

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
DR. AARON L. CHAPMAN, PASTOR
23455 W. NINE MILE ROAD
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN
PHONE: (248) 353-0675
WEBSITE: www.newhope-mbc.org

2025 ANNUAL THEME: “HOPE IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULTY”

BIBLE STUDY

August Theme: BATTLE FOR THE MIND

August 6, 2025

“Cultivating a Spirit-Led Life” (Romans 8:6-8)

Topics

- Scripture Reference
- Reflection Questions
- Important Emphasis
- Key Terms
- Outline
- Introduction
- Background and Context
- Exploring The Text
- Check For Understanding
- Life Application

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE [Romans 8:6-8 NASB 1995]

⁶For the mind set on the **flesh** is death, but the mind set on **the Spirit** is life and peace,
⁷because the mind set on the flesh is **hostile** toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, ⁸and those who are in **the flesh cannot please God**.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

A. What does unchecked sin and selfishness produce in a person’s life?

B. In what ways does knowing Christ set us free?

IMPORTANT EMPHASIS

Are we truly walking in the Spirit of God? Romans 8:4

Charles H. Spurgeon stated Without the Spirit of God we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind. We are useless.

“The Spirit is the Empowering perspective of human life (Genesis 2:7) and the Holy Spirit bringing God’s presence and power to bear in the world (Genesis 1:2) The term wind in the Hebrew is *ruach* and in the Greek etymology spirit is the word *pneuma* which is translated as wind, breath or spirit.”

“The terms noticeably used in tandem in the New Testament to contrast diametrically opposed lifestyles. One of the terms for flesh (soma Mt. 10:28) is often ascribed the connotation of an ungodly lifestyle of selfishness and sensual self-gratification especially in the epistles written by Paul. The term spirit signifies the opposite characteristics”

The book of Romans is a living transcript of instruction (Torah and Didache) for the Christian life, and it strengthens us to walk in the Spirit of Christ.

Paul further warns the church at Rome about the continuous battle between the flesh and the spirit in Romans. 7:23. He articulates this circumstance as a waging of war or a battle within the mind. Paul further speaks to the importance of the mind in Romans 12:1-2 especially focusing on the 2nd verse.

John Phillips suggested that a study of Roman 7 shows how much that chapter is dominated by the words “I “ “me” and “my”. In contrast Roman 8 is dominated by the Holy Spirit, who is mentioned no less than nineteen times in the Chapter.

There is only one way to avoid the mistakes made by the carnal mind and that is to have the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5) The only way to have the mind of Christ is to allow the Spirit of Christ to control the mind! Roman 7:5 (sinful passions)

Let’s observe a couple of the areas of focus of the Spirit in Romans 8

The law of the Spirit of law in Christ Jesus has set you free vs. 2

The mind set on the Spirit vs. 6 (life and peace)

The Spirit must dwell in you vs. 9

The Spirit is alive because of Righteousness vs. 10

Let us also make note of the way Paul speaks of the Spirit as follows

According to the Spirit vs. 3
The things of the Spirit vs. 5
(not of the flesh) but in the Spirit vs.6
Set on the Spirit vs. 6

In this battle of the mind the Holy Spirit must be in Control if we will overcome the enemy! *John Phillips*

The Holy Spirit Controls the Mind (8:5-7)
The Holy Spirit Controls the Motives (8:8-9)
The Holy Spirit Controls the Members (8:10-13)

Thanks be unto God there is no condemnation in Christ! (Rom. 8:1) Condemn is defined as an act of pronouncing someone guilty after weighing the evidence. The more significant use of condemn is a connection with God’s judgement. Thank be unto God for the plan of salvation choreographed by the Creator

“There are no conditions attached to our freedom from condemnation grace writes an unconditional guarantee.”

