

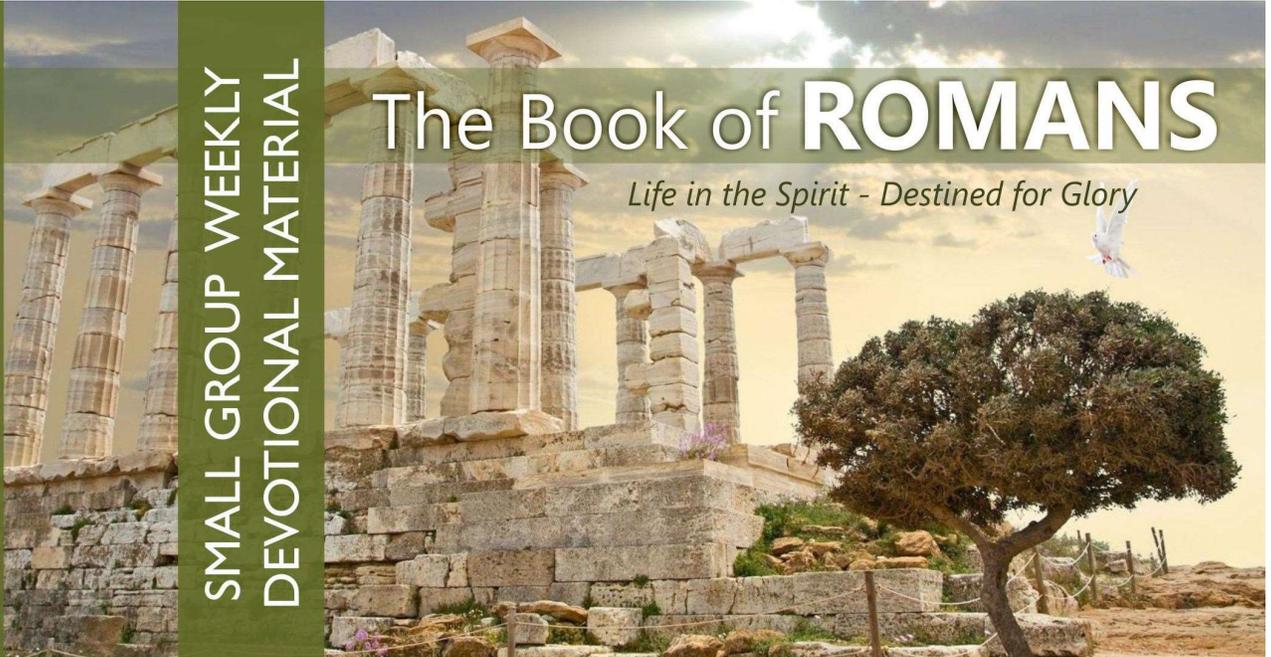


**Week 5**  
17 - 23 July 2022

**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 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 the evil of violence, hatred, racism, and injustice does not permit the community to edify and glorify God and does not deserve transformation.*

**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 burden is the work of the church.*



## **Week 5:** **SUNDAY 17 JULY**



**Praise and Worship:** All to Jesus I Surrender by Robin Mark Lyrics  
<https://youtu.be/SW8EA7DEQ2M>

# TOPIC OF THE WEEK: THE SPIRIT BESTOWS UPON US GIFTS FOR THE EDIFICATION OF THE KINGDOM



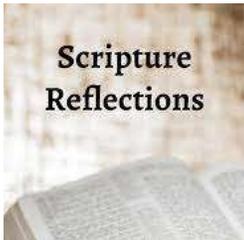
**Bible Reading:**  
Romans 12: 1-8  
Gospel: Matthew 10: 16-20  
Psalms: Psalm 127: 1-5

## Romans 12:1-8

### New International Version - UK

*A living sacrifice* **12** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

*Humble service in the body of Christ* <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.



### WRITTEN BY: REV BOITUMELO MAKGHAMATHE

Chapter 12 of Romans is a beginning of a new section of the letter. From chapter 1-11 dealt with the doctrine of salvation and justification, and what it means to come to God through faith in Christ. In the chapters that follow Paul starts to describe how those who are in Christ should live. The overarching question is “How should we respond to God's great mercy”?

Paul urges Christians to live in a certain way in the light of what God has done for them. God has freely given us his mercy, now we owe to God everything we have and what we are. We are encouraged to offer ourselves to become living, breathing sacrifices using our lives up in service to God as an ongoing act of Worship. As Christians we have to make a total commitment to God. Paul writes that as Jewish people offered killed animals as sacrifices to God, Christians should instead offer ourselves, our bodies to him as living sacrifices. No longer can God be pleased with slain beast or mere material on the altar. He wants lives sacrificed on the altar to Him. He does not want us to die for him, but he wants lives sacrificed for him. Holy living pleases God.

