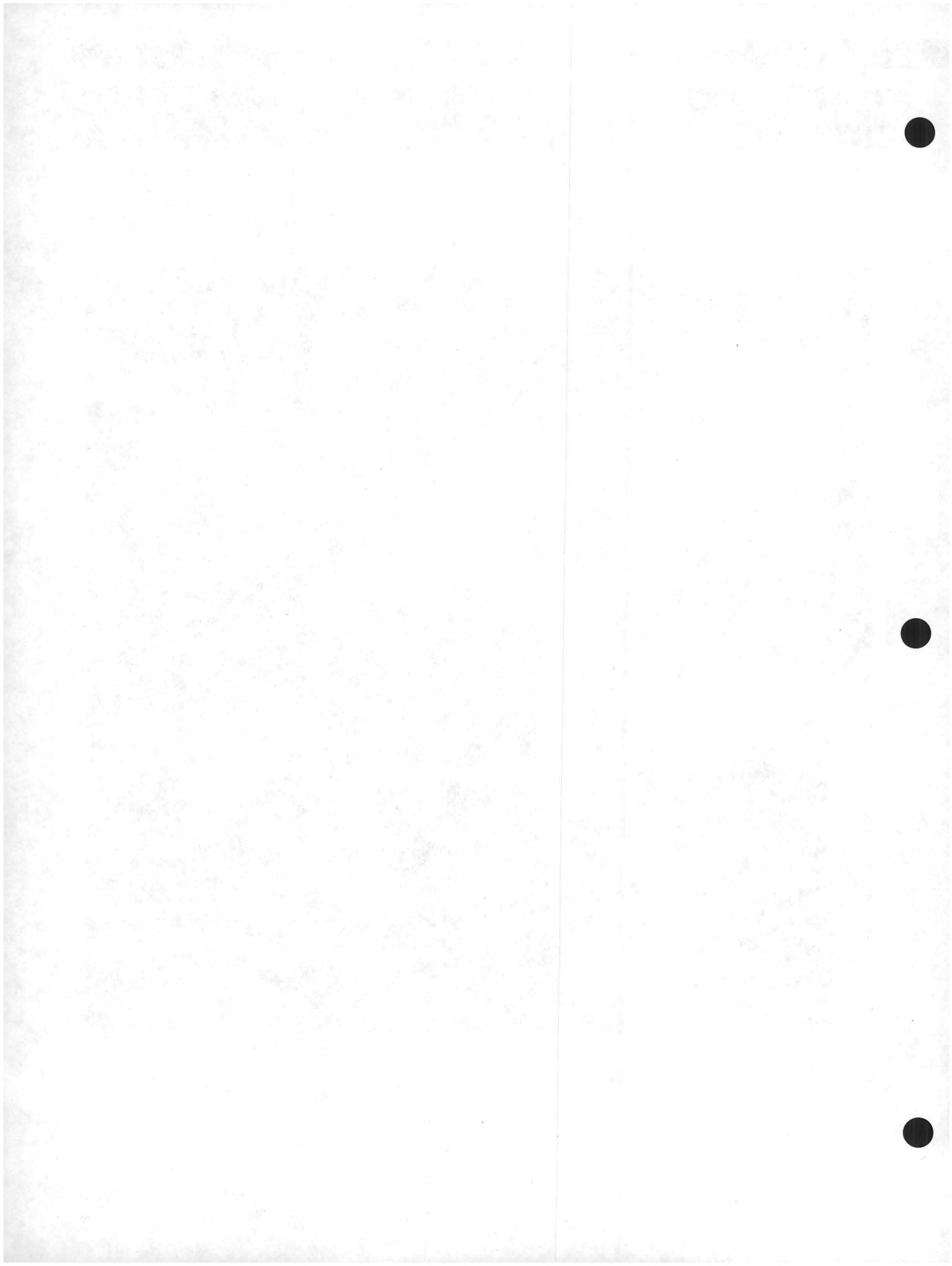


## Study Guide





# Life through Christ's Spirit

Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1.