KEY TERMS

Cannot please God Carnal Minded Christian Living Death Disobedient Holy Spirit Hostile toward God

In the Flesh Law of God Life and peace Mind set in the flesh Mind set in the Spirit Obedient Rebel against God
--

OUTLINE

I. Two Thinking Perspectives:

Where is Your Mind Set? (Romans 8:6)

A. In the Flesh (8:6a)

B. In the Spirit (8:6b)

II. Two Life Practices:

How are You Living? (Romans 8:6b-8:7)

A. In Perpetual Peace (8:6b)

B. In Carnal Chaos (8:7)

III. Two Acceptance Paths:

Whose Approval do You Seek? (Romans 8:8)

A. In The World

B. In God

INTRODUCTION

Romans Chapter 8 is a pivotal passage in the New Testament, offering profound insights into the life of a believer who is led by the Spirit. This chapter begins with the powerful declaration that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, setting the tone for a discourse on the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. Paul contrasts the life lived according to the flesh with the life led by the Spirit, emphasizing that the latter brings life and peace. The chapter underscores the believer's new identity in Christ, highlighting the freedom from the law of sin and death and the assurance of eternal life.

As the chapter progresses, Paul delves into the intimate relationship between believers and God, portraying them as children of God and heirs with Christ. This familial bond is further illustrated by the Spirit's role in affirming our identity and interceding on our behalf. Romans 8 also addresses the present sufferings of believers, offering hope by pointing to the future glory that will be revealed. The chapter concludes with a triumphant affirmation of God's unbreakable love, assuring believers that nothing can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus. This chapter serves as a cornerstone for understanding the Christian life, filled with hope, assurance, and the promise of God's enduring presence.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Book of Romans, authored by the Apostle Paul, is a foundational text in the New Testament, written to the Christian community in Rome. Composed around 57 AD, it serves as a comprehensive theological treatise that addresses key aspects of Christian doctrine. Paul wrote this epistle during his third missionary journey, likely while he was in Corinth, with the intention of preparing the Roman believers for his upcoming visit. The letter aims to unify Jewish and Gentile Christians by emphasizing the righteousness that comes from faith, a central theme that underscores the universality of the gospel message.

Romans systematically explores the concepts of sin, salvation, grace, faith, righteousness, and the role of the law, providing a profound insight into the nature of God's plan for humanity. In addition to its theological depth, Romans also addresses practical aspects of **Christian living**. Paul discusses the implications of the gospel for daily life, encouraging believers to live in harmony and love, and to present themselves as living sacrifices to God. The epistle highlights the transformative power of the **Holy Spirit** and the assurance of salvation, offering hope and encouragement to the early church.

By addressing both doctrinal and practical issues, Romans serves as a guide for understanding the Christian faith and its application in the lives of believers. Its influence extends beyond its original audience, continuing to shape Christian thought and practice throughout history.

EXPLORING THE TEXT

I. Two Thinking Perspectives:

Where is Your Mind Set? (Romans 8:6)

A. In the Flesh (8:6a)

^{6a} *For the mind set on the flesh is death,...*

The mind refers to our mindset, our goals. The concept of mindset extends beyond individual thought patterns to encompass broader cultural and societal influences, reflecting the complex interplay between personal experiences, inherited beliefs, and social contexts.

DIFFERENT WAYS TO HAVE YOUR MIND SET

When a person is determined to do something or to hold a certain belief or idea, we say that person has a certain mind-set. A mindset:

- determines how a person acts
- motivates a person
- influences whom or what a person chooses as sources of knowledge and authority
- affects a person's view of every experience
- shapes a person's value system
- dominates a person's private and public life

Choosing to let the sinful nature (the flesh) be in control will result in death, both spiritual and physical.

B. In the Spirit (8:6b)

^{6b}but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,...

Choosing to let the Holy Spirit control our minds will bring us full life on earth, eternal life, and peace with God. Elsewhere in Scripture we find the characteristics of a mind under the Spirit's control. It will be a mind directed toward truth, aware of the Spirit's presence (John 14:17). It will be a mind-seeking to please the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 6:8**). It will be a mind active in memorizing and meditating on the words of Christ (**John 14:26**). It will be a mind sensitive to sin (**John 16:7-11**). It will be a mind eager to follow the Spirit's guidance (**Galatians 5:16-22**). The control of the Holy Spirit begins with voluntary commitment and submission to Christ.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. What is the result of letting the sinful (flesh) nature be in control in one's life? (8:6a)

2. What are some of the ways that one's mindset determines their actions in life?

3. What is the result of letting the Holy Spirit control our minds? (8:6b)

II. Two Life Practices:

How are You Living? (Romans 8:6b-8:7)

A. In Perpetual Peace (8:6b)

^{6b}but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,...