Secondly Paul urges us to be transformed from the inside out. We must change how we think, to have our minds renewed so that we can begin to understand God's will for our lives. Our minds should be renewed to look at world through God's eyes to begin to understand what he wants instead on focusing on what we want. We are challenged in our renewed life to serve each other in the church. God has equipped us by giving each believer specific spiritual gifts through the Holy Spirit that lives within us.

Complete commitment to Christ on the part of those who make up the Body of Christ brings true unity in the Church. That unity will be experienced when members function as the Lord leads and realize that we really belong to Christ's body and not to self. Christian discipleship involves complete consecration to Christ and to his cause. Discipleship is never practiced in isolation but in relations with others.



## Small Group Questions:

1. In what ways do you offer your life as a living sacrifice to God?
2. What is the difference between a living sacrifice and a dead sacrifice?
3. In which way are the different gifts spread out among the members of the Church?
4. Think through each of these spiritual gifts mentioned in the verses. Do you have any of them? Where have you used before?

## Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:



**Monday,**

**MEMORY VERSE:** Luke 11:13 “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

**PRAYER:** Gracious God Pour out your gift of the spirit upon us and that we may express our spiritual lives daily to your glory. **Amen.**

**Tuesday,**

**MEMORY VERSE:** Romans 11:29 “for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.”

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord thank you for the gifts and call on my life, make my life a living example of your humility and service through your Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**Wednesday,**

**MEMORY VERSE:** Hebrews 2:4 “God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”

**PRAYER:** We give you glory and praise gracious and loving God. May we experience your signs, wonders and miracles in our own lives daily. We pray to experience your power in our lives. **Amen**

**Thursday,**

**MEMORY VERSE:** Luke 21:4 “All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

**PRAYER:** Heavenly father we pray for the ability to be faithful with the use of our gifts, help us oh God to give generously of the gifts you bestowed on us. **Amen**

**Friday,**

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 Corinthians 14:12 “So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.”

**PRAYER:** Gracious and Merciful God we pray for the spirit of excellence to build up your kingdom here on earth as it in Heaven. **Amen**

**Saturday,**

**MEMORY VERSE:** Proverbs 25:14 “Like clouds and wind without rain is one who boasts of gifts never given.”

**PRAYER:** Lord teach us to wait upon you until you give us your gifts for service in the body of Christ we pray. May we never boast of what we do not have. **Amen**



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 17 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: Romans 12:1-8

#### Activity/Family Moment: Object lesson

##### Materials Needed

- Glass
- Container of milk (or juice, soda, or whatever as long as it is obviously different from water.)
- Tall pitcher/jug of water.
- Pan or tray to catch the overflow



##### Preparation

*You will want to test out this object lesson to make sure that you have enough water to fully displace the milk in the glass.*

##### Object Lesson

In Romans 12:1-2 it tells us that we shouldn't be the same as the world and that we should let God change the way that we think. Many people talk about being "street wise" or "worldly-wise" and that means that you think the way that the world thinks. However, God wants us to think the way that He thinks. He wants you to be renewing your mind.

*(Show the glass and place it in the pan.)*

This glass is going to represent your mind. The things that you think about. (Fill the glass full of milk.) Now it is full of all kinds of bad thoughts. Things of the world. Basically, thinking in a way that does not please God. If you have thoughts about lying or cheating or doing something wrong those are thoughts that don't please God. God wants us to change the way that we think. Everyone look really hard at this glass and let's make it change into something else just by looking at it. Ready? Go!

*(Stare very intently at the milk.)*

Nothing happened! How can we change what is in the glass? How do we change the way that we think? By filling it up with something else.

*(Show the jug full of water.)*

This jug of water will represent God's Word, the Bible. *(Slowly start pouring the water into the glass of milk, letting it overflow into the pan.)* Instead of letting our thoughts be filled with things of the world we should let it get filled with God's Word. It is so easy to let the world's thinking slip in. We are exposed to it on TV, movies, music, magazines, the Internet and many other ways. We need to fill our lives with God's Word.

*(The milk should be overflowing, and now it should be noticeably diluted.)*

Do you see what is happening? The water is replacing the milk. The same way that when we pour God's Word into our lives it begins to change the way that we think by replacing those worldly thoughts. *(Continue to pour the water.)* The more we let God's Word into our life the more it will clean us and help us to think the way that God wants us to. Sometimes more bad thinking gets added back in and that is why we need to study God's Word on a daily basis.

*(The glass should be mostly clear.)*

Let us read and study God's Word and let it transform the way that we think.