## Romans 8:1–27

### Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study and at the week's assembly.

### Hymn

O Holy Spirit, enter in,  
And in our hearts Your work begin,  
And make our hearts Your dwelling.  
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,  
Around and in us brightly shine,  
Your strength in us upwelling.

In Your radiance  
Life from heaven  
Now is given  
Overflowing,  
Gift of gifts beyond all knowing.

Left to ourselves, we surely stray;  
Oh, lead us on the narrow way,  
With wisest counsel guide us;  
And give us steadfastness that we  
May follow You forever free,  
No matter who derides us.

Gently heal those  
Hearts now broken;  
Give some token  
You are near us,  
Whom we trust to light and cheer us.

Oh mighty Rock, O Source of life,  
Let Your good Word in doubt and strife  
Be in us strongly burning  
That we be faithful unto death  
And life in love and holy faith,  
From You true wisdom learning.

Lord, Your mercy  
On us shower;  
By Your power  
Christ confessing,  
We will cherish all Your blessing.

Michael Schirmer; tr. Catherine Winkworth, adapt.

### Prayer

O Spirit, source of life and love and peace, come to me as I study Your Word. Speak to me the truth that sets me free. Teach me that I may grow in spiritual wisdom. Counsel and comfort me that I may take courage in the face of life's chances and changes. Come, Holy Spirit, testify to me of Christ, whose promise You are and whose love is my joy. Amen.

### Something to Think About

And no matter how seemingly healthy and spiritually evolved we are, there is still a part of us, however small, that does not want us to exert ourselves, that clings to the old and familiar, fearful of any change or effort, desiring comfort at any cost and absence of pain at any price, even if the penalty be ineffectiveness, stagnation or regression. In some of us our healthy self seems pathetically small, wholly dominated by the laziness and fearfulness of our monumental sick self. Others of us may be rapidly growing, our dominant healthy self reaching eagerly upward. . . . The healthy self, however, must always be vigilant against the laziness of the sick self that lurks within us. Within each and every one of us there are two selves, one sick and one healthy—the life urge and the death urge, if you will.

M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled*  
(New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978), 276–7.

It is the Spirit who tells us of our need of God; it is the Spirit who starts us on the way to God; it is the Spirit who makes us sure that God is waiting to welcome us, and that He is the Father whom our hearts desire.

William Barclay, *The Mind of St. Paul*  
(New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1958), 178.

### Digging Deep

#### My Personal Study for Week 1

Review question: a. What can the Law not do for us?

b. What does the Law do for us?

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### Day 1 • Read Romans 8:1–4

1. In these verses St. Paul celebrates what has come to Christians through Christ. Because of Christ, what is true of Christians according to each of these verses?

a. verse 1

b. verse 2

c. verse 4

2. When Paul speaks of “the law of the Spirit of life” in verse 2, he is referring to the controlling power of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life. Where Christians were once under the control of the Law and its curse, we are now under the control of the Holy Spirit. Think about your life in Christ. In what real ways are you now under the Spirit’s control? Read these passages and note what effect the Spirit has on you.

a. John 3:5–6

b. John 14:26

c. Romans 8:26–27

d. Galatians 5:22–23

e. Ephesians 3:14–19

3. a. What does Paul tell us about Jesus by saying in verse 3 that He was sent “in the likeness of sinful man”? See also John 1:1, 14.

b. What does he not mean (2 Corinthians 5:21)?

c. How does thinking about Jesus in this way help you (Hebrews 4:15–16)?

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### Day 2 • Read Romans 8:5–8

4. Paul again mentions the mind in these verses. Characterize here the mind-set of those controlled by their sinful nature by noting what each verse tells us. The sinful mind is set on . . .

a. verse 5

b. verse 6

c. verse 7

d. verse 8

5. Characterize here the mind-set of those controlled by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit-led mind is set on . . .

a. verse 5

# More than Conquerors

Distribute after session 1 for use in session 2.  
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## Romans 8:28–9:9

### Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study and at the week's assembly.

