October 18, 2026 Indwelt Session 7 Romans 8:14-27

Review: The dark tones in Paul's lament in chapter seven about the struggle between the flesh and the spirit reflects the reality of the Christian life. Paul's description of the struggle led him to lament "what a wretched man I am!" In spite of this ongoing struggle with sin, he did not live in despair. He did not struggle alone. His own efforts would not deliver him from his "body of death, but the power of "God through Jesus Christ our Lord" would deliver him. God delivers us through the Lord Jesus the Christ. **Romans 8:1** *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."*

Celebration (Romans 8:2-5) read in the Bible
Deliverance from the power of the flesh leads to celebration of the believer's victory in Christ. Those in Christ no longer are subject to the condemnation that the law calls for and our sin justifies. God in Christ has delivered believers from the penalty of sin. By giving His Son "as a sin offering," He has given life to those who are in Christ. Those in Christ are now freed to walk in the Spirit rather than in the flesh. They walk with the mindset or way of thinking of the Spirit, and find life and peace.

Carnally minded vs Spirit minded (Romans 8:6-9) read in the Bible
If a Christian is not diligent, the things of the world can take over a person's mind and block out the things of the Spirit. Without God, things of the Spirit, sin and death reign. God gave us the option. We can live according to the flesh, and spend our lives in pursuit of worldly things or we can live according to the Spirit. **Matthew 6:33** *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*
Vs. 7 The carnal mind is enmity against God. The world hates God and much as God hates sin. People who live according to the flesh not only are against God but they are not able to comply with God's law. They cannot please God. Some people, who call themselves Christians, are so in name only. To be a Christian is to follow Christ, and live a lifestyle that follows God's laws. The indwelling spirit gives the Christian the desire to do what is pleasing to God. We are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit!

Alive (Romans 8:10-13) read in the Bible
Christ is in us and our body is dead because of sin. However, praise be to God, the Spirit of God who dwells in us is life. Our mortal bodies will be resurrected and transformed into a spiritual body. **1 Corinthians 15:52-53** *"...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible*

must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." There are only two choices in this life, and God makes them really clear. The first choice is if a person wants to live according to the flesh, rejects God, and will die. The second choice is to accept God, His free gift of salvation through Christ, and His Spirit. The second choice leads to eternal life.

Relationship (Romans 8:14-17) p. 66

The Spirit's influence is just as prominent in the believer as is the influence of the flesh. And God has freed believers from their enslavement to the mindset of the flesh and enabled them to live guided by the mindset of the Spirit who lives in them. Being led by the Spirit of God is not simply a matter of obedience. It is also a matter of identification. We know we are God's children because we walk with the Spirit. We have a relationship with God. We have not earned a place in God's family by our behavior. Our behavior is the result of our relationship with the Father through Christ. It is a loving relationship with God and with fellow believers.

Vs. 15 Instead of a spirit of fear and obligation, Paul wrote, believers received the Spirit of adoption. Interestingly, Paul used the Greek term for adoption to describe the believer's relationship with God in the New Testament. In Roman law, an adopted child entered a family with all the privileges of a child born into the family. Unlike a child by birth, the adopted child was chosen. They were made part of the family based solely on the will and affection of the father. Our relationship with God as Father is so intimate that through the work of the Spirit, we cry out to Him as our Abba, daddy. It implies a loving and nurturing relationship entirely different from one consisting of obligation and servitude. I once steered away from God in fear and guilt, now I run to Him with the assurance that I am His child. We can go straight to our Father, there doesn't need to be another person in between–Jesus already made the sacrifice and paved the way straight to our daddy's open arms.

Vs. 16 The Holy Spirit's testimony corroborates the testimony of the believers' conscience that they are God's children. Since believers are God's children, then they are also heirs of God. As heirs, the children of God are assured that they will receive the abundant life and the eternal kingdom that God has promised. We are also coheirs with Christ. Union with Jesus does not just involve the promise of a future inheritance. Those united with Christ will also suffer with Him. If union with Christ leads to opposition and hardship similar to His experience, then that suffering is indicative of a genuine relationship with Him. Sharing Christ's suffering becomes evidence that the believer is united with Christ and will be glorified with Him.

