
AMEN Bible Study 2026

“The Work of the Holy Spirit”

Romans 8:12-17
January 15, 2026

1. The Holy Spirit Empowers Us (v. 12-13)

- a. For New Obligations (“...*debtors not to the flesh*”)
- b. For Mortal Combat (“...*put to death the deeds of the body*”)
- c. For Holiness (“...*by the Spirit*”)

2. The Holy Spirit Transforms Us (v.14-15)

- a. From Slaves to Sons (“...*received the Spirit of Adoption*”)
 - i. Galatians 4:4-7
- b. From Fear to Family (“...*Abba! Father!*”)
 - i. Mark 14:36

3. The Holy Spirit Assures Us (v.16-17)

- a. Assured of Our Adoption (“...*we are children of God*”)
- b. Assured of Our Union with Christ (“...*fellow heirs with Christ*”)
 - i. Suffering with Christ
 - ii. Glorified with Christ

AMEN Action Steps

“The Work of the Holy Spirit”

Romans 8:12-17

HEAR the Word

“Open my eyes, that I might behold wonderful things out of your law.”
-Psalm 119:18

1. In verses 12–13, Paul says we are “debtors... not to the flesh” but must “by the Spirit... put to death the deeds of the body.” What key contrast does Paul draw between living according to the flesh and living by the Spirit, and how does the phrase “you will die” versus “you will live” underscore the life-or-death stakes of this battle?
2. In verses 16–17, the Spirit “bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,” making us “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.” What does Paul mean by the condition “provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him,” and how does this connect our present assurance to our future inheritance?

PRACTICE the Word

“...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”
-Matthew 7:24

1. The passage teaches that we have moved from slavery and fear to sonship and family intimacy with the Father (vv. 14–15). How does meditating on your adoption as a son of God help combat any lingering fears—of failure, rejection, or unworthiness—in your roles as a husband, father, worker, or friend?
2. Verse 17 assures us of union with Christ in both suffering and glorification. In what current trial or hardship are you sharing in Christ’s sufferings, and how can the promise of future glory with Him strengthen your perseverance and keep you from growing weary or bitter?

RETELL the Word

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you...”
-Mark 5:19

1. Which brother in Christ—perhaps one facing temptation, doubt, or discouragement—most needs the encouragement of this passage right now? What specific truth from Romans 8:12-17 (such as the Spirit’s power for holiness or our secure adoption) would you want to share with him, and how might you do so this week?
2. Think of a non-Christian friend, co-worker, or family member who seems burdened by guilt, fear, or a sense of slavery to sin or circumstances. How could you gently share the beauty of the gospel in this passage—the freedom from fear through adoption as sons and the hope of glory with Christ—and what small step could you take to open that conversation?