselves differently and saw their enemies as their bread (a meal) or an opportunity for God to show out in their situation. God promised the Nation of Israel the land of Canaan and all they had to do was go out and possess the land. They had to possess the promised land in the Old Testament and we now in the New Covenant, have a land of promises that by faith we possess or gain access into (2 Cor 1:20, 2 Peter 1:3).

Romans 8:6 *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

To be carnally minded means to go by what everything around you has to say. A non-believer is referred to as natural (1 Cor 2:14) but a Christian is someone that is being dominated and ruled by their five senses is referred to as carnal.

When we agree with what our circumstances have to say over God's word, we are walking in pride. To be spiritually minded means to be word minded. God's words are spirit (Jn 6:63) and if we agree with His word we will experience life. If you are experiencing death in any area of your life, you have not magnified what God has said about the situation. If the banker tells you that you have just gone bankrupt, this will not defeat you unless you believe it. The word says He will supply all our needs according to His riches and glory according to Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19). We can choose what we set our minds to and that should be on things above (Col 3:2).

This verse gives us a key as to why a person is experiencing death in their life and it is their mind. Circumstances are not what defeat a person, it is a way of thinking (Col 2:8). A person's life is the sum total of their **response** to situations, not the actual situation itself.

Jesus always exalted what His Father told Him above the circumstances (Mt 4:4). In the face of lack Jesus did not agree with only having five loaves and two fish with multitudes of people, but saw that His provision came from His Father (Mt 14:19). In the face of an apparent need Jesus turned to His Father. He looked up to Heaven with spiritual eyes, blessed it, and thanked His Father for what He had and then saw multiplication.

Romans 8:7 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*

The word hostility in Greek is *echthra* and means opposition. The natural mind always opposes the things of God (1 Cor 2:14). The natural mind does not want to submit to the things of God and does not think the way God thinks.

Romans 8:8 *So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

A person in the flesh is speaking of a person who is not born again. Someone who is **in** the flesh is a person who has not received Jesus.

The way a believer pleases God is through faith (Heb 11:6). When we put faith in Jesus, God is pleased with us independent of our actions (Mt 3:17). God told Jesus that He was pleased with

Him before He did any miracles or fully fulfilled the law and Jesus prayed that the same view and opinion that God had of Him that He would have of us (Jn 17:22).

Romans 8:9 *But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

There is a difference in being **in** the flesh and being after the flesh. The Greek word for in is en and means a place or state. Being in something is fixed and positional.

A believer is in Christ and no bad action can change that. However, a believer can be **after** the flesh. We can choose to walk according to what we feel and our five senses but we should be letting our spirit man rule. A born-again person has the spirit of God in them and can be **after** the flesh but not **in** the flesh. We are in this world but we are not of it and we are seated with Him in heavenly places (Eph 2:6).

Romans 8:10 *And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

This is not saying our physical body is dead. Our flesh has been corrupted by the impacts of sin but our spirit man is constantly producing life and wanting to be released. It is released by getting our soul and spirit to come into alignment (Amos 3:3).

It is through understanding that we are the righteousness of God in Christ that a believer will experience victory in their life.

Romans 8:11 *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

This is one of the most powerful scriptures throughout the Bible. Paul says here that the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us. This must come by revelation because so many of us are taught that the power of God is out there somewhere but the same power God used to raise Jesus from the dead dwells in us. We should not try to discern if we have this power through our five senses.

When God raised Jesus from the dead, He exerted more power during that than He did creating the earth because there was no opposition during creation. The enemy played right into the hands of God by crucifying Jesus but when Jesus went to hell it could not keep Him because He had no sin so Jesus was in hell taking back the keys and defeating death, hell, and the grave and every demon in hell wanted to stop this.

The enemy would have never influenced people to crucify the Lord Jesus had he known that Jesus would raise from the dead (1 Cor 2:8) and anyone who puts faith in Jesus now passes from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light and all authority on earth is delegated to them (Mt 28:18-19). There was only one Jesus for the powers of darkness to deal with before; now there are many of us (Jn 14:12, Rom 8:14).

Romans 8:12 *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*

This verse begins with therefore, meaning it is therefore a reason and connected to what Paul just stated. Since the spirit of God dwells in us, we are debtors to live from that reality. The Greek word for debtors is *opheiletēs* and means one held by some obligation. It is not a recommendation or suggestion to live according to our spirit, but an obligation.

