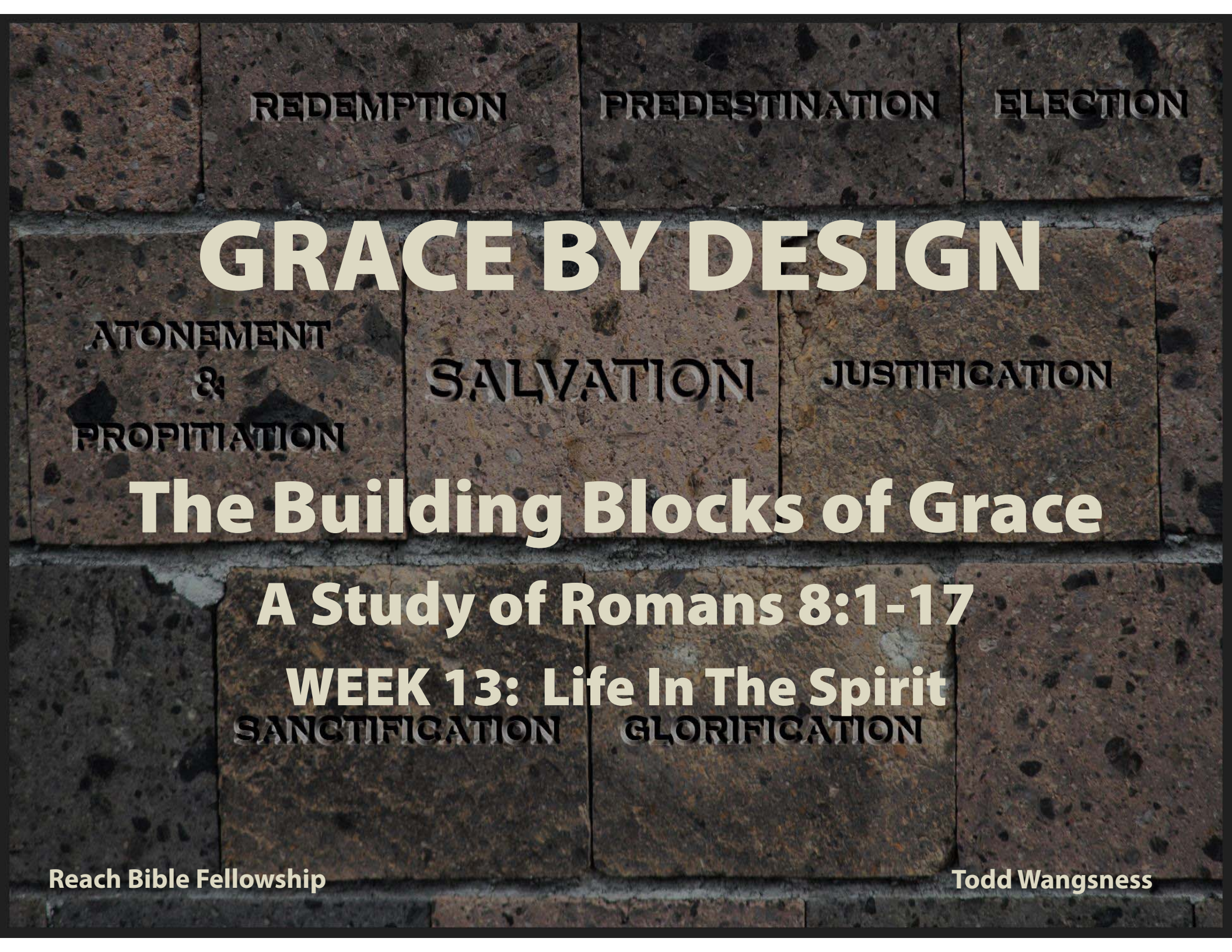

REDEMPTION
PREDESTINATION
ELECTION
GRACE BY DESIGN
ATONEMENT & PROPITIATION
SALVATION
JUSTIFICATION
The Building Blocks of Grace
A Study of Romans 8:1-17
WEEK 13: Life In The Spirit
SANCTIFICATION
GLORIFICATION
Reach Bible Fellowship
Todd Wangsness