Hope (Romans 8:18-25) p. 67

Christians are God's children. As heirs of God and coheirs with Jesus, they will inherit the kingdom of God with all that it entails. The full expression of that kingdom will be revealed in a future determined by God.
The Christian's confidence in this assured future, their hope in God, helps them live with faithfulness in a fallen world. Paul assured his readers that those in Christ who suffer because of their connection with Him will be glorified with Him. The phrase "I consider" indicates a calculated conviction, the result of careful consideration. Followers of Christ in Paul's day were often jailed, driven out of cities, or killed for their faith. Christians are persecuted and martyred today. Paul refused to focus on suffering–his eyes were fixed on the glory that awaited him.
Vs. 19 The believer is already part of God's kingdom, but Christians continue to suffer in this fallen world because God has not yet transformed the whole of creation as He will in the age to come. So the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's transforming action in the future. At this future time, not only will fallen creation be restored, but also the true nature of the sons of God will be revealed in full. Biblical hope is a confident expectation grounded in God's promises.
Vs. 20 The creation was subjected to futility. Futility refers to something existing or operating in vain or without purpose. I know some lost people like that. Their purpose is getting stuff and not serving the one, true, loving God. God formed creation with a purpose, but humanity's sin left creation unable to fulfill its intended purpose. Creation's futility was inflicted on it, not chosen willingly. The curse fell on creation as part of the punishment for the sin of Adam.
Genesis 3:17b-18 *"...Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it, [the earth] shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field."* When God subjected creation to futility because of human sin, He also guaranteed that redemption would extend beyond humanity. God subjected creation to futility in the hope of its eventual deliverance from decay. Hope describes a confident expectation of a future event promised by God. As the problem of sin was resolved in Christ so also creation would be restored to the original purpose of God. Creation's bondage to decay is temporary and will come to an end. The age to come will begin. At that time, God will create a transformed world reflecting His purpose and that is consistent with the glorious freedom of God's children.
Vs. 20 Paul's readers already knew about God's good creation in the beginning. They knew about the fall and the bondage of sin, decay, and depravity. They certainly knew the suffering experienced by the children of God. More importantly, they knew the promises of God's future transformation of the world, punishment of evil, and vindication of the righteous. These truths should allow God's children, us, to endure travails and transcend discouragement. Pain is real. Personally, I fear that more than death. Knowing the promise of eternal life with Jesus has helped me through the really tough times. The whole creation

looks forward to God's promised rescue from futility. Paul compared creation's groaning to labor pain. Labor pains give birth to new life. The groaning and suffering of hardship endured can achieve a positive outcome. Just as the creation endures in hope, so we as believers endure also. Christians live in confident expectation because we have the Spirit as the firstfruits. Firstfruits refers to a partial first part of something that represents the whole. The Spirit is God's gift to believers, and firstfruits represents both a promise and a foretaste of a fullness yet to come. **1 Corinthians 15:20** *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [died]."* The indwelling Holy Spirit provides a partial taste of the full experience that believers will enjoy in the age to come. At the same time the Spirit is evidence that God has begun a process that He has promised will be fulfilled in the future. With the Spirit as firstfruits of God's plan, believers can eagerly and confidently await the full expression of their adoption. The adoption received at conversion was/is real but not yet fully expressed. **1 John 3:2** *"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him [Jesus], for we shall see Him as He is."* The completed adoption awaits the return of Jesus, when Christians will also experience the redemption of our bodies. **Philippians 3:20-21** *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."*

Vs. 24 Believing is seeing. People were saved at their conversion (when they accepted Jesus as their Savior), follow Jesus daily, and look forward to the future completion of their deliverance in the age to come. All three experiences are connected to God's ongoing work. The believer at conversion begins a life lived in this hope. We live with the conviction that God will complete the good work He has begun in us. **Philippians 1:6** *"…being confident of this very thing that He who has begun a good work in you will be complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

The Christian hope is a confidence in the future based on the truth of the gospel and the reliability of God. While God's promise is reliable, it has not yet come to pass. That which a person sees is not something hoped for but something which has already come to pass. Our hope in Jesus will not allow us to be satisfied only with what we can see and experience right now. Believing is seeing. Our hope is based on the reliability of God and validated by the possession of the firstfruits of the Spirit. We are correct to eagerly wait for God's promises to be fulfilled with patience. Waiting involves fortitude and perseverance, not just calmly waiting for something. Believers should not just wait for God to act. Because of what we know for us and what we know He will do for us, we can live lives of faith with confidence, and in hope. We need to share the good news of the gospel.

Help (Romans 8:26-27) p. 70
The Holy Spirit's presence in our lives confirms our relationship with God. As the firstfruits of God's work, the Spirit's presence also provides evidence that we are coheirs with Christ and that our participation in the promised kingdom of God is assured. The spirit is more than evidence of our relationship with God and an assurance of a glorious future. The Spirit also helps believers as they live in the present age. The Spirit confirms the believer's relationship with God. In the same way, the Spirit aids the believer's efforts to live a godly life in the present in spite of the circumstances. God the Spirit helps us in our weakness. Weakness often shows up as confusion or uncertainty that leads to frustration. We have all experienced times like that. At times we do not even know what to pray for, and can feel overwhelmed. Words have limitations; in such times, we can be certain that the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.
The phrase "I consider" indicates a calculated conviction, the result of careful consideration.
Vs. 27 The effectiveness of the Spirit's intercession is linked to the knowledge and will of God. He who searches out hearts refers to the Father. The fact that the Father knows the mind of the Spirit and that the Spirit intercedes according to the will of God guarantees the effectiveness of the intercession. God the Father searches our hearts. **1 Chronicles 28:9** *"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever."* At all times and in every situation, the Holy Spirit is actively working in and for believers. He stands with them in their times of weakness and difficulty. He carries their greatest needs and deepest feelings to the Father, and the Father hears. He seeks to communicate and work out the will of God in the believer's life. We who follow Jesus can be certain that we are never alone, even in the most challenging situations. Ultimately, God's will is what matters most. God may not answer our prayers in the way we expect, but He answers according to His perfect will which is always for our good.

Final thoughts
Believers can confidently approach God as Father.

The indwelling of the Spirit and the promise of what is yet to come motivates believers to live in hope.

Believers can be assured that the Holy spirit is interceding to the Father for them.