The flesh is powerless and profits nothing (Jn 6:63). Since Christ now dwells in us and the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us, we should be drawing from that. We should be working out our salvation (Phil 2:12) from our spirit because that is where the power is. Our flesh may feel sad but the real us is constantly in joy. We may feel like getting impulsive and doing something out of reaction but in our born again spirit we have self-control and patience (Gal 5:22-23). Satan is the God of this world (2 Cor 4:4) and he operates in the physical realm. If he can get us to live according to our flesh he will beat us every time.

When Jesus went into the wilderness full of the Spirit the enemy tempted Him during a time that His flesh was screaming at Him. Jesus had not eaten for forty days and the enemy tempted Him by commanding a stone to become bread. Jesus refused to live by the flesh but instead said that He lived by His Father's words (Mt 4:3-4).

A key to not falling into temptation is to prepare our hearts beforehand. Jesus spent thirty years preparing Himself before the temptation in the wilderness. It is unwise to go into situations where we have not become skillful in trusting the Father and learning to allow our spirit to dominate us.

Romans 8:13 *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.*

The word death in the Bible is a result of anything that came from sin (Rom 6:23). This could read "If you live according to the flesh, you will be sick, sad, or any other form of death that entered through sin after the fall. Christianity is not a self-help program or self-love program. It is the opposite in that we have died to self and understanding our new identity in our born-again spirit that is united to Jesus. Anytime you are focused on self you are yielding yourself to the devil.

I read a shirt recently that said, "self-love is the best love." This is the very reason people are committing suicide today is because they have esteemed themselves and made them the center of life. The moment we count our life worth nothing to us as the apostle Paul did then it won't matter if my spouse wants to divorce me or if a loved one has gone home to be with the Lord because at the end of the day; my life is not my own (Act 20:24, 1 Cor 6:19).

The way we bring our feelings or flesh under control is by allowing our spirit to dominate us. The flesh cannot be cast out but we can bring it under submission and tell it how we are going to feel. Our feelings are not that real us and should not lead us. Paul's main point in this chapter is

to speak on man's ability to now overcome the flesh that we did not have prior to Jesus finished work.

The way to get darkness out of the room is to turn the light on; not to try harder to shovel it out. The emphasis is not on what needs to be done to the dark, rather the focus is on the light. The way to get out sin, addiction, or the flesh is to walk in the spirit. Our spirit is the light.

Romans 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

Children of God should be led by the spirit of God. The Greek word for led is agō and means to drive. We should be driven by the spirit of God and not our circumstances or feelings.

What are we drawing from? Is it our spirit that produces life or our flesh that produces death? The difference in victory or defeat is determined by which we are living from.

A son will always copy and mimic their father (Eph 5:1).

Romans 8:15 *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*

The spirit of bondage spoken of here is referring to the old man that once bound us and the law that we were bound too. Before receiving our new born again spirit we were unable to approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph 3:12) and could not come boldly to the throne room of grace (Heb 4:16). There was an inferiority and fear when it came to our relationship with God, but now we have total access to the Father (Eph 2:18).

The Greek word for Father is patēr and indicates a radical truth that takes place when we get born again. It implies one who has infused his own spirit into another and the originator and transmitter of anything. Calling God daddy is referring to our relationship we now have with Him.

The Greek word for adoption is uiothesia and means the placing of a son. In the Old Testament they were servants of God, under the New Covenant we are sons. In American culture when a child is adopted, they are brought into a new family but still do not possess the DNA from the parents who adopted them. The scriptures say when we got born again, we became born of God (Jn 1:13) and now have His very nature in us.

Romans 8:16 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

The Holy Spirit has a ministry that is one of a helper (Jn 14:16). He will testify us our righteous position in Christ, that our sins are forgiven, and that we have overcome that sin nature and being children of the devil (Jn 16:8).

In the Old Testament, man was not born again, therefore, God had to progressively reveal Himself through Redemptive names. In Exodus 15:26; He reveals Himself as Jehovah Rapha. In

the gospels, we find Jesus making God known and the main name that He reveals God as is Father (Jn 1:18, 1 Jn 5:20).

Many people have an Old Testament image of God. They pull scriptures predominately from the book of Job to discern God's nature. "Though He slay me, yet shall I trust Him" or "The Lord gives and the Lord takes" (Job 13:15, Jon 1:21). These are some of Christians most popular scriptures but the question I have is; why are believers repeating something that Job later went on to repent of speaking of things which he did not know (Job 42:3)? We need to stop trying to get a picture of who God is through Job and get the full and final revelation of our Father through Jesus (Heb 1:1).

Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

We are now children of God, born of God and are heirs to the throne. An heir is someone who now possess all their Father has. We are also co-laborers with Christ. Everything that is true of Jesus is true of us right now (1 John 4:17). Jesus is a king; we are a king. Since Jesus has all authority, we have all authority. We are in the same position as Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19). The only hinderance for a believer now is that we do not know who we are or what belongs to us in Christ (Hos 4:6).

There was a Queen in England who held a very high position and had a maid servant that worked and served her for decades. Once the Queen passed away, she left behind a paper for the maid servant which the maid servant thought was a certificate for her services over the years. The maid servant hung this paper on her wall for years until one day she read it and saw that the Queen actually left her entire inheritance to her. She spent decades in ignorance of what rightfully belonged to her. Could you imagine going through your life possessing something but not knowing you have it? That is reality for many believers today.

The suffering Jesus endured was the suffering of the cross. The cross is a substitutionary sacrifice meaning that Jesus took all of the curse and separation from the Father so we wouldn't have too (Heb 2:10).

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Paul is saying here that all that we see now with raping, wars, school shootings are all bad but will not be compared to the glory that will be revealed when we get to heaven. There is not a suffer that can weigh against eternity with God (1 Cor 2:9). As bad as those are, God's glory will override any impact the enemy has had on this earth and the former things when we get to Heaven won't even be remembered.

Look where the glory will be revealed. The glory that most people dream of is in them now! Paul says here that when we get to Heaven it will be revealed what was already in us the entire time. The power of God is already inside a believer (Eph 3:20). Peter also says he was a partaker of the glory that will be revealed (1 Peter 5:1).

A believer cannot be demon possessed. He may be oppressed but not possessed and that oppression formulates in the mind. The demon possessed man healed by Jesus had thousands of demons cast out of him. How much more the power of God in our temples now that we are born again!

Romans 8:19 *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*

Sin not only impacted mankind but earth as well because the earth was under man's dominion and when man fell, the earth fell. We live in a fallen world and this verse says that creation is actually waiting for God's children to come into their own and start manifesting the power they possess. Creation is eagerly anticipating the removal of the curse that was ushered in by Adams transgression.

God made man to have dominion over the earth (Gen 1:26, Ps 115:16). One day the earth will be destroyed and there will be a new heaven and a new earth (2 Peter 3:10).

Romans 8:20 *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;*

It was through Adams disobedience we now live in a fallen world that will eventually be renovated and we will live in a new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21:1). This was not earth nor the animal creation's fault; it simply was impacted through Adams sin because all was under his dominion and now even the animal creation is experiencing the consequences of sin (Gen 1:28, 3:17-18).

Romans 8:21 *because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

As beautiful as we can see earth is right now, it is not where it was when God created it. There was no such thing as carnivora animals and a food chain. When God comes to restore creation back completely, we will see animals dwelling peacefully with one another. Plants have suffered the impact of sin in a fallen world as well; they live and die and animals are eating them.

Romans 8:22 *For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pains together until now.*

The entire creation was affected by Adams transgression and not only are we awaiting Christ return, but creation is as well.

Romans 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

One- third of our salvation is complete which is our spirit. Our souls and bodies have been purchased but we will not experience the fullness of our salvation until we go to be with the Lord. When our spirit separates from this mortal body, we will receive a new glorified body so in that sense we are awaiting the fullness of our adoption to manifest. We are already adopted and became children of God the moment we get born again (Eph 1:5).

The first fruits spoken of here is the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit is the One who did the creative work and baptized us into Christ (Titus 3:5, 1 Cor 12:13).

Romans 8:24 *For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?*

Biblical hope is based off a positive expectation. It is not a blind hope that says "I sure hope so" that the world speaks of. A believer has nothing to fear when facing death because death has no more sting and it is a promotion not a loss (1 Cor 15:55, Phil 1:21). We should not sorrow as others who have no hope (1 Thes 4:13).

Romans 8:25 *For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?*

The word hope in this verse in Greek is *elpizō* and means expect. Abraham operated in God's kind of faith that called things that be not as though they were and against all hope or against everything that was going on in the natural but in hope believed the promise God made (Rom 4:18).

When Lot separated from Abram, the Lord commanded Abram to lift his eyes and look from the place where he was (Gen 13:14). Are you focused on the natural and the circumstances more than what God has said? It is important to find hope and that comes through the scriptures regardless of what our natural circumstances may say (Rom 15:4).