### Hymn

God of grace and God of glory,  
 On Your people pour Your pow'r;  
 Crown Your ancient church's story;  
 Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
 For the facing of this hour,  
 For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
 Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
 From the fears that long have bound us  
 Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
 For the living of these days,  
 For the living of these days.

Cure Your children's warring madness;  
 Bend our pride to Your control;  
 Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
 Rich in things and poor in soul.  
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
 Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,  
 Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation  
 To the evils we deplore;  
 Let the gift of Your salvation  
 Be our glory evermore.  
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
 Serving You whom we adore,  
 Serving You whom we adore.

Harry E. Fosdick

### Prayer

Lord Christ, in the face of struggle and crisis, grant me the faith to trust Your steadfast love. Save me from a lack of confidence, courage, and strength. Give me the wisdom I need to see the will of Your Father at work as You saw Him at work in Your passion on earth. Speak to me now by Your Spirit that I may receive

strength for whatever hard times are ahead. In Your strong name. Amen.

### Something to Think About

Contrary to what might be expected, I look back on experiences that at the time seemed especially desolating and painful with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my seventy-five years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my existence, has been through affliction and not through happiness, whether pursued or attained. In other words, if it ever were to be possible to eliminate affliction from our earthly existence by means of some drug or other medical mumbo jumbo . . . the result would not be to make life delectable, but to make it too banal and trivial to be endurable. This, of course, is what the cross signifies. And it is the cross, more than anything else, that has called me inexorably to Christ.

Malcolm Muggeridge, *A Twentieth Century Testimony* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1978).

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain* (New York: Macmillan, 1962), 93.

"I am not made for perilous quests," cried Frodo. "I wish I had never seen the Ring! Why did it come to me? Why was I chosen?"

"Such questions cannot be answered," said Gandalf. "You may be sure that it was not for any merit that others do not possess; not for power or wisdom, at any rate. But you have been chosen and you must therefore use such strength and heart and wits as you have."

J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, as quoted in Eugene H. Peterson, *Run with the Horses* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1983), 45.

The quotation captures the sheer grace and extreme challenge that come to us in our election and call as God's people.

### Digging Deep

#### My Personal Study for Week 2

**Review question:** What replaces the flesh as the dominating power in the life of the baptized child of God?

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### Day 1 • Read Romans 8:28–29

1. Verse 28—“All things,” including even painful experiences such as those mentioned in verses 38–39, work together for good, for our eternal benefit. God’s purpose? That we might be “conformed to the likeness of His Son” (verse 29). What are some of the wonderful things included in that ultimate goal of God for us?

a. 1 Corinthians 15:49–57

b. Philippians 3:20–21

c. Psalm 17:15

2. Verse 28—How does God *call* people—how did He call you?

a. Romans 1:16

b. 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14

c. Acts 2:38–39

3. “Foreknew,” verse 29, cannot mean merely to know beforehand, because God in His omniscience knew all people before they were born, yet not all people are saved. What’s all included in God’s “foreknowing”? See John 10:27–30.

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### Day 2 • Read Romans 8:29–30

4. Verses 29–30 celebrate God’s predestining of His people to salvation and glory. The verses are meant to bring comfort and certainty to God’s people. God has taken care of everything needed for our salvation. List the progression found in these two verses showing the action of God at work for us from before the foundations of the world to the glory waiting for us in heaven. You may also jot down insights found in the correlating cross-references. Spend some time in your group talking about these actions of God and the unique good news each carries for your life.

a. verse 29; Psalm 139:15–16

b. verse 29; Ephesians 1:4–5

c. verse 30; 1 Corinthians 1:9

d. verse 30; Romans 5:1

e. verse 30; Philippians 3:21

5. **Challenge question.** Some people are left with many questions about predestination. How would you respond to these questions: a. If God predestined