

March 9, 2025

Most Encouraging Chapter in the Bible (Romans 8:1-17, 28-29)

Warmup: What superpower would you like to have to impact your neighborhood?

READ Romans 8

- This chapter discusses life in the Spirit: what are your first memories of someone you observed as “walking with the Spirit, or alive in the Spirit”?
 - What about this person captured your attention?
- Romans 8:1 says, “There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.” How does this truth affect your confidence, your faith?
- Have you considered that sin is “hostility toward God?” What ideas can cloud your thinking about your sin being hostile toward God?

Cultural and Historical Background

In the Greco-Roman world, the concept of life (*zôé*) was often associated with the physical and temporal existence. However, the New Testament writers, particularly John and Paul, infused the term with a deeper theological meaning. They emphasized that true life is found in Christ, contrasting it with the temporary and often unfulfilling life offered by the world. This understanding was revolutionary in a culture that often sought life through philosophy, pleasure, or power.

- Verse 6 explains that the Spirit of God brings life (*zôé*) and peace. How have you recently experienced victory in your thinking?
 - What patterns of thought tend to erode your peace?
 - Share a few strategies you can use to regain your peace when it starts to slip away.

*8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also **give life** to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

The phrase “give life” is **zôopoieó**: **to make alive, to give life, to quicken**. This is the life-giving power of God, particularly through the Holy Spirit. This term emphasizes the transformative power of God to bring spiritual life to those who are spiritually dead.

- Spend a few minutes slowly reading and meditating on verse 11.
- God’s Word is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12), what personal message is God communicating to you? Record it on the next page.

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”

God's Promise

- What is God's promise to you in Romans 8:26? Why did He give you this promise?

Your God-given purpose

- According to Romans 8:28 what is God's purpose for you?

- Share with someone in your group: where do you currently need the confidence of Romans 8:28 to cover you this week?

RESPOND

- Regarding verses 26 and 28, what does God want **you** to know?

- As your personal response to these verses, what is God asking you to do?