

KINGDOM.

LESSON 30

1	PRAYER
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Group leader. Pray for God's guidance through his Spirit, for awareness of his presence and for listening to his voice. Commit your group and this lesson about preaching God's kingdom to the Lord.

2	SHARING (20 minutes) [QUIET TIMES] PROVERBS 6, 7, 8 and 10
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Take turns and share (or read from your notes) in short what you have learned from one of your quiet times with God out of the assigned Bible passages (Proverbs 6, 7, 8 and 10). Listen to the person sharing, take him serious and accept him. Do not discuss what he shares. Take notes.

3	MEMORISATION (5 minutes) [GOD'S GREATNESS] REVIEW SERIES K
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Review two by two the **series K. "God's greatness"**.

(1) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. "To whom will you compare me?" "Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

(2) God is all-glorious. 1 Chronicles 29:11. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

(3) God is sovereign. Ephesians 1:11-12. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.

(4) God is all-knowing. Hebrews 4:13. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

(5) God is all-powerful. Jeremiah 32:17. Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

4	BIBLE STUDY (85 minutes) [THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS] ROMANS 8:1-17
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Introduce. Make use of the five steps method of Bible study to study **Romans 8:1-17** together.

In Romans chapters 1-5 Paul explained the state of justification and made it clear that the law cannot secure justification. In Romans chapter 6-7 he explained the state of holiness and the process of sanctification and made it clear that the law can also not produce sanctification. In Romans chapter 8 Paul explains the security and the assurance of the salvation of Christians.

The salvation of Christians, which was purposed by God the Father, merited by Christ the Son, applied by the Holy Spirit and proclaimed in the gospel (Romans 1:16) is absolutely certain (guaranteed)!

The salvation of Christians is secure, because:

- they have been delivered from the dominating and controlling power of their sinful nature (Romans 8:1-4).
- their salvation has actually begun in the regeneration and sanctification of their hearts and lives by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:5-13).
- they are God's adopted children and heirs of the future glory (Romans 8:14-17).

STEP 1. READ. GOD'S WORD LET US READ Romans 8:1-17 together. Let us take turns to read one verse each until we have completed the reading.

STEP 2. DISCOVER. OBSERVATIONS <i>Consider.</i> WHICH TRUTH IN THIS PASSAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU? Or WHICH TRUTH IN THIS PASSAGE TOUCHES YOUR MIND OR HEART? <i>Record.</i> Discover one or two truths that you understand. Think about them and write your thoughts in your notebook. <i>Share.</i> (After the group members have had about two minutes to think and write, take turns to share).

Let us take turns to share with one another what each of us has discovered.
(Remember: In every small group, the group members will share different things)

8:1-4

Discovery 1. Christians are secure, because they are delivered from the dominating and controlling power of their sinful nature.

While John 5:24 promises that Christians will *not be condemned* in the final judgement day, Romans 8:1 promises that Christians will *not be doomed* (*punished with eternal destruction*) (cf. Matthew 25:46)! This is because God has already doomed the overwhelming guilt and dominating power of the sinful nature of believers in Christ's weakened human nature (Romans 8:3). The Holy Spirit has set Christians free from the absolute dominating and controlling power of their sinful nature (Romans 8:2).

The law is God's absolute requirement for justification (salvation) and God's absolute rule of duty for living as it is expressed in God's moral laws (the Ten Commandments). But it was impossible for the law to justify (save) man, because the law was made powerless through the sinful nature of man. The sinful nature of man made it impossible to obey the law.

What the law could not do, God did through Jesus Christ! He sent Jesus Christ in the same weak human nature (except sin) and doomed sin and its power in the weak human body of Jesus Christ on the cross (1 Peter 2:24) (Romans 8:3). God made atonement of sins, not by keeping the law, but by the substitution death of Jesus Christ. In this way, not only justification, but also sanctification becomes a possibility and a reality for people who believe in Jesus Christ.

