

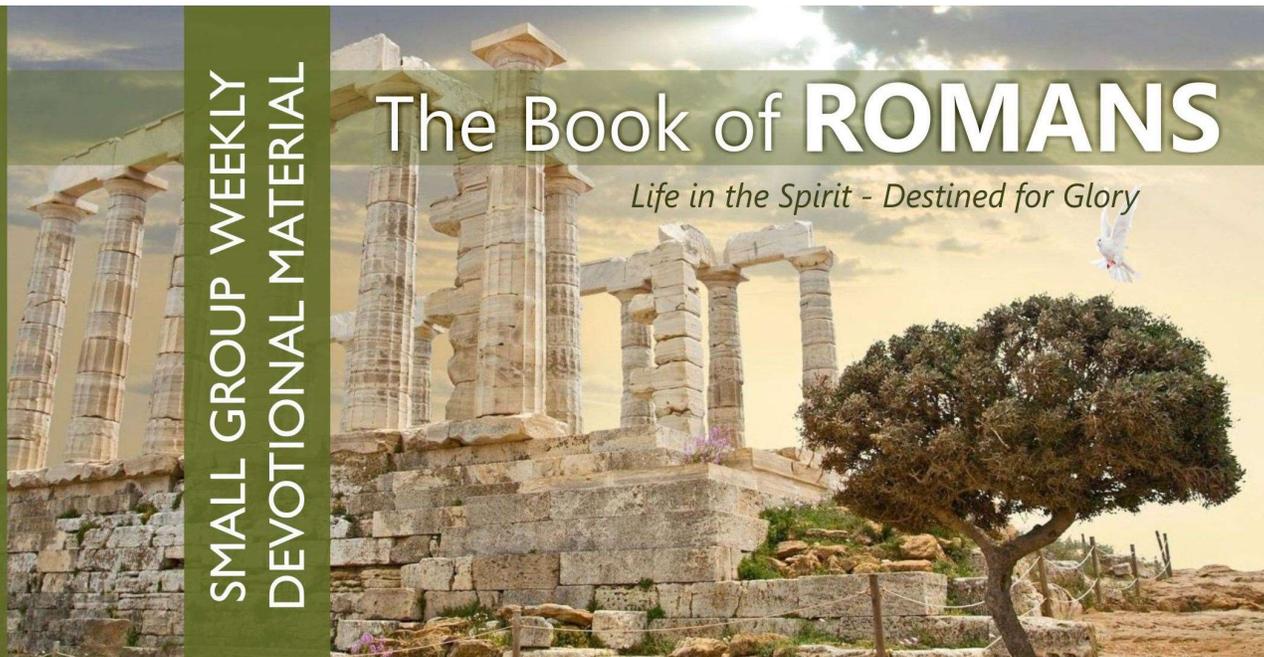


Week 4
10 - 16 July 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

The Book of **ROMANS**

Life in the Spirit - Destined for Glory



CONTENT:

Weekly	Sunday Sermon Bible readings, worship song, reflection, small group questions and family time
Daily	Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

Coming out of the season of Pentecost which is contextually articulated as the season of the birth of the church. God who calls us to his kingdom and to participate in her mission is aware and has full knowledge that Christians cannot in their own strength and power pursue the work without the assistance of the Spirit. The Spirit is generally understood as the embodied power that enables us to do things we cannot do on our own. Followers of Christ will face many difficulties, challenges, conflicts, and trials. On their own they cannot overcome these without the empowerment of the Spirit. To transcend the inner conflicts, the struggles, weaknesses we need the power of the Spirit to empower us.

Week 4: The Spirit intercedes for us in our weaknesses

It is a common thing in our faith journey that the weaknesses we possess tend to overpower the strengths we embody, as a result many people live with deep sense of guilt and regrets. Notably, we cannot overcome the struggles caused by our weaknesses on our own but only through the capacitation of the spirit.

Week 5: The Spirit bestows upon us gifts for the edification of the kingdom

God bless the community of faith with gifts necessary for her work and the growth of the kingdom, such gifts are not for personal glorification but for God's glory. We ought to embrace each gift of the spirit given to each member of the Christ.

Week 6: Transforming power of the spirit

Communities of faith embody giftings, values, and principles that drive how things are done. Any culture that promotes evil or violence, hatred, racism, and injustice and does not permit the community to edify and glorify God, will not transform.

Week 7: The Spirit enhances churches missional work

The main purpose of the church's existence is to make Christ known to the world and participate in God's mission. Sharing Christ with others, creating work opportunities for others, carrying each other's burdens is the work of the church.