The Anchor Yale Bible gives extensive attention to the idea of life and peace in the Old and New Testaments:

Old Testament ideas of peace:

The Hebrew word *šālôm* means peace and is rooted in the idea of being whole and complete. It is a positive concept, not just the absence of war, and is related to health and wholeness.

New Testament ideas of peace:

The Greek word *eirene* (peace) appears in almost every writing of the NT. It describes an international calm and a relationship of goodwill between God and humans. Most frequently it describes a social reality, a state of reconciliation and wholeness among a group of people.

Characteristics of Godly Peace For Those With a Spiritual Mindset

- It's perfect (Isaiah 26:3)
- It passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7)
- It is unique and lasting if it's given by Jesus (John 14:27)

B. In Carnal Chaos (8:7)

⁷because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,...

Carnal [fleshly] cravings create chaos, culminating in spiritual separation! **(Isaiah 59:2) Because the carnal mind is enmity [hostility] against God—** Because it is a carnal mind, and relishes earthly and sinful things, and lives in opposition to the pure and holy law of God: therefore, it is enmity against God; it is irreconcilable and implacable hatred.

It is not subject to the law of God—It will come under no obedience; for it is sin, and the very principle of rebellion; and therefore it cannot be subject, nor subjected; for it is essential to sin to show itself in rebellion; and when it ceases to rebel, it ceases to be sin.

From this we learn that the design of God in the economy of the Gospel, is not to weaken, curtail, or lay the carnal principle in bonds, but to destroy it. As it is not subject, and cannot be subject, to the law of God, it must be destroyed, or else it will continue to rebel against God. It cannot be mended, or rendered less offensive in its nature, even by the operations of God; it is ever sin, and sin is ever enmity [hostility]; and enmity, wherever it has power, will invariably show itself in acts of hostility and rebellion.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

4. The Hebrew word *šālôm* is rooted in what two ideas?

5. What are some characteristics of godly peace?

6. Is it possible for people with a carnal mindset to develop a relationship with God? Briefly explain.

EXPLORING THE TEXT

III. Two Acceptance Paths:

Whose Approval do You Seek? (Romans 8:8)

A. In The World

⁸ *and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

They that are in the flesh. They who are unrenewed sinners; who are following supremely the desires of the flesh, (**Romans 7:18**). Those are meant here who follow fleshly appetites and desires, and who are not led by the Spirit of God.

Cannot please God. That is, while they are thus in the flesh; while they thus pursue the desires of their corrupt nature, they cannot please God. But this affirms nothing respecting their ability to turn from this course, and to pursue a different mode of life. That is a different question. A child may be obstinate, proud, and disobedient; and, while in this state, it may be affirmed of him that he cannot please his parent. But whether he might not cease to be obstinate, and become obedient, is a very different inquiry; and the two subjects should never be confounded: It follows from this,

(1) that those who are unrenewed are totally depraved, since in this state they cannot please God (**Romans 1:27-32**).

(2) That none of their actions, while in this state can be acceptable to him, since he is pleased only with those who are spiritually minded.

(3) That those who are in this state should turn from it without delay; as it is desirable that every man should please God.

(4) That if the sinner does not turn from his course, he will be ruined. With his present character he can never please God; neither in health nor sickness; neither in life nor death; neither on earth nor in hell. He is engaged in hostility against God; and if he does not himself forsake it, it will be endless, and involve his soul in all the evils of a personal, and direct, and eternal warfare with the Lord Almighty. (**1 John 1:8-9**)

B. In God

Every human being has a sinful nature (**Romans 3:23**). But believers in Christ have access to the Holy Spirit. In fact, Paul says, “The Spirit of God lives in you” (**Romans 8:9**). Believers are still in the flesh, but because they are born again, they also have God’s Spirit. The questions

are: Whose approval do you seek (**Galatians 1:10**? And Which mindset will be in control (**Philippians 2:5**).

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

7. Can a carnal (fleshly) person ever please God?

Life Application – Think About it.

- How can we cultivate a mindset that is pleasing to God?
- What practical steps can we take to shift our focus from the flesh to the Spirit?

Resources:

Adam Clarke’s Commentary
Adult LessonMaker Questions [LOGOS]
Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary (Peace: New Testament)
Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible [LOGOS]
Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary
LOGOS Bible Software