The righteous requirements of the law with respect to justification and sanctification are nothing less than 100% obedience to God and his will and 100% perfection in the way people live! No descendant of Adam could ever fulfil such a requirement! But Jesus Christ has fulfilled this requirement in the place of everyone who believes in him!

People prove that they are genuine believers in Jesus Christ by no longer living in accordance with their sinful natures, but by living in accordance with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of life functions as the new power in the life of a Christian. The obedience to Christ and consequent sanctification begins at regeneration (Acts 5:32; 1 Peter 1:2) and is perfected only at the time believers see Christ face to face (1 John 3:1-3). The Holy Spirit will continue to sanctify believers until they are finally set free from their present bodies in which the sinful nature and death causes so much ravage (Romans 7:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57)(Romans 8:4).

8:5-13

Discovery 2. Christians are secure, because their salvation has actually begun in the regeneration and sanctification of their hearts and lives by the Holy Spirit.

(1) Christians live in accordance with the Holy Spirit.

Because Christians are delivered from the absolute dominating and controlling power of their sinful nature, they live their lives no longer in accordance with their sinful nature (which is still a present reality), but in accordance with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26). Christians have the Holy Spirit, live under the rule of the Holy Spirit and consequently have the mind of the Spirit. "The mind of the Spirit" is the way of thinking or mind-set of the Spirit. It means that Christians have the thoughts and attitudes of the Spirit; they have the same view of things as the Spirit; they have the same goals, aspirations and strivings that the Spirit has! Christians set their minds to the things of the Spirit, that is, they direct their interests and goals again and again to things, which the Spirit proposes and approves and which glorifies God.

The mind of the Spirit results in "life" (eternal life), which is to know and fellowship intimately with God (John 17:3). It also results in "peace", which is the inner assurance that:

- *past* sins are forgiven (Romans 5:1)
- *present* evils are overruled for good (Romans 8:28)
- *future* events will not be able to separate the Christian from God's love for him (Romans 8:31-39) (Romans 8:5-8)!

(2) Non-Christians live in accordance with their unregenerate nature.

Non-Christians do not have the Spirit, they live continually under the government of their sinful and depraved nature and direct their interests and goals to corrupt and worldly things. It is spiritually, morally and psychologically impossible for non-Christians to subject themselves to God and God's will, because their way of thinking, view of the world and attitude is completely hostile to God. Non-Christians do not and cannot subject themselves to the God of the Bible. They cannot please God.

This condition results in "death", which means alienation from God, even continued hostility against God, powerlessness against the unholiness and unrighteousness of their lives and finally eternal misery (Romans 8:5-8). People that do not have the Holy Spirit are dominated and controlled by their sinful nature. Such people cannot be Christians! However, people that have the Holy Spirit are dominated and controlled by the Holy Spirit. Such people

have the Spirit of the living God or the Spirit of Christ living in them. Or to put this truth in another way, such people have Jesus Christ living in them and belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9-10a)!

(3) Christians are distinguished by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

In spite of the disintegrating power of their sinful nature that is still at work in them, Christians are distinguished by the indwelling Spirit. Because the sinful nature is still active in the physical body, *the physical body* of Christians is doomed to die. But because Christians have been justified by faith, *the human spirit* of Christians already has eternal life. The Holy Spirit has made the human spirit alive for ever and guarantees that also his human body will be made alive at the resurrection of the dead (cf. Philippians 3:21). The indwelling Holy Spirit is the condition for *the beginning* of his salvation and finally also the guarantee for *the completion* of his salvation at the resurrection from the dead (Romans 8:10b-11; Ephesians 1:13-14)!

(4) Christians have an obligation.

