

Devotional Questions – Romans 8:1-17

1. *What is the connection of the opening verses (Romans 8:1-4) to the previous verses (Romans 7:21-25) – why is there no condemnation for us*? *This second part of the question is misleading because it implies eternal condemnation but that is not the sense of Romans 8:1. Romans 8:1 states **“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”***

The sense of Romans 8:1 is the condemnation that results from indulging the flesh in disobedience to the Spirit as Romans 8:13 states **“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”** Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Ghost and died, Acts 5:1-10.

Note the following information about the witnesses for and against Romans 8:1 as it stands in the AV1611. From www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/ ‘O Biblios’ – *The Book* p 58, see also *Early Manuscripts and the Authorized Version* by J. A. Moorman p 118. Prominent amongst the disreputable minority sources that omit the second part of Romans 8:1 are the usual suspects & Aleph Sinaiticus and B Vaticanus.

Romans 8:1

“who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” is omitted by the RV, Ne, NIV, NKJV f.n., JB, NJB, NWT. The DR omits **“but after the spirit.”**

Dr Ruckman in *The New ASV - Satan’s Masterpiece* p 68, states that the words are found in all four families of manuscripts and in the majority of uncials and cursives. Berry’s Greek text of Robert Stephanus’ 1550 Textus Receptus supports the AV1611.

2. *If there is no condemnation for believers (Romans 8:1), should we ever have feelings of guilt*? Why/why not*? *The questions are misleading. See *Question 1*.*
3. *What does it mean to set one’s mind* on the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5)? *The correct expression is **“do mind...the things of the Spirit”** Romans 8:5 because the focus is on the affections, not only the thought processes as Paul shows.*

“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts” Galatians 5:24.

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” Colossians 3:2.

4. *In what ways does the Spirit ‘control’* our minds (Romans 8:6)? *The correct expression is **“but to be spiritually minded is life and peace”** Romans 8:6.*
5. *Why can’t those in the flesh please God (Romans 8:7-8)?*
6. *Paul says that we have an obligation* (Romans 8:12). *The correct term is **“debtors”** Romans 8:12. The alteration to *obligation* breaks the cross reference to Matthew 18:29-30 **“And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt”** which depicts how the flesh is never satisfied, as King Solomon depicts in turn **“The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough”** Proverbs 30:15-16.*

What are the obligations? *The correct term is **“debtors”** Romans 8:12. See above.*

What are the benefits of being children of God (Romans 8:15-17)?

7. *How do we get the ability to put our misdeeds* to death (Romans 8:13)? *The correct term is **“deeds.”** The flesh has no deeds versus misdeeds because **“in my flesh...dwelleth no good thing”** Romans 7:18.*

8. *When we call God 'Father,' do we feel fear, duty, or privilege (Romans 8:16)?*
9. *Why is it important that the Holy Spirit indwells believers (Romans 8:9, 14, 16)?*
10. *How does anyone show he does not have the 'Spirit of Christ'?*
11. *What does 'spirit of slavery*' mean (Romans 8:15)? *The correct term is "**bondage**" Romans 8:15 because "**bonds**" bind with "**afflictions**" and "**death**" Acts 20:23, 23:9, 26:31.*

What does '(S)pirit of adoption/sonship' mean (Romans 8:15)? *The correct term is "**the Spirit of adoption**" Romans 8:15. "Sonship" is imprecise because God has different types of sons who all come under the heading "sonship." Adam was God's son by physical creation, Genesis 2:7, Luke 3:38, God has supernatural sons by spiritual creation, Job 38:7, Israel is God's national son, Hosea 11:1, the Lord Jesus Christ is God's "**only begotten Son**" John 3:16 and as Romans 8:15 shows, saved individuals from the Church Age are sons of God by adoption.*

Devotional Questions – Romans 8:1-17, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 275-308 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1495-1496 for detailed comment.

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The connection is with respect to Romans 7:25 **“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin”** and Romans 8:1 **“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit”** in that the flesh is dead because **“the body is dead because of sin”** Romans 8:10 being subject to **“the bondage of corruption”** Romans 8:21 and therefore as Paul declares **“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”** Galatians 6:8.

2. *If there is no condemnation for believers (Romans 8:1), should we ever have feelings of guilt*? Why/why not*? *The questions are misleading. See Question 1.*

Any believer should experience guilt in having gone against Paul's admonition **“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”** Ephesians 4:30 and should assuage that guilt as King Solomon urges. **“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy”** Proverbs 28:13.

