

The beginning chapters of Romans clearly and emphatically communicate God's gracious provision for man's justification through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are identified with him in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, and glory. The gift of holy spirit is the spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9 and 10) making us one with him. Therefore, believers no longer need to live in the bondage of sin, defeated. We can yield to the spirit within and overcome the old sinful nature. Before the new birth we were in bondage, encased in sin. As such, we were fearful of God and shrank from His presence. But now, we are given the holy spirit which draws us into a tender, personal relationship with God as our heavenly Father.

Romans 8:15

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The word "adoption" translated from the Greek word *huiiothesia* has a different connotation than the word "adoption" used today. This word signifies the legal, irrevocable rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a son. *Huiiothesia* could be translated "placed as a son." We have God's incorruptible seed within by the gift of holy spirit making us sons by birth, not adoption. Our sonship rights are unchangeable.

Not only do we have the unchanging status of a son, we also have the heart of a son whereby we cry, "Abba, Father" or "Father, Father." The same heart Jesus Christ had when he said "Father, Father" now lives in us. The holy spirit enables the child of God to express this deep emotion of love, "Father, Father." The holy spirit also bears witness to our human spirit (our heart) that we are the children of God.

Romans 8:16

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Galatians communicates the same truth.

Galatians 4:6 and 7

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

The holy spirit is called "the earnest of our inheritance." "Earnest" is something of value given by a buyer to a seller to bind a bargain, as a token of that which is to come. The earnest provides the guarantee that the commitment will be fulfilled and a foretaste of what is to come.

Ephesians 1:14

Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

For the child of God, the holy spirit is our guarantee and foretaste of the glory to come. The spirit signifies we are His children and, if children, then heirs.

Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

We live in an ungodly world which is at enmity with God. We also have the struggle of putting on the new man while reckoning ourselves dead to sin. Because of this, at times, we suffer. Verse 35 tells us of other obstacles we face which can cause suffering.

Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

These things are a reality as we walk with Christ, but so is the fact that we shall be glorified together with him. To endure suffering without sinning and, much more, to endure with rejoicing (Romans 5:3), we must maintain focus on the glory to come.

Romans 8:18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are not worthy to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

The word "reckon" (Greek - *logizomai*) means to count, compute, calculate. It is the process of reasoning which results in the arrival of a definite, logical conclusion. We are to THINK logically about the glory to come when we are faced with suffering. Then suffering becomes a trial of our faith which yields praise, honor, and glory at his appearing.

I Peter 1:7

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

We can rejoice in the suffering because, as we endure,

we have the glory.

I Peter 4:13

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

The affliction we endure today is very, very light in comparison to the eternal weight of glory. However, if we fail to reason logically the comparison to glory, our affliction can seem very heavy and overwhelming. We must learn to look continually at the eternal not the temporal.

II Corinthians 4:17 and 18

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

The suffering that is in the world is not restricted to humanity only. The whole of creation is subjected to the curse put upon it because of man's sin.

Genesis 3:17 and 18

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life;

Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

The distance from the original creation in paradise to the present world is littered with violence, ruin, mutation, and decay. The mineral, plant, and animal kingdoms continue to worsen. Therefore, the creation also has the great expectations for the day when God's sons are manifested in full glory. At that time, there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

Romans 8:19 and 20

For the earnest expectation of the creature [creation] waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

For the creature [creation] was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath

subjected *the same* in hope,

Vanity is looking for what one does not find, hence, futility, frustration, and disappointment. The sin of man brought doom on mankind and on the creation. The creation did not will for vanity but was subject to it. However, the One Who subjected it to vanity also subjected it to hope. As the sin of man brought doom on creation, so the glorification of man will bring liberation from the curse. When man's redemption is completely manifested, he will find himself in a new heaven and earth.

Isaiah 65:17

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

The scriptures communicate some of the many changes to come, changes which not only affect man but also the animate and inanimate world. The animal kingdom, for example, is going to be much different.

Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

The creation will be delivered from the bondage of corruption.

Romans 8:21 and 22

Because the creature [creation] itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

The spirit we have received is itself the firstfruits of this glory. Spirit is the foretaste of heaven. This spirit intensifies our yearning for that glorious day when our redemption will be completed.

Romans 8:23

And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

God has already made us His sons. Right now, we can cry, "Father, Father." The spirit enables us to be fully persuaded that we are His children. God's children are His heirs. We have the promised inheritance to come jointly with Christ. Now we patiently wait for our hope to come. At that day we will be saved from this evil world, our human bodies will be changed and all suffering eliminated.

Romans 8:24 and 25

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.