Therefore Christians have an obligation towards God. They no longer have an obligation towards their sinful nature to live according to their sinful nature. If people, who think that they are Christians, nevertheless live according to their sinful nature, they will not inherit eternal life, but eternal death. Genuine Christians are governed by the Holy Spirit and will put the misdeeds of their sinful nature working in the members of their body to death. Genuine Christians *must, can and will* again and again put to death the sinful desires, motives, affections, purposes, etc. through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Romans 8:12-13).

8:13-17

Discovery 3. Christians are secure, because they are God's adopted children and heirs of future glory.

Christians that are actively led by the indwelling Holy Spirit are the real “sons (and daughters) of the living God”!

Before they became Christians, they possessed a spirit of slaves that feared their masters, punishment and rejection. (Galatians 3:23 - 4:7). They were “immature children subject to guardians and trustees”, namely “the law and man-made laws” (“the basic principles of the world”).¹

However, after they have become Christians, they possess the Holy Spirit, “the Spirit of adoption (sonship)” (Greek: *pneuma huiothesis*), that is, the Holy Spirit who changed them from slaves into mature sons (and daughters) in the household of God! Instead of fear, the Holy Spirit creates love in their hearts for the God of the Bible and he continually creates the characteristics of “children or mature sons of God” in them. They are confident that God has accepted them completely (cf. Ephesians 1:5) and have a personal and intimate relationship with God as their “heavenly Father”.

The fatherhood of God has no relationship to fatherhood on earth, where fathers beget physical children. The fatherhood of God is an absolute *spiritual* concept. God causes people to be “born-again spiritually” and relates in a spiritual way to them!

The Holy Spirit himself continually testifies together with the human spirit of Christians that they are genuinely (spiritual) children of God and that they are “heirs of God and joined heirs with Jesus Christ” of the future perfect world. The Holy Spirit provides Christians with the subjective assurance of salvation (in the heart)(Romans 8:16) just as the revelation of God in the Bible provides the objective assurance of salvation (cf. Romans 16:25-26). The present sufferings of Christians (their oppression and persecution) in this world are the unavoidable way towards this future glory (Romans 8:17)!

STEP 3. QUESTION.

EXPLANATIONS

Consider. WHICH QUESTION ABOUT ANYTHING IN THIS PASSAGE WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASK TO THIS GROUP?

Let us try to understand all the truths in Romans 8:1-17 and ask questions about the things we still do not understand.

Record. Formulate your question as clearly as possible. Then write your question in your notebook.

Share. (After the group members have had about two minutes to think and write, let each person first share his question.)

Discuss. (Then, choose a few of these questions and try to answer them by discussing them together in your group.)

(The following are examples of questions the students might ask and some notes about the discussion of the questions.)

¹ “The basic principles of the world” are the (religious, political, economic, psychological, etc.) laws and principles which non-Christians serve. Jews serve the Torah, nominal Christians the law, Muslims the Sharia, Hindu’s their pujas, communists their manifesto, etc.

8:1-4

Question 1. Does “condemnation” refer to the deliverance of the guilt of sin only, or also to the deliverance of the power of sin?

Notes.

(1) The translation of Romans 8:1-4.

Verse 1. “Therefore, there is now no doom (Greek: katakrima) (the punishment that follows sentencing, the execution of judgement, the consignment to destruction) for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Verse 2. Because through Christ Jesus the law (in the sense of “the dominating principle”) of the Spirit of life *once for all* (aorist time) set you (Greek: “you” in stead of “me”) free from the law (in the sense of “the dominating principle”) of sin and death (that is, the powerful sinful nature).

Verse 3. For what the law (in the sense of God’s absolute requirement for salvation and how to live expressed in God’s moral commandments) could impossibly do, because it was weakened by the flesh (that is, the sinful nature as in sinners), God did by sending his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh (Greek: en homoiómati sarkos hamartias) (that is, in the likeness of a man with a weak human nature)(cf. Philippians 2:7) for sin (Greek: peri hamartias) (that is, for the purpose of taking away sin or atoning sin). He *once for all* (aorist tense) doomed (consigning to destruction on the cross) (1 Peter 2:24; cf. Philippians 2:8) sin (its guilt, punishment and power) in the flesh (that is, the human body of Jesus Christ that was the same kind of body people have, except for sin) (Hebrews 4:15),

Verse 4. in order that the righteous requirements of the law (in the sense of God’s righteous and holy requirement) may be fulfilled in us, who do not *continue to walk* (live) (present continuous tense) according to the flesh (the sinful nature), but according to the Spirit.”