Romans 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

The Greek word for help is *sunantilambanomai* and means to lay hold along with. Jesus said it was better that He go, so that the Helper could come (Jn 16:7). Who is the Helper? The Helper is the Holy Spirit and His ministry is spoken of heavily in John chapters 14, 15, and 16. Jesus promised that He would not leave us here as orphans but that He would send the advocate or Helper to come along side and aid us forever (Jn 14:16,18).

The word for weakness in Greek *astheneia* and means to understand a thing. The Holy Spirit will make intercession or come along side us when we do not know what to pray. Jesus had a weakness of the flesh in that his physical mind did not know all things. He sat in the temple listening, asking question, and had to grow in wisdom and stature (Lk 2:46, 52). Jesus had to learn to be human just like we have to learn that we are a spirit. The Holy Spirit will always pray

the perfect will of the Father and there is never any barrier between the Holy Spirit and God (1 Cor 14:14). When we know not what to pray, we should pray in our prayer language (tongues) to draw on the wisdom of God (1 Cor 2:16).

Romans 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Holy Spirit and God will never not be in agreement. Our carnal minds do not always know what to pray but the Holy Spirit does and is never at a lost on what to do.

Romans 8:28 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.

This verse is one of the most misinterpreted scriptures in the Bible and is used to often say that anything that happens; God is behind it but He will work it out for our good.

This verse does not say that everything that happens good or bad, that God is the author of. We have an enemy that is the devil that goes about seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). Everything that happens; God does not will for it to happen but He can turn the enemies plans over our lives for good but this verse only works for certain people.

First, He will work everything out for good of those who love God. Secondly, those who are called according to His purpose. Jesus was sent to destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn 3:8) but if we are walking with the devil this verse will not work for us. Lastly, the previous verse says those who are allowing the Holy Spirit to make intercession for them then all things will work together for good.

The Greek word for called is klētos and means invited. God will not force Himself or His will upon anyone. The invitation has been sent to all, but few accept the invitation to co-labor with the Father.

Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The Greek word for foreknew is proginōskō and means to have knowledge beforehand. God knew beforehand who would accept Him and in that foreknowledge; He predestined a plan for those who put faith in His Son.

The word predestinate in Greek is proorizo and means to determine before. God determined before the creation of the world that anyone who would accept Jesus would be predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son. A believer's true identity is now in Christ. The word predestined is a word used only four times in the New Testament. It is used two times in Ephesians (Eph 1:5,11) and two times in the book of Romans (Rom 8:29, 30).

Romans 8:30 *Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

Before the foundation of the world God had a plan for His children to be called, glorified, and justified. We are called into fellowship with His dear Son (1 Cor 1:9).

The Greek word for justified is *dikaioō* and means to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be. The moment we are justified we are declared righteous and just not because of our own works but because of Jesus. We are now justified and at peace with God because of Jesus' finished works on the cross (Rom 5:1).

The Greek word for glory is *doxazō* and means to clothe with splendor or to render one excellent. This is a powerful truth that many believers do not have knowledge in. When we believe on Jesus we are clothed with splendor and a robe of righteousness. We are rendered excellent and the glory now dwells in us (Rom 8:18).

The mount of transfiguration is mentioned in all three synoptics Gospels and is where the glory of Jesus was revealed. While on top of the mountain, Jesus' face shone brightly so much that the three disciples with Him fell down full of awe (Matthew 17:6). If we were to pull back our flesh, we would be exposed to the same glory that was inside Jesus.

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

Paul just stated that we have the power of God in us and the ability to overcome the flesh. What things is the apostle Paul talking about? The glory of God is in us, we have hope to look forward to of our glorified bodies, God will work everything out to our good, and we are called, justified, glorified. Now in all these things it does not matter what the devil throws at us because we are equipped and the conclusion a believer has an answer to every problem.

God is not the bad guy. He is the one on our side; and in the face of opposition, He is the One who makes a way of escape (1 Cor 10:13).

Romans 8:32 *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

The Greek word for delivered is *paradidōmi* and means to give into the hands of another or to surrender to or yield up. In His great love for us, He handed His Son over as a proportion of sin for the entire world (1 Jn 2:2). God did not come with should I or shouldn't I.

God gave us His Son, why would He withhold anything back that is good? God gives us all things freely. We do not have to earn His blessing or favor. If He gave us His Son independent of our performance then we do not need to earn any other blessing God offers.

