

*Beulah Baptist Church*  
*Rev. Jerry D. Black, Pastor*

*Sunday School Lesson*  
*May 8, 2022*

*Rev. Mark A. Seals, M.Div., Instructor/Teacher / Dea. Earl Scurlock*

**Lesson—Freedom for the Future**

**Text: Romans 8: 18-30**

**I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives**

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. *UNDERSTAND* the role of the Holy Spirit in our relationships with God and Jesus;
2. *FEEL* empowered by the Holy Spirit even in the midst of suffering, weakness, or loss of direction; and
3. *LIVE* with hope as we seek God's purpose and calling.

**Key Verse**— *“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.” (Romans 8:18, KJV)*

**Lesson Song of Praise and Worship:** *“God Specializes” by the Roberta Martin Singers of Helena, Arkansas*

**II. People Places and Times**

**The Suffering of the Righteous.** The Bible provides numerous examples of godly people who experienced a significant amount of suffering for various reasons – Joseph, David, Job, Jeremiah and Paul, to name a few. Historically, many of African descent suffered for the sake of the Gospel. The Bible gives various reasons believers suffer, including: (1) an ongoing consequence of the Fall. When sin entered the world, pain, sorrow, conflict, and eventual death invaded the lives of all human beings (see Genesis 3:16-19).

**Background**

In Romans 7, Paul writes about the grace of Christ. He shows us that without grace, a believer would live a defeated and miserable life, in bondage to their sinful nature. However, in Romans 8, Paul changes his focus and begins sharing about the supernatural life that has been made available to all believers in Jesus Christ.

Through our union with Christ by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, believers are now able to live a life free from condemnation, and they no longer have to be enslaved by sin. The Spirit gives believers victory over sin and allows them to experience true fellowship with God. Paul let us know that the only way we can be delivered from the power of sin is by receiving and being controlled by the Spirit. In other words, the Spirit, working in the life of a believer, will lead them to victory.

Every true believer receives the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit the moment they accept Jesus Christ. Thus, it is only through the Spirit that we are able to put to death the deeds of the body (Romans 8:13). **THE MARK OF A TRUE BELIEVER IS THE ABILITY TO BE LED BY THE SPIRIT.**

### ***III. The Lesson At-A-Glance...***

1. Freedom for Creatures and Creation (Romans 8:18-25)
2. The Spirit's Freeing Intercession (Romans 8: 26-27)
3. Free to Hope (Romans 8: 28-30)

### ***V. In Depth with More Light on the Text***

**1. Freedom for Creature and Creation (Romans 8: 18-25)** All the sufferings, injustices, hurt, pain, disappointment, rejection, financial woes, health problems, heartaches, and other trials that a believer may now experience will seem so insignificant when God's glory is revealed in us in the age to come. Believers have a future hope – the manifestation of God's glory will be fully revealed in us one day.

Ever since Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, creation has also been subjected to suffering, catastrophes, groanings, and travailing. Not only will faithful believers be glorified in the new age, but nature itself will be recreated. There will be a restoration of all things, including a new heaven and earth.

Believers desire full redemption, even though we possess the Spirit and experience God's Blessings today. Believers groan for the full manifestation of God's glory to be revealed and for the honor and privileges of full adoption (see 2 Corinthians 5:4). Which includes the redemption of our body (Romans 8:23). The resurrection body will be our heavenly house (see 2 Corinthians 5:2), not subject to the harshness of the present world. The Christian faith in Jesus Christ, His Word, and the Spirit enables us to patiently wait for the fulfillment of God's manifested glory.

**2. The Spirit's Freeing Intercession (Romans 8: 25-26)** Paul says that the Spirit also helps our infirmities (v 26) – Our weakness in praying effectively. Paul affirms that God will not listen to prayers based on our selfish desires (v 26). Often we pray based on the right now instead of basing our Prayers on God's eternal purpose for our lives and our family and friends. Either we Pray our own will or we Pray amiss (James 4:3). As a result, many of our Prayers go unanswered. The Holy Spirit helps us Pray Prayers that will glorify the father.

Paul reminds us that God searches our hearts. He knows our motives, and the reason for our Prayers. Thus, the Holy Spirit's ministry is to make intercession for the saints according to the will of God. The Holy spirit is working effectively in the life of a believer will line up the believer's will with the Lord's and will cause us to Pray Prayers that will glorify God. It is encouraging to know that we have two divine intercessors assisting us in our walk with the Lord: the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27) and Jesus Christ (Romans 8:34).

What does the Spirit do when our Prayers do not align with God's will? Does the Spirit still intercess for us then?

**3.Free to Hope (Romans 8: 28-30)** Despite all the trials we will face in this life, with the help of the Spirit interceding for us, we can have the confident hope that it will all work together for good. Not that everything will be good for everyone. This promise is for "those who love God and are called" to His purpose. Those devoted to God, who are doing His work, will see that the overall arch of history is working toward the good will of the Lord.

Many Theologians have long debated the tension between predestination and free will. When interacting with these verses, however, it is enough to know that the omniscient God has always known who would be His. He call these people, provided Jesus for their justification, and provides the Spirit as the seal for a promises glorification.

**How has God called you through your life?**

**Liberating Lesson— See Sunday School Book...**

**Application for Activation— See Sunday School Book...**

**Food for Thought and Questions for Consideration (from the Application for Activation)?**

1. *Is it necessary for a believer to suffer? Why or why not?*
2. *What is the Holy Spirit's main responsibility? Why do we need the Holy Spirit?*
3. *If the Spirit is our intercessor, does that mean we can live any way we want and just ask Him to go to God on our behalf? Why or why not?*

**Vocabulary-New Words**

- **Suffering** (Roman 8:18) – To experience agony, intense pain, distress or sorrow.
- **Vanity** definition, Depravity, changeability. Inflated pride in oneself .