The first word “therefore” refers to the previous context. But which context? The best interpretation is that it refers to the immediate context, Romans 6:1 - 7:25 and particularly Romans 7:14-25. Paul is thinking of the deliverance from both the guilt of sin and the power of sin and from the doom or punishment, which both bring. Paul concludes that there can be no justification without sanctification. A true Christian cannot continue to walk according to the flesh!

(2) Doom refers to the execution of the sentence that has been pronounced.

In this context, the word “doom” does not only mean *pronouncing the sentence* for the guilt of sin, but rather *executing the sentence*, by overthrowing not only the guilt, but also the power of sin! In Romans 5:18, 1 Corinthians 11:32, 2 Peter 2:6, the same term has the sense of doom or punishment of the sinful world and the ungodly. The sentence has already been pronounced and the sentence is already being carried out (in God’s present judgements)! The destruction will be finally completed at the final judgement at the second coming of Christ. This renders the ultimate victory of Christians over the sinful world and the ungodly people certain!

The person who believes in Jesus Christ is not doomed! He will never be consigned to eternal destruction (hell)! It is the power of the sinful or depraved nature of the Christian that has *once for all* been doomed. Its destruction has already begun (with the regeneration, justification and sanctification) and will be completed (with the glorification) at the second coming of Christ! At the resurrection from the dead also the lowly (perishable, mortal) physical body (including the “flesh”, the sinful nature) of the Christian will be changed into a glorious physical body (including its perfect glorious and sinless spirit). This renders the present “state of holiness” (the devotion to a holy life and the ability to live a holy life) of Christians certain!

(3) The doom of sin in the sinful nature fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law (Romans 8:4)

By Christ’s completed work of salvation, God doomed the power of sin in the sinful nature of the Christian, so that the righteous requirement of the law of God may *once for all* be fulfilled in the life of the Christian. “The law” is:

- God’s absolute requirement for salvation (the atonement, reconciliation and justification)
- God’s absolute rule of obedience to how Christians must live (sanctification)
- God’s absolute standard of judgement and condemnation
- as expressed in God’s moral commandments

Thus, God’s law expresses both God’s condition for justification (salvation) and God’s goal for sanctification and that is nothing less than 100% perfection! Jesus Christ already fulfilled this condition for justification (salvation) and this goal for sanctification (separation from sins and dedication to holy living) for every person that believes in him! From the moment a person believes in Jesus Christ, God regards and treats him as perfectly justified and perfectly sanctified. “Christ Jesus has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30)! That is why the only boasting Christians may and can do, is to boast in the completed work of justification and sanctification of Christ on behalf of Christians. “Therefore, let him who boast, boast in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:31)!

Because Jesus Christ has already merited the state of perfect sanctification of Christians, the process of sanctification in the lives of Christians is thereby guaranteed as possible and certain! The sanctification of Christians consists of living their lives according to God’s moral laws. By the indwelling and control of the Holy Spirit, Christians *want to, can and will* live according to God’s moral laws. The sanctification of Christians is now possible, a present reality and in the future a completed and perfect reality! In this way, “the righteous requirements of God’s laws are completely fulfilled” in the lives of Christians! To put this truth in another way: the righteous requirement of God’s law has been perfectly

fulfilled by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and is now applied by the Spirit of Jesus Christ who lives in and through the Christian (cf. Galatians 2:20)!

8:1-4

Question 2. To what do “the law of the Spirit” and “the law of sin and death” refer?