3. *What does it mean to set one's mind* on the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5)?* *The correct expression is ***"do mind...the things of the Spirit"*** Romans 8:5 because the focus is on the affections, not only the thought processes as Paul shows.

"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" Galatians 5:24.

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" Colossians 3:2.

First and foremost and as Biblical not sentimental testimony to what it is to love the Lord Jesus Christ, it is to do as the Lord said as John records ***"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him"*** John 14:23 because ***"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life"*** John 6:63. Note the small "s" for the Spirit's ministry as distinct from His Person, John 14:16, 17.

4. *In what ways does the Spirit 'control'* our minds (Romans 8:6)?* *The correct expression is ***"but to be spiritually minded is life and peace"*** Romans 8:6.

See *Questions 1-3*. Romans 8:6 is a reference to the fruit of the Spirit brought forth in the believer's life and testimony. ***"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law"*** Galatians 5:22-23. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ *The Fruit of the Spirit*.

5. *Why can't those in the flesh please God (Romans 8:7-8)?*

Before stating Romans 8:7-8, Paul has said why in Romans 7:18 ***"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."*** Paul and Peter therefore warn against ***"fleshly wisdom"*** 2 Corinthians 1:12, ***"fleshly mind"*** Colossians 2:18 and ***"fleshly lusts"*** 1 Peter 2:11. These constitute ***"a threefold cord...not easily broken"*** Ecclesiastes 4:12 binding in ***"the works of the flesh"*** Galatians 5:19 individuals ***"Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them"*** Romans 1:32. A good example is the kind of individual who insists that:

'Only the originals were the pure, perfect, inspired word of God' or a comment to that effect, with no scripture.

'Multiple versions are needed' or a comment to that effect, with no scripture.

'Multiple versions must be sifted through to get what God really said' or a comment to that effect, with no scripture.

'Decide for yourself which version to use on the basis of whatever you think is best for you out of all the versions available to you' or a comment to that effect with no scripture.

'Go back to the Hebrew and the Greek to get what God really said' or a comment to that effect with no scripture – and no identification of which Hebrew or which Greek to go back to and no explanation of why God was evidently unable to preserve His words perfectly from the perfect originals to what is extant today, in spite of Psalm 12:6-7 ***"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."***

Therefore as King Solomon warns, noting that the individual cannot read the Lord's reaction to what is said down here so in principle the less said the better i.e. ***"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few"*** Ecclesiastes 5:2.

Of course ***"a fool's voice is known by multitude of words"*** Ecclesiastes 5:3 and preachers therefore ***"are fools for Christ's sake"*** 1 Corinthians 4:10 ***"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God...For after that in***

the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21.

6. Paul says that we have an obligation* (Romans 8:12). *The correct term is “**debtors**” Romans 8:12. The alteration to *obligation* breaks the cross reference to Matthew 18:29-30 “**And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt**” which depicts how the flesh is never satisfied, as King Solomon depicts in turn “**The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough**” Proverbs 30:15-16.

What are the obligations*? *The correct term is “**debtors**” Romans 8:12. See above.

Don't be manacled to “**the works of the flesh**” Galatians 5:19-21 but manifest “**the fruit of the Spirit**” Galatians 5:22, 23 insofar as Paul has said in Romans 8:6 “**For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace**” insofar as for the believer following the Lord Jesus Christ as He commanded, Luke 9:23, “**...the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears**” Isaiah 11:2-3, as James says “**Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves**” James 1:19-22. See Question 4.

What are the benefits of being children of God (Romans 8:15-17)?

Romans 8:17 states that “**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**” as Paul later exhorts “**Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach**” Hebrews 13:13 because “**If we suffer, we shall also reign with him...**” 2 Timothy 2:12 following the Second Advent when “**The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever**” Revelation 11:15.

See the attached study **Inspiration and the Spirit**. Those that “**shall also reign with him**” 2 Timothy 2:12 are of the first stream in the graphic, Paul stating of those in the second stream, who are not of us and us not of them “**if we deny him, he also will deny us:**” 2 Timothy 2:12.

7. How do we get the ability to put our misdeeds* to death (Romans 8:13)? *The correct term is “**deeds.**” The flesh has no deeds versus misdeeds because “**in my flesh...dwelleth no good thing**” Romans 7:18.