Grace By Design: Study Outline

Week 1:	Romans	Overview of Grace and Salvation
Week 2:	Rom 1:1 – 1:17	Introduction to Romans
Week 3:	Rom 1:18 – 2:16	Justification – Ignorance is not an Excuse
Week 4:	Rom 2:17 – 3:20	Justification – Knowledge isn't Good Enough
Week 5:	Rom. 3:21 – 3:24	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 1
Week 6:	Rom. 3:25 – 3:31	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 2
Week 7:	Rom. 4:1 – 4:25	Justification – Faith vs the Law
Week 8:	Rom. 5:1 – 5:11	Sanctification – Peace with God 1
Week 9:	Rom. 5:12 – 5:21	Sanctification – Peace with God 2
Week 10:	Rom. 6:1 – 6:14	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 1
Week 11:	Rom. 6:15 – 6:23	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 2
Week 12:	Rom. 7:1 – 7:25	Sanctification – The Law Can't Save (But the Spirit Can!)
Week 13:	**Rom. 8:1 – 8:17**	**Sanctification – Life in the Spirit**
Week 14:	Rom. 8:18 – 8:30	Glorification – From Suffering to Glory
Week 15:	Rom. 8:31 – 8:39	Glorification – God's Everlasting Love
Week 16:	Rom. 9:1 – 9:33	Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose
Week 17:	Rom. 10:1 – 10:13	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 1
Week 18:	Rom. 10:14 – 10:21	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 2
Week 19:	Rom. 11:1 – 11:36	The Salvation of the Jewish people
Week 20:	Rom. 12:1 – 12:2	Living the Transformed Life
Week 21:	Rom. 12:3– 12:8	Gifts of the Spirit
Week 22:	Rom. 12:9– 12:21	The Christian Walk
Week 23:	Rom. 13:1 – 13:14	Love Fulfills the Law
Week 24:	Rom. 14:1 – 14:21	Not Judging the Weak in Faith
Week 25:	Rom. 15:1 – 15:25	Bearing One Another's Burdens
Week 26:	Rom. 16:1 – 16:25	Conclusion and closing remarks

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

Notable quotes on Chapter 8:1-11

"Romans 8:1 is the pinnacle of the gospel: no condemnation now—not because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done. And the Spirit seals this truth in us."

- **Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

"To be in Christ is to live in the Spirit, not according to the flesh. This is costly grace—it demands our life, but it also gives us life."

- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

"Romans 8:1-11 tells us that God's Spirit doesn't just forgive us; it transforms us, making us part of the new creation that began with Jesus' resurrection."

- **N.T. Wright**

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

- **Chapter 8 Overview**
  - **We can live the Christian life ONLY THROUGH the power of Jesus Christ!**
  - **He is not the dead Christ … He is the living, ascended, glorified Christ!**
  - **Through faith, I am to die to ALL THINGS both good and bad, but then – as though I had already been raised physically from the dead – step back into this present world to serve in the power of the indwelling Spirit.**
  - **Our strength as Christians is NOT in our Christian character! It is ONLY in and through the power of Jesus Christ crucified, raised, ascended, and glorified!**
  - **Romans 8 is not a new section of scripture … it is the continuation of the topic Paul started in Romans 5, namely, our Sanctification.**

- **Key phrases in Romans 8:**
  - **"the Spirit" [22X]**
  - **"in (or through) Christ" [5X]**
  - **"in you" [4X]**
  - **"the flesh" [4X]**

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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~~. [NKJV]

(*) Oldest manuscripts ("Nestle-Aland/United Bible Society [NU-Text]) end the verse at 'Jesus'. The added phrase is widely considered a scribal error copied from verse 4.

- **The NASB, NIV, NRSV, ESV and other modern translations rely more heavily upon the NU-Text (Alexandrian-based) earlier known as the 'Critical Text'.**
- **The KJV and NKJV versions are based on the later Textus Receptus (Greek) and Masoretic (Hebrew) texts (Byzantine-based).**

- **Since the Father does not condemn Jesus, neither can He condemn those are 'in Him'**
- **They are not condemned, they will not be condemned, and they cannot be condemned!**
- **The verdict is not merely "less condemnation!"**
  - **This where many of us are - we think that our standing has <u>improved</u> in Jesus**
  - **It isn't merely improved, it's been completely transformed!**
  - **It has been changed to <u>no condemnation</u>!!!**
- **We are free from the GUILT of sin!!!**

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Greek Bible Manuscript (New Testament) Sidebar

