



FREEDOM & FULFILLMENT

FearLESS

On January 6, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt addressed Congress on the state of the war in Europe.

Much of what he said that day has been forgotten.

But at the close of his address, he said that he looked forward “to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.” He named them: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

These words are still remembered, even though their ideals have not yet been realized everywhere in the world.

Romans 8 is the Christian's "Declaration of Freedom," for in it Paul declares the **four spiritual freedoms** we enjoy because of our union with Jesus Christ.

A study of this chapter shows the emphasis on the Holy Spirit, who is mentioned nineteen times.

1. Freedom From Judgment - No Condemnation Rom. 8:1-4
2. Freedom From Defeat – No Obligation Rom. 8:5-17
3. Freedom From Discouragement – No Frustration Rom. 8:18-30
4. Freedom From Fear – No Separation Rom. 8:31-39

There is Freedom in the Spirit

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV)

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NLT)

For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Freedom From Judgment-No Condemnation

Romans 8:1–4 (NKJV)

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Key Terms

Condemnation – 2631

κατάκριμα *katákrima*; gen. *katakρίματος*, neut. noun from *katakρίνō* (2632), to condemn. The suffix *-ma* makes it the result of judgment. A decision against someone, a condemnatory judgment. (No Punishment)

The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000). Spiros Zodhiates,

Key Terms

Flesh – 4561

σάρξ *sárx*; *gen. sarkós, fem. noun. Flesh of a living creature in distinction from that of a dead one, which is kréas (2907), meat.*

(C) - As implying sinfulness, proneness to sin, the carnal nature, the seat of carnal appetites and desires, of sinful passions and affections whether physical or moral.

The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000). Spiros Zodhiates,

Key Terms

Spirit - 4151.

πνεῦμα *pneúma*; gen. *pneúmatos*, neut. noun from *pnéō* (4154), to breathe.

The spirit in this case stands opposed to the flesh because it does not indulge in the depraved affections and lusts of our physical natures and un-renewed hearts, but follows those holy and elevated actions and desires which the Spirit imparts and cherishes.

Through the influence of the Spirit of God, Christians have the same disposition and the same frame of mind with Christ.

Key Terms

Free - 1659.

ἐλευθερόω *eleutheróō*; contracted *eleutherō*, fut. *eleutherōsō*, from *eleútheros* (1658), free.

To make free, liberate from the power and punishment of sin, the result of redemption; from a state of calamity and death; from the power of condemnation by the Mosaic Law... freedom, liberty.

The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000). Spiros Zodhiates,

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

This is a tremendous truth and the conclusion of a marvelous argument.

(The words “who walk not ... etc.” do not belong here according to the best manuscripts. There are no conditions for us to meet.)

The basis for this wonderful assurance is the phrase “in Christ Jesus.”

- In Adam, we were condemned.
- In Christ, there is no condemnation!

The verse does not say “no mistakes” or “no failures,” or even “no sins.”

- Christians *do* fail and make mistakes, and they do sin.
- Abraham lied about his wife; David committed adultery;
- Peter tried to kill a man with his sword.

To be sure, they suffered consequences because of their sins, but they did not suffer condemnation.

The Law condemns; but the believer has a new relationship to the Law, and therefore he cannot be condemned.

Paul made three statements about the believer and the Law, and together they add up to: *no condemnation*.

The Law no longer has any jurisdiction over you: you are dead to the Law (Rom. 7:4) and free from the Law (Rom. 8:2).

Romans 7:4 (NKJV)

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

Romans 8:2 (NKJV)

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

The Law Cannot Condemn You *(v. 3)*

Romans 8:3 (NKJV)

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

Why?

Because Christ has already suffered that condemnation for you on the cross. The Law could not save; it can only condemn.

God sent His Son to save us and do what the Law could not do.

Jesus did not come as an angel; He came as a man. He did not come “in sinful flesh,” for that would have made Him a sinner.

He came *in the likeness* of sinful flesh, as a man.

He bore our sins in His body on the cross.

Double Jeopardy

The “law of double jeopardy” states that a man cannot be tried twice for the same crime. Since Jesus Christ paid the penalty for your sins, and since you are “in Christ,” God will not condemn you.

The Law Cannot Condemn You (v. 4)

Romans 8:4 (NKJV)

that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The believer lives a righteous life, not in the power of the Law, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Law does not have the power to produce holiness; it can only reveal and condemn sin. (*The law does not make us to what is right.*)

But the indwelling Holy Spirit enables you to walk in obedience to God's will.

The righteousness that God demands in His Law is fulfilled in you through the Spirit's power.

In the Holy Spirit, you have life and liberty (Rom. 8:2) and "the pursuit of happiness" (Rom. 8:4).

The legalist tries to obey God in his own strength and fails to measure up to the righteousness that God demands.

The Spirit-led Christian, as he yields to the Lord, experiences the sanctifying work of the Spirit in his life.

Philippians 2:13 (NKJV) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

It is this fact that leads to the second freedom we enjoy as Christians.

Freedom From Defeat - No Obligation (Rom. 8:5–17)

Romans 8:5–17 (NKJV)

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 **For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”**

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

There Is No Obligation To The Old Nature

Romans 8:12 (NKJV) Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

There is no obligation to the old nature.