The key terms are “**reckon...to be dead**” and “**make not provision.**”

“**Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord**” Romans 6:11.

“**But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof**” Romans 13:14.

8. When we call God ‘Father,’ do we feel fear, duty, or privilege (Romans 8:16)?

“**Holy and reverend is his name**” Psalm 111:9 therefore “**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**” Romans 8:17, Question 6, then as Paul states “**Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear**” Hebrews 12:28.

9. *Why is it important that the Holy Spirit indwells believers (Romans 8:9, 14, 16)?*

The indwelling Spirit of God then performs these personal ministries of assurance for “***...the body of Christ, and members in particular***” 1 Corinthians 12:27 to which He both testifies and which He sustains.

- Belonging to the Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 8:9
- Bringing home to heaven, Romans 8:14
- Bearing witness of adoption, Romans 8:16

As the Lord Jesus Christ said of the Spirit of God as an over-arching assurance for today’s believers “***But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you***” John 14:26.

10. *How does anyone show he does not have the ‘Spirit of Christ’?*

The Lord Jesus Christ is but a blasphemy to him, which is very common. “***Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost***” 1 Corinthians 12:3.

11. *What does ‘spirit of slavery’* mean (Romans 8:15)? *The correct term is “bondage” Romans 8:15 because “bonds” bind with “afflictions” and “death” Acts 20:23, 23:9, 26:31.*

What does ‘(S)pirit of adoption/sonship’ mean (Romans 8:15)?* “Sonship” is imprecise because God has different types of sons who all come under the heading “sonship.” Adam was God’s son by physical creation, Genesis 2:7, Luke 3:38, God has supernatural sons by spiritual creation, Job 38:7, Israel is God’s national son, Hosea 11:1, the Lord Jesus Christ is God’s “***only begotten Son***” John 3:16 and Church Age saints are sons of God by adoption, Romans 8:15.

Romans 8:15 states “***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 spirit of bondage” is bondage to the law, as Paul explains “***For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them***” Galatians 3:10. However, as Paul states further, matching the Spirit of God’s personal assurance ministries for today’s believers, *Question 9*, “***Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith***” Galatians 3:13-14 so that as Paul summarises for “***...the body of Christ, and members in particular***” 1 Corinthians 12:27 “***For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus***” Galatians 3:26.

“The Spirit of adoption” is “the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” Romans 8:2, “the Spirit of God...the Spirit of Christ” Romans 8:9 i.e. the third Person of the Godhead “the Holy Ghost” 1 John 5:7 and a total of 89 references exclusively in the New Testament. Romans 8:15 uses the term “the Spirit of adoption” because an individual needs *and must make sure that he has had*:

- A spiritual birth to enter “the kingdom of God.” “***Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God***” John 3:3.
- A spiritual baptism to enter “the body of Christ” 1 Corinthians 12:27. “***For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit***” 1 Corinthians 12:13.
- A spiritual begetting again to enter “the life of God” Ephesians 4:18 since “***God is a Spirit***” John 4:24. “***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead***” 1 Peter 1:3.

Inspiration and the Spirit

The Two Parallel Streams of Bibles

“The Spirit of God” 1 Corinthians 3:16 versus *“a spirit of an unclean devil”* Luke 4:33

Apostles (Original)	Apostates (Corrupt Originals)
Received Text (Greek)	Sinaiticus and Vaticanus Bible (Greek)
Waldensian Bible (Italic)	Vulgate (Latin) Church of Rome's Bible
Erasmus (Received Text Restored)	Vaticanus (Greek)
Luther's Bible, Dutch, French, Italian, etc., (Received Text)	French, Spanish, Italian, etc., (from Vulgate)
Tyndale (English) 1535 (from Received Text)	Rheims (English) from Vulgate (Jesuit Bible of 1582)
King James, 1611	Oxford Movement Wetscott and Hort (B and Aleph), English Revised 1881 Dr. Philip Schaff (B and Aleph), American Revised 1901

Introduction

Dr Benjamin Wilkinson states:

The King James from the Received Text has been the Bible of the English speaking world for 300 years. This has given the Received Text, and the Bibles translated from it into other tongues, standing and authority. At the same time, it neutralized the dangers of the Catholic manuscripts and the Bibles in other tongues translated from them¹.