Notes.

(1) The law of the Spirit refers to the Holy Spirit and the law of sin and death refers to the sinful nature.

On the basis of Romans 7:21,23,25, the best interpretation is that the word “law” means “the dominating power”, “the absolute governing principle”. “The Holy Spirit” is the law or the absolute governing principle in Christians. Likewise, “the sinful nature” is the law or the absolute governing principle in non-Christians and it is still a powerful principle or force in the old nature of Christians. The sinful nature is called “the law of sin and death”, because it is the dominating force behind every kind of sin in people and the ground for everything that leads to death.

In the non-Christian there is only one dominating and controlling force, namely his sinful nature and it produces every kind of fruit for death (cf. Galatians 5:19-21). And non-Christian cannot but obey the demands of his sinful nature.

However, in the Christian there are two opposing forces: the law of sin and death (his sinful nature) and the law of the Spirit of life (the Holy Spirit). His sinful nature is still a ravaging power (Romans 7:14-25) and a terrible opposing power (Galatians 5:17). But in principle his sinful nature is already a defeated power and a temporary power, which will plague him only until his physical death (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).

(2) Christians *can, should and will* live the new and holy life.

As Romans 6:7 refers to the legal basis for justification, Romans 8:3-4 refers to the legal basis for sanctification. The guilt of the sinful nature has once for all been paid by the completed work of salvation of Christ (Romans 3:24-25; cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19). The power of the sinful nature is once for all doomed to be destroyed by the completed work of salvation of Christ (Romans 6:6-7). The execution of this destruction has already begun by the work of the Holy Spirit living in the Christian.

If the regenerated Christian could and would completely and perfectly obey the Holy Spirit, he also could and would be completely and perfectly free from the power of sin and the pollution of sin! However, because every Christian continues to have a sinful nature until his physical death, no Christian on earth is completely and perfectly free from the power of sin, the pollution of sin and the presence of sin. Only after his physical death will a Christian be absolutely free from the power, pollution and even presence of sin!

Nevertheless, because Christ’s death once for all delivered the Christian from this absolute power of sin (Romans 6:2,7) and because the Holy Spirit is applying this reality to his life (Romans 8:2), the Christian *can, should and will* walk after the Spirit and no more after the sinful nature (flesh) (Romans 8:4)! A Christian may not be victorious over sin all the time, but he will certainly not be defeated by sin all the time. The Christian *can, should and will* again and again put to death the misdeeds of the body (Romans 8:13) and he *should, can and will* again and again set his mind on what the Holy Spirit desires (Romans 8:5).

8:12-14

Question 3. Is Romans 8:13 a threat or an exhortation?

Notes. In Romans 8:13, Paul says, “If you live according to the sinful nature, you will die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.” Is this a threat that Christians can lose their eternal security or an exhortation to exercise responsibility?

This is an exhortation that Christians must destroy the sinful nature. Christians are people with a responsibility, even under obligation! Their responsibility is not to live according to their sinful nature, but to live according to the indwelling Holy Spirit.

- Christians must not *tolerate* their sinful nature!
- Christians must not try to *change* their sinful nature!
- Christians must *put to death* the misdeeds of their sinful nature!

These misdeeds are expressed in their physical bodies! They must again and again root out and destroy all kinds of sins, which uses the body to express itself (Romans 6:13,19). Christians can do this and will do this when they live according to the Holy Spirit. Or to put it in another way, when they allow Christ through his Spirit to live in and through them, he will root these sins out of their lives.

By these statements, Paul does not neutralise the security of Christians. He emphasises that the only way Christians can be subjectively sure (in their mind, conscience and feelings) of their eternal salvation, is when they live according to the Holy Spirit! A non-Christian and a nominal Christian who live according to their sinful nature cannot and will not have any assurance of salvation!²

² That is why Jews, Muslims, nominal Christians and adherents of other religions can never have any assurance that they will be saved!