The believer can live in victory.

Paul described life on three different levels; and he encouraged his readers to live on the highest level.

“You have not the Spirit” (vv. 5–8)

Paul is not describing two kinds of Christians, one carnal and one spiritual. He is contrasting the saved and the unsaved. There are four contrasts.

In the flesh—in the Spirit (v. 5)

Romans 8:5 (NKJV) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:9 (NKJV) But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

The unsaved person does not have the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:9) and lives *in* the flesh and *for* the flesh. His mind is centered on the things that satisfy the flesh.

But the Christian has the Spirit of God within and lives in an entirely new and different sphere.

His mind is fixed on the things of the Spirit.

This does not mean that the unsaved person never does anything good, or that the believer never does anything bad.

It means that the desires of their lives is different. One lives for the flesh, the other lives for the Spirit.

Death—life (v. 6)

Romans 8:6 (NKJV) For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

The unsaved person is alive physically, but dead spiritually.

The inner man is dead toward God and does not respond to the things of the Spirit.

He may be moral, and even religious; but he lacks spiritual life. He needs “the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:2).

War With God - Peace With God (Vv. 6–7)

Romans 8:6–7 (NKJV)

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

The old nature rebels against God and will not submit to God's Law.

Those who have trusted Christ enjoy “peace with God”, while the unsaved are at war with God.
“There is no peace.’

Romans 5:1 (NKJV) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Isaiah 48:22 (NKJV) “There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.”

Pleasing Self - Pleasing God (v. 8)

Romans 8:8 (NKJV) So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- To be “in the flesh” means to be lost, outside Christ.
- The unsaved person lives to please himself and rarely if ever thinks about pleasing God.
- The root of sin is selfishness—“I will” and not “Thy will.”

“You have the Spirit” (vv. 9–11)

Romans 8:9–11 (NKJV)

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

The evidence of conversion is the presence of the Holy Spirit within, witnessing that you are a child of God (Rom. 8:16).

Romans 8:16 (NKJV)

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Your body becomes the very temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Even though the body is destined to die because of sin (unless, of course, the Lord returns), the Spirit gives life to that body today so that we may serve God.

If we should die, the body will one day be raised from the dead, because the Holy Spirit has sealed each believer (Eph. 1:13–14).

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

What a difference it makes in your body when the Holy Spirit lives within.

You experience new life, and even your physical faculties take on a new dimension of experience.

When evangelist D.L. Moody described his conversion experience, he said: “I was in a new world. The next morning the sun shone brighter and the birds sang sweeter ... the old elms waved their branches for joy, and all nature was at peace.” Life in Christ is abundant life.

But there is another level of experience for which the other two are preparation.

The Spirit Has You! (vv. 12–17)

Romans 8:12–17 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

The Spirit Has You! (vv. 12–17)

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

It is not enough for us to have the Spirit; the Spirit must have us!

Only then can He share with us the abundant, victorious life that can be ours in Christ.

We have no obligation to the flesh, because the flesh has only brought trouble into our lives.

We do have an obligation to the Holy Spirit, for it is the Spirit who convicted us, revealed Christ to us, and imparted eternal life to us when we trusted Christ.

Because He is “the Spirit of Life,” He can empower us to obey Christ, and He can enable us to be more like Christ.

But He is also the Spirit of death.

He can enable us to “put to death” (mortify) the sinful deeds of the body.

As we yield the members of our body to the Spirit (Rom. 6:12–17), He applies to us and in us the death and resurrection of Christ.

He puts to death the things of the flesh, and He reproduces the things of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is also “the Spirit of adoption”

(Rom. 8:14–17).

**The word *adoption* in the New Testament means
“being placed as an adult son.”**

We come into God’s family by birth.

But the instant we are born into the family, God adopts us and gives us the position of an adult son.

A baby cannot walk, speak, make decisions, or draw on the family wealth. But the believer can do all of these the instant he is born again.

He can walk and be “led of the Spirit” (Rom. 8:14).

The verb here means “willingly led.”

We yield to the Spirit, and He guides us by His Word day by day.

We are not under bondage to Law and afraid to act.

We have the liberty of the Spirit and are free to follow Christ.

The believer can also speak: “We cry, Abba, Father”
(Rom. 8:15).

Would it not be amazing if a newborn baby looked
up and greeted his father!

First, the Spirit says, “Abba, Father” to us (Gal. 4:6),
and then we say it to God. (“Abba” means “papa”—a term of
endearment.)

Galatians 4:6 (NKJV) And because you are
sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your
hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

A baby cannot sign checks, but the child of God by faith can draw on his spiritual wealth because he is an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ (Rom. 8:17).

Romans 8:17 (NKJV) and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

The Spirit teaches us from the Word, and then we receive God's wealth by faith.

What a thrilling thing it is to have “the Spirit of adoption” at work in our lives!

There is no need for the believer to be defeated.

He can yield his body to the Spirit and by faith overcome the old nature. The Spirit of life will empower him.

The Spirit of death will enable him to overcome the flesh. And the Spirit of adoption will enrich him and lead him into the will of God.



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