Benjamin Wilkinson has shown how the 1611 Holy Bible and its faithful precursors from apostolic times are from *“the Spirit of God”* 1 Corinthians 3:16 and the raft of Catholic counterfeits are from *“a spirit of an unclean devil”* Luke 4:33. Benjamin Wilkinson’s chart *The Two Parallel Streams of Bibles* shown above admirably summarises the history of Bible transmission with respect to the sharp distinction between the line of pure Bibles from *“the Spirit of God”* 1 Corinthians 3:16 and the line of Catholic counterfeits from *“a spirit of an unclean devil”* Luke 4:33 that extends to all modern versions without exception, over 250 having been published for the first time since 1881². The Lord will obliterate the Catholic counterfeits of Rome at the Second Advent *“and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her”* Revelation 18:8 *“and also I will cause...the unclean spirit to pass out of the land”* Zechariah 13:2.

However, each line of the chart specifies languages that were vehicles for the transmission of scripture in the early church e.g. 1st century Greek, Latin, Italic, Syriac etc. but are now dead languages³. Yet the scriptures are *“the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”* 1 Peter 1:23. How therefore is this apparent contradiction resolved?

This work addresses that question. See first *The purification of the Lord’s word* and this extract⁴.

A Seven-Stage Purification Process – Historic Bibles

Dr Vance [*Bible Believers Bulletin*, February 2003, June 2006] shows [how] Psalm 12:6, 7 was fulfilled in history...

- A received Hebrew text, 1800 BC to 389 BC
- A received Aramaic text at the same time (Genesis, Daniel, etc.)
- A received Greek text from AD 40 to AD 90
- A received Syrian text from AD 120 to AD 200
- A received Latin text from AD 150 to AD 1500
- A received German text from AD 1500 to AD 2006
- A received English text from AD 1611 to AD 2006 (2012+)

Of those language groups, only the last two are current and English is the premier language, as missionary director Jonathan Richmond⁵ states “*English is the standard for time, place, distance, size, quantity, volume, language, etc. When the English standard showed up, both the German and Spanish Bibles [i.e. any non-English Bible] should have been corrected and/or updated with the English.*” The question arises how is the 1611 Holy Bible “*the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*” 1 Peter 1:23 when its language predecessors are dead languages? The scripture gives answer.

Dead Languages, Returned Spirit

Solomon states “*the spirit of man...goeth upward*” when man dies and “*Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it*” Ecclesiastes 3:21, 12:12.

In like manner, when the ancient Biblical languages died, God simply transferred inspiration to the next generation of Biblical languages “*according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will*” Ephesians 1:11. As Gail Riplinger⁶ notes, her italics, God inspired (breathed) the scriptures. The Bible does not tell us *exactly how* this inspiration (breath) is preserved and passed on generation after generation, but the Bible is still breathing and alive (quick) today. The rhythmic character of breathing is evident in our King James Bible.

Inspiration goes on because “*God is a Spirit*” John 4:34 so that this inspiration (breath) is *spiritual*. [T]he Bible is still breathing and alive (quick) today because “*the Spirit of God*” 1 Corinthians 3:16 is “*the Spirit of life from God*” Revelation 11:11 “*to preserve life*” Genesis 45:5. “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away*” Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33 therefore because “*the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*” John 6:63.

Everlasting AV1611

The question then arises how can the King James Bible be everlasting? See Revelation 14:6-7.

“*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*”

This is an *authoritative spoken original from a future source* and an *angelic utterance* that is received *worldwide* and is *everlasting*. It is a *spiritual utterance* because angels “*Are...ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation*” Hebrews 1:14 and therefore the words of this angelic utterance “*according to the will of God and our Father*” Galatians 1:4 “*they are spirit, and they are life*” John 6:63 and therefore “*given by inspiration of God*” 2 Timothy 3:16.

Only the AV1611 can fulfil the above criteria as *everlastingly* “*the book of the LORD*” Isaiah 34:16.

References

¹ kjb.benabraham.com/html/chapter-2.html

² baptist-potluck.blogspot.co.uk/2010/08/bible-versions-since-1881.html

³ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_extinct_languages_of_Europe, linguistlist.org/forms/langs/get-extinct.cfm, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk%3ASyriac_language

⁴ www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/ *The purification of the Lord's words – Psalm 12:6-7*

⁵ store-hicb8.mybigcommerce.com/content/bbb/2013/Aug.pdf p 6 *A Brief Analysis of Missionary Authority* by Jonathan Richmond, Bible Baptist Mission Board director

⁶ *In Awe of Thy Word* Gail Riplinger p 334