Week 4: SUNDAY 10 JULY



Praise and Worship: Turn your eyes upon Jesus <https://youtu.be/7Ka7bVQmbnk>

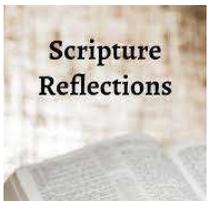
TOPIC OF THE WEEK: THE SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR US IN OUR WEAKNESSES



Bible Reading:
Romans 8: 18- 27
Gospel: John 17: 15-24
Psalms: Psalm 25:1-9

Romans 8:18-27 **New International Version - UK**

Present suffering and future glory ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. 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 through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.



WRITTEN BY: YVONNE ROBERG

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he told his disciples not to fear but to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was promised as a gift to the disciples who would speak on their behalf (Matt 10:20), clothe them with power from on high (Lk 24:49), be a counsellor who would stay with them forever, reveal God's truth to them (Jn 14:17) and guide them as they fulfilled their mission (Acts 16:7). Similarly, in Romans 8:15 Paul reminds all Christians that "we have received the Spirit of sonship" in that all believers are adopted into God's family.

Not only are we sons and daughters of the most high God, but God also ensured that as a part of his family, we have someone looking out for us. Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit "helps us in our weakness". When we are at an absolute loss for words the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. He intercedes for us in accordance with the will of God. Scripture is also clear that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, and he too intercedes for us (Rom 8:34). What a blessing! When all the chips are down, when we don't know what to pray, when all seems hopeless, when we are exhausted and distraught, we can merely throw ourselves into the arms of Jesus and trust that in these very moments the Holy Spirit is communicating with our Father on our behalf in such a way as to accomplish all that God wills for us.

So, if you are struggling, you're too tired to pray, if you've given up and are totally disillusioned, keep your eyes upon Jesus. Reach out and invite the Holy Spirit to take over, just say the word and He will come alongside you and beseech the father on your behalf. Trust that there is a plan for you and that our comforter, counsellor, friend, and healer the Holy Spirit will give you rest as he works his wonder.

Small Group Questions:

1. How do you feel about being adopted as a son or daughter into God's family?
2. Do you need someone to pray for something on your behalf?
3. Can you trust that the Holy Spirit can intercede for you and can you invite him to do so?

Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:



Monday,

MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 7:25 *"Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."*

PRAYER: Dear Jesus thank you so much that you too are interceding for me. Jesus please pray for.....

Tuesday,

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Kings 13:6 *"Then the king said to the man of God, 'Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored.' So the man of God interceded with the LORD, and the king's hand was restored and became as it was before."*

PRAYER: Father, thank you so much that you are our great healer. I need healing for.....and I place this request for healing at Jesus's feet and know and trust that he and the Holy Spirit are interceding with you for my healing.

Wednesday,

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 1:25 *"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."*

PRAYER: Thank you Father that you know all things. I stand firmly in the belief that your will is supreme on all matters, and I submit all my petitions unto your will.

Thursday,

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 12:9 *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*

PRAYER: Father, thank you that when I am feeling most vulnerable and weak you are there for me. Thank you that your Spirit comes alongside me during these times and carries me, holds me, strengthens me and ministers to me.

Friday,

MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 4:15 *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin."*

PRAYER: Thank you Jesus that you know and understand all that I have been through. Thank you that you care for me and stand as a beacon of hope in my life.

Saturday,

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 12:10 *"That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

PRAYER: Jesus no matter what my circumstances because I have you as my personal savior nothing can overwhelm me. You are here for me, strengthening me, building me up and sustaining me. I thank you for the strength that comes from believing in a future beside you.



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 10 July

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: [Hebrews 7:25](#)

Activity/Family Moment:

In verse 22 of Romans 8 it says ²² *We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

- Parents: talk to your children about the day they were born.
 - Talk about the feelings and emotions you may have felt.
 - Tell your children if delivery was a difficult or easy experience.
 - What were the things you as parents where hopeful of? (did you hope for a different birth date, did you hope for a natural but had a C-section instead, did you have hopes and dreams for your child when you held them for the first time?)
- Talk about that sometimes things can be very difficult and can bring sufferings, which means the state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship. However, God does not leave us. God is with us through it all and brings us out the other side.
- Sufferings aren't always a bad thing because they give us a chance to hope. When our moms where in labour she suffered greatly but it was the hope of a new family member that was able to make any pain and hardship worth it.

In Hebrews 2:12 we see that Jesus was able to endure the suffering of the cross because He was able to look forward to the joy that was waiting for him. We too can go through difficulties by looking forward to spending eternity with our loving God.