- There are approximately 5000 available historical manuscripts of the New Testament
  - 95% of them are from the Byzantine area (eastern Europe)
    - The Byzantine texts are considered "late manuscripts", dating after 600AD
  - 5% of them are from the Alexandrian area (northern Africa) with closer ties to the early church
    - The Alexandrian texts are the oldest and date from 200AD with even earlier fragments
    - More differences exist between the older Alexandrian texts than between the Byzantine texts, which some scholars use to claim that the Alexandrian contain more errors
- Textus Receptus [aka: Majority Text, Received Text, Byzantine Text]
  - Derived only from the Byzantine manuscripts (hence, 'Majority')
  - Compiled by Erasmus in the 16th century using a subset of 25 Byzantine manuscripts
  - KJV / NKJV versions are based upon the Textus Receptus
- NU Text (aka: Critical Text, Nestle-Aland / United / Neutral / Alexandrian / Sinaiticus / Vaticanus)
  - A compilation from all available Greek manuscripts, including Alexandrian texts
    - Compiled in late 1800's by Westcott/Hort with subsequent minor revisions
  - The NU-Text modifies or removes text in about 400 verses in the NT as compared to the Textus Receptus , but the two agree 98% of the time
  - NIV / NASB / ESV / ASV / RSV (and other versions) are based upon the NU-Text
- Most scholars agree the differences between the Textus Receptus and NU-Text do not result in any doctrinal errors
- Notable differences exist between the two texts, however
  - Rom 8:1, 1 John 5:7, Mark 16:9–20 and others

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

- **If we have accepted Christ as our Savior, we NEVER have to face the prospect of eternal condemnation!**
- **This first verse should remind us of the first two verses in Romans 5:**
  - ***Rom 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***
- **Just before His ascension, Jesus said:**
  - ***Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."***
  - ***Act 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you …"***
- **The tongues of fire came upon the early church on the Day of Pentecost signifying the beginning of the Age of Grace (or Church Age) and "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6)**
- **This same resurrection power belongs to those of us who are "in Jesus Christ" by and through Jesus' own authority!**

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

The Boeing 747-8

- **The aircraft weighs 970,000 lb (485 tons)**
- **Sitting on the tarmac, it is subject to the 'Law of Gravity'**
- **Each of its four powerful GE NextGen jet engines develop 67,400 lbs of thrust**
- **The 'Law of Aerodynamics' overcomes the 'Law of Gravity' as the aircraft hurtles down the runway**
- **All 485 tons of the 250 foot long behemoth gracefully launches into the sky as the lift generated by the air sweeping over its wings counteracts the gravity keeping it earthbound**

- **Likewise, we're free from the Law of Sin and Death through the Spirit of Jesus Christ. He lives in us … empowering us!**
  - **There is no need for us to struggle and strive to live according to this new Law!**
- **<u>His Life</u> in us 'frees' us and delivers us from the Law of Sin and Death !**
- **We are delivered from the POWER of sin!!**
- **However, just as gravity still pulls on the 747 even after it's airborne, sin still pulls on us**
- **But the Law of the Spirit empowers us to overcome the Law of Sin and Death!**

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

8:3-4 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- **Where does the real tussle take place?**
  - **Between our ears! It is a battle for our minds.**
  - ***Gal 5:16-17 Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.***
- **The weakness of the law lies in the fact that we can't keep it**
- **God took care of the matter by sending His own Son**
- **His Spirit lives IN us and guides us spontaneously, leads us daily, corrects us constantly and frees us practically**
- **Our deliverance lies in hiding in Christ and in counting in simple trust (faith) upon the Holy Spirit within us to overcome our fleshly lusts with His own new desires**
- **However, this verse annihilates the idea of "greasy grace" (sinning with impunity)!**
- **We are now to fulfill the righteous requirements of the Law! That means we are to now live as Jesus lived, walk as Jesus walked … through the POWER of the indwelling Spirit**

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- **There is a conscious involvement on our part in living a sanctified life**
  - **We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit … that is wonderful.**
  - **But now the call is to walk according to the Spirit!**
- **Living in the flesh simply means to give priority to the things of the material realm**
- **We tap into the power of the Holy Spirit living in us through FAITH!**

  Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- **We should not be striving to live a 'changed' life…**
  - **What God offers us is an 'exchanged' life! A 'substitute' life through Jesus Christ – our Substitute!**

    1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption
  - **God Himself has 'judicially' placed us in Jesus … it's not up to how we 'feel'**

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

8:7-8 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- **Paul didn't say that the carnal mind was at enmity with God - he put it even stronger than that. The carnal mind <u>is</u> enmity against God.**
  - ***"It is not black, but blackness; it is not at enmity, but enmity itself; it is not corrupt, but corruption; it is not rebellious, it is rebellion: it is not wicked, it is wickedness itself. The heart, though it be deceitful, is positively deceit; it is evil in the concrete, sin in the essence, it is the distillation, the quintessence of all things that are vile; it is not envious against God, it is envy; it is not at enmity, it is actual enmity." (Spurgeon)***

- **Do we live a life of 'trying' or 'trusting'?**
  - **The difference between the two is like the difference between heaven and hell!**
- **Our response must be, "Lord, I cannot do it! Therefore, I will no longer try to do it!"**
- **If we release ourselves from striving and 'white-knuckling' in our attempts to overcome sin, we will find ourselves falling into a different Law … the Law of the Spirit of Life!**

