

THE BOOK OF ROMANS



9. Living by the Spirit

Introduction

Have you found that there is sometimes a struggle going on inside you? Even the Apostle Paul, who we would say was one of the greatest men of God, experienced this conflict. However he discovered the secret to overcoming and living in victory and he shares that with us in Romans 8.

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-17

1. Living in the Power of the Spirit

- ☉ Why do you think Paul says, 'therefore, there is now no condemnation' at the beginning of chapter 8? Look back at chapter 7:19 and 21.
- ☉ Although we know this truth, the enemy can make us feel condemned. What is the difference between condemnation and conviction? How can we overcome that feeling of condemnation?
- ☉ The reason we are no longer under condemnation and judgment is because we have been set free by the law of the Spirit. See Romans 8:1-2. What does this mean?

2. Choosing which Nature we will Follow

- ☉ Compare the two natures in verses 5 to 11. What is the old sinful nature like? v5-8 What is the new nature like? v5-6, 10-11
- ☉ If a person keeps following the old nature what does it show about his real attitude to God? v7-8 However in contrast what does it say about a person who seeks to yield to the Holy Spirit? v14-17
- ☉ What is the evidence that a person is following the new nature and being led by the Spirit? Romans 7:12-14, Galatians 5:22-33, James 3:17-18.
- ☉ What fruit is being produced in your life? What do you need to do to see a change in your life? Share what you have learnt from this study.

Conclusion

If you only read to Romans chapter 7 you would conclude that the Christian life is a constant struggle! However the Apostle Paul did not write this book to leave us feeling hopeless, but rather to show us that we cannot live the Christian life in our own strength. In chapter 8 we discover the answer, and that is to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. When we do, the Holy Spirit will give us the assurance that we are truly God's children.