If He freely gave you His Son, then He freely offers you healing, He freely offers you peace, He freely offers you prosperity. The moment you position yourself to earn healing or any of God's other blessings you disconnect yourself from receiving (Rom 1:16).

The Old Testament depicts a beautiful imagery of the Father sacrificing His Son with Abraham and Issac. God told Abraham to take his only son Issac, whom he loved and offer him and Abraham obeyed God (Gen 22:2-3). As Abraham stretched out his hand to slay his son, an angel of the Lord appeared and commanded Abraham to not lay his hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for Abraham made known that he was in awe of God because he had not withheld his only son from Him (Gen 22:12). We can now say to God, I am in awe of you because you have not withheld your only Son from me.

Romans 8:33 *Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*

The Greek word for charged is egkaleō and means to be accused. This verse is saying, so is it God who is bringing accusations against us? Why would God bring a charge or accuse us when He is the one who justifies us. We have a conscious that recognizes right from wrong and the enemy is the accuser of the brethren but God is never the one accusing us. He is the one who acquitted us and has given us a clean record (2 Cor 5:19).

Everything we receive from God is through grace. We can never be good enough to deserve anything outside of Jesus but one of the enemies' greatest tools is to make us believe we are not accepted by God and that we have to appease an angry God; this is religion.

Romans 8:34 *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

The word condemn in Greek is katakrinō and means to give judgment against, or to judge worthy of punishment.

Is God the one judging and punishing us? Absolutely not; He sent His Son who is making intercession for us right now. A person cannot condemn and also be making intercession at the same time. If God were to punish us for sin, He would need to apologize to Jesus because He placed all of His wrath on Jesus and that would be double jeopardy (Jn 12:32).

Four vital components are listed in Christ redemptive work in this verse. Jesus died, rose, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and makes intercession for us. His death, resurrection, ascension, and intercession where a believer finds victory and the love of the Father towards His children.

Romans 8:35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

The word separate in Greek is chōrizō and means to place room between. There is no gap or space between us and God's love. God filled this gap by becoming the very thing that birth the gap which was sin (2 Cor 5:21).

God is the one who justifies and has His Son making intercession for us at the right hand of the Father so there is nothing that has separated us from God. God torn the veil from top to bottom

not so I can press into Him and remain in a long-distance relationship with Him but so He could step down to me and there be no more separation between me and God (Mt 27:51). This chapter is the victory chapter in that any situation we find ourselves in we have the victory and that is through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit now in our born again spirits.

Romans 8:36 *As it is written: "for your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter*

This is a verse taken from Psalm 44:22.

Romans 8:37 *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

Through tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword we are more than conquerors. Jesus went to the cross on our behalf and defeated death, hell, and the grave for us then offers us His position and inheritance free of charge. All we have to do is receive and this makes us more than a conquerors because He did the work we just receive and get in on the blessing.

The Greek word for conquerors is *hupernikaō* and means to gain a surpassing victory. Jesus did not just win a victory; He won a surpassing victory for us. Everything we lost in the garden of Eden we regained through Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane.

This is similar to a player in the Superbowl who competes in the games and battles their opponent. When the player wins, he offers the benefits or rewards from his battle to his wife. The wife did not personally have to compete but she gets all the benefits from her husband. The scriptures say that our Maker is our husband and we are the bride of Christ. As His bride, we get in on all the benefits.

Anyone who is born again is a victor or winner. We have won the grammy but many believers today are still walking around with the mindset of a nominee. We have access, benefits, and privileges as children of God; it is time we take advantage of what is available to us.

Romans 8:38 *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,*

The word persuaded in Greek is *peithō* and means to convince or assure. The apostle Paul was convinced that there was absolutely nothing that would separate him or us from God's love.

Paul said Abraham was fully persuaded that what God promised, He was able to perform (Rom 4:21). The next verse in this chapter tells us what Paul was persuaded about.

Romans 8:39 *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.*

God's love cannot be measured. As soon as we think we have reached a measure of his love, there is a deeper level to experience.

This verse is saying there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God. Paul was persuaded in this because He had a revelation of the gospel and how much God loved Him (Gal 1:12). We can have a lot of head knowledge but as Paul prayed in Ephesians chapter three; we need to move from simply having head knowledge and into an experience of His love poured out to us. The best way to determine God's love for us is to look to the cross. Our feelings and circumstances are never an indicator as to whether or not God loves us.