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

8:9 ***But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.***

- **'Dwell' means "to be at home".**
  - **Is the Spirit of God at home in you?**

- **If you're a believer, He's IN you - BUT is He *at home* in your life??**
  - **Do you take Him to activities, listen to conversations and allow your mind to dwell on thoughts that make Him uneasy or grieve Him?**

- **How do I know that I have the Spirit? Ask yourself these questions:**
  - **Has the Spirit led you to Jesus?**
  - **Has the Spirit put in you the desire to honor Jesus?**
  - **Is the Spirit leading you to be more like Jesus?**
  - **Is the Spirit at work in your heart?**

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

8:10-11 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- **Because Jesus lives in us, the old man (body) is dead, but the Spirit lives and reigns, and will live out His salvation even through our mortal bodies through resurrection.**
- **Not only are we in Christ (Romans 8:1), but He also is in you, and because God cannot abide a sinful home, the body (old man) had to die when Jesus came in.**
- **In John 14, Jesus makes very clear references to the Trinity indwelling us**
  - *John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever."*
  - *John 14:17-18 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."*
  - *John 14:23 "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."*
- **Paul continually emphasizes this same truth over and over throughout Romans 8**

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

8:12-13 ***<u>Therefore</u>, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 <u>For</u> if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.***

- **Paul summarizes everything he has said in verses 1-11 here in verse 12**
- **The fact we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit is wonderful!**
  - **But … it requires a conscious response on our part!**
- **Todd's paraphrase of Paul:**
  - **"Therefore, on the basis of everything I have reminded you concerning salvation, you should be seeking to live according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh!"**
  - **"For, if you continue to live for the flesh, YOU WILL DIE! But, if – through the Spirit – you consciously put to death the lusts of the flesh, YOU WILL LIVE FOREVER"!**

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- **This is where the rubber meets the road**
- **Who are the sons and daughters of God?**
  - **It is those who "*walk according to the Spirit*" (:4)**
- **The call is ALWAYS the same … We are to abide in Christ and bear fruit (John 15)**
- **If there is no fruit; if there is no evidence that we are abiding in the vine, then perhaps there is no reality to our profession of faith**
- **It is good to trust God that He has made us His children**
  - ***Joh 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe in His name***
- **But, if we are indeed indwelt by the Spirit, there WILL BE EVIDENCE in our lives**
  - ***Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.***
  - ***Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.***
  - ***1 Thes 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.***

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

- **However, Paul is not saying these things in the earlier verses to make us grovel in sorrow … beating our chests wondering if we're truly saved**
- **From this point forward to the end of the chapter is a great cry of victory and assurance!**
- **Interwoven with the reminders in the previous verses is the TREMENDOUS REALIZATION that – having been indwelt by the Holy Spirit – God is our Father!**
- **He LOVES and CARES for us!**
- **"Abba" is an intimate term of endearment for a father from a child … "Daddy"**
- **The Roman version of "adoption" was far more binding than the Western adoption with which we are familiar**
  - **Legally, the adopted child assumed ALL the rights of the biological children**
  - **Any ties to the child's previous life were expunged and canceled in their entirety**

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

8:16-17 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

- **We have at least three assurances that we are TRULY God's children:**
  1. **Promise through God's Word:** ***Joh 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life ..."***
  2. **The evidence of the "fruit" in our lives is an assurance we are saved**
  3. **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God!**

- **In verse 17, we again see the Trinity Godhead assuring us of our salvation**
  - **Heirs of God, co-heirs with Christ, and the Spirit bearing witness**
- **BUT … we still live in a fallen world under the sway of the evil one**
  - **The world hates God**
  - **This world system crucified our Savior**
  - **Jesus calls on us to take up our cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23)**
  - **Jesus promises us that** ***"in this life, you WILL have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." John 16:33***

Grace By Design: Life in the Spirit

Questions to ponder …

- **Do we agree with the concept that our strength is NOT in our "Christian character"?**
- **Is it possible to know that we ARE NOT CONDEMNED, but still feel condemned?**
- **Do we believe your standing in God's eyes has improved in Jesus?**
- **Do we believe you have the same resurrection power as those in the early church?**
  - **Do we live as though this is a REALITY?**
- **Let's discuss "Greasy Grace"**
  - **What is it?**
  - **How do we avoid falling in its trap? (Hint: Psalms 1)**
- **Contrast living a "changed life" vs an "exchanged life"**
  - **As our 747 hurtles down the runway, is it free from the Law of Gravity?**
  - **Or does the Law of Aerodynamics provide the force (power) to overcome gravity?**
- **How do we "grieve" or "quench" the Holy Spirit indwelling us?**