8:14-16**Question 4. What gives Christians the assurance that they are children of God?**

Notes. Two things give Christians the assurance that they are really children of God:

(1) The feelings of love towards God prove that Christians are children of God.

Before people become Christians, they possess “a spirit of slavery or bondage”. “The spirit of slavery” is the spirit that slaves have: a fear for their master, fear of rejection by their community and fear of punishment.

But when people become (born-again) Christians, they receive the Holy Spirit, which is called “the Spirit of adoption”. The Spirit of adoption is the spirit that children of the house have: a spirit of love for God, a spirit of a personal and intimate relationship with God as Father and a deep realisation that God has accepted them as his own children (sons and daughters)! The Holy Spirit creates in believers feelings of love for God, a childlike confidence that they belong to God’s family and the characteristics of the children of God (cf. Ephesians 1:5,14).

(2) The witness of the Holy Spirit in the heart of Christians proves that they are children of God.

The Holy Spirit himself testifies again and again with the human spirit of Christians that they are in fact children of God. He *continually* confirms and assures Christians in their regenerated mind, conscience and heart that they are in fact children of God. The Holy Spirit constantly reminds the Christians of God’s promises in the Bible and he generates in them a deep assurance that God himself loves them as his children (cf. Romans 8:39).

8:17**Question 5. In which respect are Christians “co-heirs” with Christ?**

Notes.

(1) Christians share Christ’s glory.

Christians do not receive any permanent inheritance or possession now in this present world. But in the future, they will share in Christ’s glorious inheritance, which consists of nothing less than the new heaven and the new earth. Christ as Head of his Body (the Church) and Christians as his Body are joined heirs! Christ acquired (earned) this inheritance, but Christians may share this inheritance with him.

(2) Christians share Christ’s sufferings in order to share his glory.

Christians and Christ not only share the *future* glorious inheritance, they also share the *present* sufferings. In God’s eternal plan, Christians will first share Christ’s sufferings before they can share his glory! The sufferings of Christians are called “the sufferings of Christ” (Colossians 1:24), but not in the sense of Christ’s redemptive suffering on the cross for sins.

Christians share in the general sufferings, afflictions and sorrows of life, which Jesus as “the Man of sorrows” suffered while he was on earth. Christians also have a share in the general weakness, sickness, disability, disasters and wars, results of crime and sins of others, difficulties of circumstances, broken relationships, disappointment, unemployment, poverty, frustration, etc. in this world. In short, Christians have a share in the sufferings of the fallen and broken world, into which also Christ was born.

But Christians also share in the particular sufferings or persecutions against Christ and the Christian faith. Christians suffer for the name of Christ and for the cause of Christ (Mark 8:34-38). Christians should respond to their sufferings in the same way as Christ did (1 Peter 2:18-23). These sufferings take many forms and will continue in this present age until the second coming of Christ. The purpose of God with the suffering of Christians is not to satisfy the demands of his justice, but to prepare Christians to share in his glory! The present suffering is *the process of refining* through which Christians must pass (cf. 1 Peter 1:6-7). Suffering is the necessary condition for finally sharing in Christ’s glory.

STEP 4. APPLY.**APPLICATIONS**

Consider. WHICH TRUTHS IN THIS PASSAGE ARE POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS FOR CHRISTIANS?

Share and record. Let us brainstorm with one another and record a list of possible applications from Romans 8:1-17.

Consider. WHICH POSSIBLE APPLICATION DOES GOD WANT YOU TO TURN INTO A PERSONAL APPLICATION?

Record. Write this personal application down in your notebook. Feel free to share your personal application.

(Remember that people in every group will apply different truths or even make different applications of the same truth. The following is a list of possible applications.)

1. Examples of possible applications from Romans 8:1-17.

8:1. Realise that you will never be doomed, punished or destroyed, because you are in Christ!

