

Romans 8:26-30
The Conduit of Hope

1. The Spirit Makes the Difference in Us 26, 27

A. Our Weakness

B. Insight into the Work of the Holy Spirit 27

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” -John 14:15-17 ESV

“For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” -Romans 8:6 ESV

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” -Romans 8:11 ESV

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,” -Romans 8:15-16 ESV

Searching

““And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.”

1 Chronicles 28:9 ESV

“O Lord, you have searched me and known me!” -Psalm 139:1 ESV

““I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.””
Jeremiah 17:10 ESV

“Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.” -1 Corinthians 4:5 ESV

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” -Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” -Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV

2. We Know 28

A. We Know

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”
Romans 8:28 NLT

B. For Those Who Love Him

“Love for God can be commanded, but it cannot be coerced, compelled, or engineered in advance, or else it loses its character as love.” Ben Witherington, *Paul's Letter to the Romans*

C. All Things

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”
Genesis 50:20 ESV

The Book of Job
Genesis 3.

““The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”
Deuteronomy 32:4 ESV

“Now then, let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the Lord our God, or partiality or taking bribes.” -2 Chronicles 19:7 ESV

““Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should do wrong.” -Job 34:10 ESV

3. It Is His Work 29, 30

“Whom”

A. Assurance in the Work of God

B. God’s Purpose: Being Conformed to the Image of Christ

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” -Philippians 2:12-13 ESV

“God sovereignly decreed that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil. When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it, inasmuch as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make but that he should be free to make it. If in His absolute freedom God has willed to give man limited freedom, who is there to stay His hand or say, ‘What doesn’t thou?’ Man’s will is free because God is sovereign. A God less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so.” AW Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

“I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?” -Romans 11:1-2 ESV

“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,” -Deuteronomy 7:9 ESV

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.” -1 Corinthians 15:20-24 ESV

C. Is There Still Hope for Me?

God is Able!

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” -Philippians 1:6 ESV

Reflection: How have you experienced the Holy Spirit conforming you into the image of the Son? So much of today’s passage is about hope through assurance. Do you need to allow the Spirit to sure up your confidence in the mighty work of God?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: 1 Corinthians 4:5. How does Paul describe God in this passage? What here gives you confidence in who the Lord is?

Tuesday: Genesis 50:20. As you read the words of Joseph, how does all that he went through in life help you to better understand the “all” in Romans 8:28 and “all” that you have been through?

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 32:4. When considering the “all” of Romans 8:28, how does this verse in Deuteronomy help us to see that God is not the author of sin or evil?

Thursday: Philippians 2:12-13. How would you explain what Paul is saying in these verses? How have you seen this working out in your own life?

Friday: 1 Corinthians 15:20-24. The hope of the Resurrection also is the complete working of the purpose of God in our lives as described by Romans 8. How does the fact of the future Resurrection help to fuel your hope as you live today?

Saturday: Philippians 1:6. Take hope that God is able to complete what He has started in you.