



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

1140 Morrison Dr
Fort Worth, TX 76120-3426

Phone: 817-451-5513
Email: allan@celebrationnet.com

We're on the Web!
Www. Celebrationnet.com

L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Romans

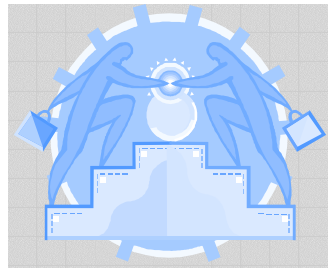
Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Talk about how it feels to be an "insider" and how it feels to be an "outsider". In your relationship with God, which of these seems to describe you best, and why?
2. Think about the importance of acceptance and access to God when it comes to the growth of our faith. How can you apply these truths when you are struggling—be specific?
3. Share which of the "problems" (the world, the flesh/self-will, Satan) that grow us, that you seem to encounter most. Why do you think that is?
4. In your response to struggle, where are you right now—retreat, resentment, resignation, or determination to resolve it? What will it take for you to move to the next level?
5. Share an experience in which you persevered and your faith grew as a result. What did that do to your belief in the "glory" of God? What lessons from that can you pass on?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

Locations, Times, Descriptions



ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -

	9:00	10:45
Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104 Open—Bower-Chappell
Rm 112		Rm 112 Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims	Rm 201 How People Grow
Rm 202		Rm 202 " " "
Rm 203	Young Singles —Franklin/Reynolds	Rm 203 30s—Tripp-Tripp
Rm 204		Rm 204 Singles—Bentzel
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205 Open—Regis-Anderson
Rm 206	Experiencing God—Graham	Rm 206 30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 207 20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 208 College—Ayres-Getchell
		Gym Engaged/Young Married —Houston/Baker

October 31, 2004

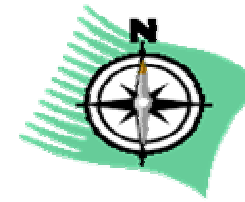
Extreme Makeover (Inside Edition)

Principles of Internal Change From the Book of Romans

Celebration Fellowship

See You At The Top

A preview of Romans 8



Volume 3, Issue 9
October 31, 2004

Inside this issue:

Introduction to Next Week's Study	1
Summary of Last Week's Study Questions	1-2
Study Guide	2-3
Life Group Questions	4

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Twenty-five years ago motivational speaker, Zig Ziglar, wrote a runaway business bestseller, "See You at the Top", which described his formula for business success. Similarly, when we reach Romans 8, Paul, by the Spirit, shows us the "top" of God's blessings, recapping all that God has done for us. The chapter begins with the declaration that there is no—as in zero, zip, zilch, none, nada—condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The "law" of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the Law of sin and death. Now,

being led by the Spirit, we fulfill the things that lead to life, rather than death, so that our peace with God is an ongoing experience. Moreover, by virtue of our faith in Christ, we have been adopted by His Spirit, and become intimate members of God's family; this means that we will eventually inherit all that God has. While we suffer now in our decaying, sinful bodies, one day we will be redeemed, allowing us to live in constant hope of a permanently better future. We also have the assurance that the Spirit is praying for us,



God wants to remake us from the inside out.

leading us into God's will, and working all things together to make us like Christ, achieving God's good in our lives—a good which He has specially purposed for us from eternity past. This all flows out of God's love for us, which is His guarantee that we will see Him at the top one day.

The Secret of [Our] Success

In the 80's movie, "The Secret of My Success", Michael J Fox plays a character determined to make it in New York. Although he finds himself working in the mailroom, he poses as an executive and somehow succeeds. This somewhat parallels the way the Christian life works. We have an incredible opportunity for success in the Christian life, but unless we live the part we will never achieve this success. In Romans 6-7 Paul, by the Spirit, lays out God's "secret" of success, which is fourfold—we must accept the facts about our old and new natures, mentally commit to that reality, both negatively and positively, and then live according to it. This is grace-based, rather than Law, approach to living with which many disagreed. Some said that they ought to sin more since grace increases in direct proportion to sin, allowing more glory to God. However, this ignores the change that occurs in our nature when

we receive God's grace. We no longer want to sin, but in our new nature, we want to serve God. The reality is that when we accepted Christ, we were spiritually baptized into His death, and into His resurrection. This means that we no longer have to serve sin, because the old nature died with Christ, and we can now serve Christ, because the power that raised Him from the dead has been infused into our new nature through Him. Paul goes on to explain that when we place our faith in Christ, we are mystically united with Him—first in His death. This means that our old nature has been declared "dead", although we still know it's there. Essentially, its authority in the life of the believer has been nullified, and anytime we carry out the desires of this old, fleshly nature, we do so, not because we must, but because we choose. Before being united with Christ we were unable to say "no" to the flesh, but now we can choose to

(Romans 6-7)

reject its temptations since it no longer has authority over us. In the same way, at the moment of salvation, by virtue of our unity with Him, we were raised with Christ mystically, and given a fresh, new life. Death is forever defeated and we no longer live in its shadow; so our new purpose should be to live for God, who accomplished this reality for us. Once we understand these truths, we must mentally commit to them. This first means that we are to not let sin rule us, by presenting our bodily parts to carry out sinful desires. This "presentation" idea is a military picture, as when soldiers "present arms". We should not present our bodily parts (including our brains) to sin, but rather we should present them as weapons for righteous living. This will happen when, based on the facts of our new natures, we yield our wills to God daily. Following this discussion, Paul then refuted the false assumption about grace-based living that we can now sin without conse-

