

# ROMANS (CHAPTERS 5-8) TOGETHER IN CONTEXT THE PRACTICAL LEARNING – LIVING – LOVING ASPECTS of FAITH (Part 2)

Delivered by Terry Lortz via Tom and Alberta Ecker

As we said previously, Jesus **sent the Holy Spirit** to the Apostles and disciples to **empower and enable** them to testify and witness. **God the Father sent God the Holy Spirit from Jesus for our benefit**. The Holy Spirit was **sent** to give us **new life**, and then **teach** us **how to live** in our **new life** and then **empower** us to be **faithful** and **obedient** in our **new life**. In both theory and practice, **God the Holy Spirit** is the one who **RESPONDS** to God the Son to **Lead, Counsel** and **Direct** the Body of Christ (the Church) here on earth. Today we will talk about some **theological and practical** aspects of faith and how the **many aspects of faith** help us understand our **life and journey** in Christ Jesus and **how He lives His life in us through God the Holy Spirit** as the Spirit lovingly **Leads, Counsels** and **Directs** our lives to **testify and witness** to Jesus as our brother, our best friend, our High Priest, our Mediator, our Messiah, our Savior, our Master, our Lord, and our King.

## OPENING PRAYER

In our thorough study of **Romans 8**, it remains only to ask what **sort of life** “the brothers” of **Romans 8:29** have been introduced into. There are certain **critical indications** that are supplied concerning **the nature of this redeemed existence**.

**This is what we will be looking for as we go along here; the life we have been introduced into and the nature of this redeemed existence.**

**8:29** *For those God foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among **many brothers***

The **nature of our new life** is to be **conformed and transformed** into the likeness of the Father's Son, Jesus Christ. In this **new life** of being **conformed**, the conclusion is largely unavoidable that this existence is fundamentally **communal and interpersonal**. It has been constituted by the **closest interlinking of actions** by God the **Father**, his beloved **Son**, and the **Spirit** of both the Father and the Son.

**They (meaning God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) now rule this new reality, in love (Romans 5:5, 8).**

*5:5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out **his love** into our hearts **by the Holy Spirit**, whom **he has given us. 8** but **God demonstrates his own love** for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

The **action of God on us is to pour his love** into our hearts. Living in **his love** is the **new life** we live as we live in our communal and interpersonal relationships. **Along with love** in our hearts, **grace and righteousness** now **reign** in our life. **(Romans 5:17-21).**

*5:17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will **those** who **receive** God's abundant provision of **grace and** of the gift of **righteousness reign in life** through the **one man, Jesus Christ.***

*5:21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also **grace might reign through righteousness** to bring eternal life **through Jesus Christ** our Lord.*

Now that **God reigns** over our lives **in love**, and has poured out **his love** into our hearts so that **love, grace and righteousness reign over our new lives**, what

can we go on to say? Is there **anything** that can now **separate us** from the **love of God**? (**Romans 5:31-37**).

**8:31** *What, then, shall we say in response to this? If **God is for us**, who can be against us?***32** *He who did not spare his own Son, but **gave him** up for us all—how will he not also, **along with him**, graciously give us all things?***33** *Who will bring any charge against **those whom God has chosen**? It is God who justifies.***34** *who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—**is at the right hand of God and is also interceding** for us.***35** *who shall **separate** us from **the love of Christ**? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; **we are considered as sheep** to be slaughtered." **37 No**, in **all these things** we are **more than conquerors** through **him who loved us**. **38 for I am convinced** that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

**All of this; God's love poured out into our hearts, God's grace and righteousness now reigning over us in our new lives, has established relationships that are *inseparable*, not to be broken by even the most fearsome apocalyptic forces (Romans 8:38-39).**

**8:38** *For **I am convinced** that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in*

*all creation, will be able to **separate us** from the **love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord***

**Furthermore, these relationships with the Father and Son follow adoption into the family categories of “children” and “brothers” (Romans 7:1; 8:12, 14-17, 19, 21, 23, and 29).**

***7:1** Do you not know, **brothers**—for I am speaking to men who know the law.....*

***8:12** Therefore, **brothers**, we have an obligation .... **14** because those who are **led** by the Spirit of God are **sons of God.15** For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but **you received** the Spirit of **sonship**. And by him **we cry, “Abba, Father.”16** The Spirit himself testifies with **our spirit** that **we are God’s children.17** Now if **we are children**, then we are **heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we **share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.***

***8:19** The creation waits in eager expectation for the **sons of God** to be revealed.*

***8:21** ...that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into **the glorious freedom of the children of God.***

***8:23** ...not only so, but **we ourselves**, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, **groan inwardly** as we **wait eagerly** for our **adoption as sons**, the redemption of our bodies.*

***8:29** For those God **foreknew** he also predestined **to be conformed** to the **likeness of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among **many brothers.***

It is hard to avoid the further implications that these relationships are intimate and affectionate, and this correlates with the **explicit references** by the text (which we have just gone over) to the love of the divine actors (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) for humanity, as well as **implicit indications** in the text to the love of God for humanity.

Let's reiterate a few points that we learned today and what we previously said. Out of the Father's great love for humanity he first **sent his Son** to redeem us, and then He and Jesus **sent the Holy Spirit** to bring us into this new and redeemed existence. The Holy Spirit blesses us with understanding the nature of this redeemed existence. Our new life in Christ Jesus is not a bed of roses, we do join in his sufferings, but nothing in the way of suffering can ever separate us from Jesus and the love of God.

**God the Father and God the Son sent God the Holy Spirit for our benefit.** The Holy Spirit **teaches** us how to live in our **new redeemed life** and then **empowers** us to be **faithful** and **obedient** in our new redeemed life. In both theory and practice, God the Holy Spirit **RESPONDS** to God the Son to **Lead, Counsel** and **Direct** the Body of Christ (the Church) here on earth.

The **many aspects of faith** help us understand our new **life and journey in Christ Jesus** and how **He lives His life in us** through **God the Holy Spirit** as the Spirit lovingly Leads, Counsels and Directs our lives as Jesus' "brothers and sisters." The saved are "brothers and sisters" because they **are all** shaped by the image of the Son **and are all** obliged to the one Father, crying "Abba Father" by the **shared Holy Spirit**. This redeemed "brothers and sisters" anthropology (the study of the characteristics of humanity) in the Body of Christ is best described as fundamentally **relational**, and the **new reality as** communal and interpersonal.

This wraps up our study on **Romans 8**; we hope that we can now understand how crucial the Holy Spirit is to **our walk of faith** and the **counseling and leading that we need daily and moment by moment**. Let us end with a paraphrased quote from the book, "**A Year with Jesus**" by Eugene H. Peterson;

"Association with Jesus **puts us in the company** of healing, enlightenment, faith, love, peace and unanticipated joys. But it **also puts us in the place** of suffering, betrayal, humiliation, apprehension, dread, and crucifixion. We must, if we are faithful to the Christian way, accept the one **as readily** as the other."

May God help us not be surprised or dismayed by either, and **may we live daily** in His love, joy, and peace!"