- 8:2-3. Accept that the Holy Spirit is now the dominating and controlling power in your human body and human spirit, because Christ has already doomed your sinful (depraved) nature to be destroyed.
- 8:4. Believe that Jesus Christ has already completely fulfilled the righteous requirements of God's law in your place! Your state (position) in Christ is of complete and perfect righteousness and holiness (1 Corinthians 1:30). Therefore you must, can, and will also grow in your process of sanctification.
- 8:5. Realise that there are only two ways of thinking in this world. Non-Christians constantly think of how to gratify the depraved desires of their sinful nature. Christians can and will again and again aim to do the things that please God.
- 8:7-8. Realise that a person without the Holy Spirit does not submit himself to God or to God's will by his own desire or effort. He cannot even submit himself to God and God's will by his own desire or effort. Unless he is born from above by the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (John 3:3-8; 6:44).
- 8:9. Believe that a person without the Holy Spirit is not a Christian.
- 8:9-10. Accept that the Holy Spirit is no one less than the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Christ. God is one. To put this truth in another way, realise that Jesus Christ lives in the heart and life of the believer through the Spirit.
- 8:10-11. Realise that although your physical body must die, the Holy Spirit, who has made your human spirit alive, will also resurrect your physical body.
- 8:12-13. Every Christian has an obligation not to live according to his sinful nature, but to put the misdeeds of the sinful nature in his body and mind to death through the power of the Spirit.
- 8:14-15. Believe that you are no longer a slave to your sinful nature, but that you are a child of God. Believe that the Holy Spirit creates love for God in your heart (Romans 5:5) and gives you a personal and intimate relationship with God as your heavenly Father.
- 8:16. Realise that the Holy Spirit continually testifies together with your human spirit that you definitely are a child of God.
- 8:17. Accept that you can only become a joined heir with Christ and share in his glory when you also share in his sufferings.

2. Examples of personal applications from Romans 8:1-17.

I want to take my responsibility of *being a Christian under obligation* very serious. Therefore, every day, I want to consider how to put to death some particular misdeeds of my sinful nature operating in my physical body. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I can put these to death.

I want to remember that God planned that I must first pass through this present world of suffering before I can inherit his glory. As all human beings, I too share in the ordinary sufferings and problems of life. And as a Christian, I also share in the suffering caused by persecution. But God planned these sufferings to prepare me to share his glory!

STEP 5. PRAY.

RESPONSE

LET US TAKE TURNS TO PRAY ABOUT ONE TRUTH THAT GOD HAS TAUGHT US in Romans 8:1-17. (Respond in your prayer to what you have learned during this Bible study. Practise to pray only in one or two sentences. Remember that people in every group will pray about different issues.)

5

PRAYER (8 minutes)

**[INTERCESSION]
PRAY FOR OTHERS**

Continue to pray in groups of two's or three's. Pray for one another and for the people in the world (Romans 15:30; Colossians 4:12).

6

PREPARATION (2 minutes)

**[ASSIGNMENT]
FOR NEXT LESSON**

(*Group leader.* Give the group members this preparation for at home in writing or let them copy it down).

- Commitment.** Be committed to make disciples, build the Church and preach the kingdom.
- Preach, teach or study** Romans 8:1-17 with another person or group of people.
- Personal time with God.** Have a quiet time from half a chapter of **Proverbs 15, 16, 17 and 19** each day. Make use of the favourite truth method. Make notes.
- Memorisation. (11) Romans 8:1.** Daily review the last 5 memorised Bible verses.
- Teaching.** Prepare **the parable of "the doctor and the sick"** in Matthew 9:9-13 and **the parable of "the salt of the earth and the light of the world"** in Matthew 5:13-16. Make use of the six guidelines for interpreting parables.
- Prayer.** Pray for someone or something specific this week and see what God is doing (Psalm 5:3).
- Update your notebook** on preaching God's kingdom. Include your notes on quiet time, your memorisation notes, your Bible study notes and this preparation.