The Spirit in Us

If there's one thing that Paul wants believers to understand, it is that the power of the gospel is life-changing. In his letter to the Romans, he details why we so desperately need the gospel and how the good news of salvation is for all people. In Romans 8, Paul turns to answering the question "Now what?" Join us as we unpack Paul's writings about our justification—our being made right with God—and what it means for us to be IN CHRIST. Find encouragement and comfort in Paul's teaching about pain and suffering in this world, and how we have help from the Holy Spirit, to live into the reality of our new life in Christ. And the best, most assuring truth of all? Paul assures us nothing can take our salvation away or separate us from Jesus Christ.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you explain what it means to be "in Christ"?
- Does anything have the ability to separate us from the love of God? Why or why not?



READ Romans 8

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- If we receive Christ's righteousness as though it were our own, what obligation do we have to Christ in how we live?
- At the end of segment 1, host Scott Hoezee highlights how having the Spirit of God in us makes us children of the Abba or Father God. Not only that, but our relationship with him can be intimate and close. Is this how you would describe your spiritual relationship with the Father? Why or why not?
- Throughout segment 2, host Darrell Delaney describes different ways we try to deal with the idea of suffering. He talks about a "pole vault theology" that jumps over suffering and just focuses on heaven. He also talks about an approach of looking through or "past the pain" to see a larger reality—like a mother who has just given birth. What are the strengths and dangers of both of these ways of addressing suffering?
- Have you ever felt unable to pray because the suffering you were experiencing or praying about was too heavy? What does it mean to you to know that, even in these situations, the Spirit within you keeps groaning in prayer on your behalf?
- At the end of segment 3, Scott and Darrell discuss how we are "more than conquerors." What does that mean? What do we have victory over? What does that look like in your life?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Romans 7:21-24, Colossians 1, John 1, Joel 2:28-29, Ephesians 1:3-14, Galatians 5:16-25

CONCLUSION

Set aside some time to reflect on your life. What are some of the things that have separated you from God and his love? Perhaps it was experiences of suffering or hardship, condemnation from others, doubt or sickness, or your own rebellion. What did you learn about God through those experiences? Why do you still believe and trust in him?

Throughout your reflection, as many times as you feel necessary, and when you conclude, repeat this short prayer: "Nothing can separate me from your love, God. Thank you."

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