(Continued on page 2)

Romans 6-7 (continued from pg 1)

quences. But this again ignores our new nature. Those who have received God's nature no longer want to sin; rather they want to serve Him. We were enslaved to sin because of our old nature; but now, with a new nature, united with God, we are slaves of righteousness. This happens when we believe, from the heart, the teaching about God's grace that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. This false assumption also ignores that, in reality, a person is enslaved to whatever they obey. Therefore, the one who serves sin (as a manner of life) is still enslaved to it, and this contradicts the new nature of believers. Before we were saved we gave our bodily parts over to impurity and lawlessness, resulting in increased lawlessness; but now, having come to Christ, we surrender our bodies to Him, resulting in sanctification. This word, which means "set apart", was used of those who were set apart to serve God. Thus, growth in sanctification, or holy and righteous living, allows us to become more intimate with God, the highest blessing a human being can experience. As Paul closes this section, he sums up the gospel by saying that the wages (soldier's pay) of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Then he

shows how marriage illustrates the "before and after" of the Christian life. Before Christ we were married to the Law, sin, and death; but when we believed in Christ and died with Him, we were then set free from this Law and able to marry another—Christ Himself. So now the Law has no authority over us, since we are dead to it and now joined to another, Christ. Before Christ we conceived the fruit of death out of our union with the Law of sin; but now in Christ, we serve Him in the newness of the Spirit. This thought caused some to say that the Law must be sin, since it stirred up sinful desires. But it was the old nature that decided to rebel and the Law only exposed this as sin, showing that Law actu-



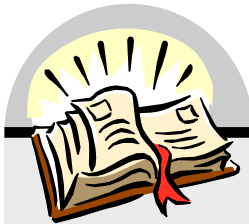
"In reality, a person is enslaved to whatever they obey."

ally is good. This revelation allows us to avoid evil and obey the good. The problem, however, is that we still "act" as if the fleshly nature has authority over us. We do what we shouldn't do, and don't do what we should do. This creates conflict between the flesh, which the Law accurately portrays as sinful (in which "no good thing" dwells), and the Spirit, which leads us to do good. The Spirit indwells our new nature, also called our inner man, and mind; this is our true identity "in Christ", and the only part of us that is spiritually alive. Because of this new nature, which is inhabited by the Spirit, we are able to do that which is good, although we often follow the impulses of the "body of death", attributing authority to it, which it no longer has, in our lives. This is a frustrating reality that Christians face; Paul, who also faced it, tells the only way to overcome it. With great emotion he cried out "who shall deliver us from this body of death?", and his answer was, "through the Lord Jesus Christ". Therefore, the secret of our success in Christian living will be to understand and accept the reality of our death and resurrection with Christ, saying "no" to the flesh and yielding ourselves in obedience to Christ. By relying on Him we will achieve success.

Study Questions for Romans 8

In this mountaintop passage of the Bible Paul shows us the basis for victorious living in Christ.

1. Read Romans 8:1-4. In what condition do those "in Christ Jesus" find themselves (v1), and what made this possible (v2, 3)? Upon what basis should believers live their lives (v4), and what does this mean?
2. From Romans 8:5-8 what 2 types of people are there (v5)? How does each act (v5, 7, 8), and what are the results of each life (v6)?
3. Looking at Romans 8:9-11 what determines whether one is in the flesh, or in the Spirit (v9)? What 2 things are true of those who have the Spirit of Christ in them (v10, 11)? How can we apply this?



"Growth in sanctification, or holy and righteous living, allows us to become more intimate with God."

4. In Romans 8:12-14 what obligation do believers have (v12) and why (v13)? What do you think this means?

5. Using Romans 8:15-17 what reality describes every "son of God" (v14), and what does this mean? What blessings come from this Father-son relationship (v15, 16, 17), and how does this make you feel?

6. Read Romans 8:18-22. what 2 certainties will believers experience (v18)? What is creation's stake in this (v19-22), and what truth does this reveal about our connection with nature?

7. According to Romans 8:23-25 what causes much of our suffering now (v23), and to what do we look forward (v23)? What is our guarantee of this hope (v23-24), and how should it affect us (v25)?

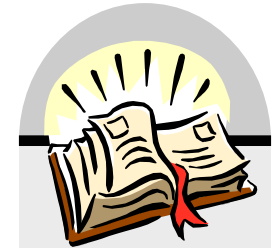
8. From Romans 8:26-27 who helps us in our suffering (v26), and how (v26)? What do you think this means? Why does His activity provide genuine help for us (v27)?

9. In Romans 8:28-30 what truth is revealed (v28), and why is this truth certain (v29-30)? What is God's ultimate purpose for us (v28), and what will be the ultimate result for us (v30)?

10. Looking at Romans 8:31-34, about what can believers be confident as they live life (v31)? How has God shown that He is "for us" (v32, 33) and what does Christ do for us (v34)? How do you feel about this?

11. Using Romans 8:35-39 list the things that might make us feel as if God no longer loves us (v35-36), and the things we sometimes think could block the love of God (v37-39). What is the truth (v37, 39)?

12. Review Romans 8 by listing all the blessings we have through our relationship with Christ.



Memory Verse

**"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
Romans 8:1**