

# ASK

## **Prayer Series Overview:**

- Talk to God (Luke 18:1-8)
- The Model Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)
- Praying in Weakness (Romans 8:1-30)
- Praying with Confidence (Hebrews 4:14-16, 10:19-22)
- Just Pray (A full night of praying together)
- Helping One Another Pray (D-group rhythm)

## **Introduction: Romans 8:1-30**

As our church has learned about prayer this month, we have heard three sermons, done two small group studies, and practiced praying together both at our Prayer and Campus Nights and during the weekend worship time. If you haven't figured it out by now, this year we are all about prayer! This week, as we look at Romans 8, we will see how Christians should run to God in prayer and rely on the Spirit's help.

### **This week's main point:**

God did what we could not in salvation, and he continues to help us in our weakness.

Romans 8 shows how Christians in one sense are no different from non-Christians: Our bodies are still subject to death. But because the Spirit lives in us, our experience of life here on earth is transformed. He empowers us to fight against our sinful nature, saves us from slavery to fear, assures us of our intimate, child-parent relationship with God, and gives hope beyond the grave. Along with all creation, Christians are characterized by groaning—not in despair but in eager expectation of God's promise of new creation. This hope in the new creation presses Christians, though weak in ourselves, to pray expectantly in the face of sickness, struggles with sin, and suffering. Our weakness is most exposed in verse 26: "We do not know what we ought to pray for." The Spirit translates our early morning groanings and late night thanks into God-honoring communion. Even though we are so weak in ourselves, there is no situation where we cannot pray to God—even when we cannot speak a single word to him!

## **Sermon Response Question:**

1) How did the sermon challenge your thinking about who God is and how he wants us to see him?

## **Read Romans 8:1-30.**

## **Bible Study Questions:**

2) Verse 1 says that people who are "in Christ" are no longer under condemnation because of their sins. How do verses 2-11 tell us this happens?

3) Make two lists from verses 5-8: What is the result of setting the mind on the flesh? What is the result of setting the mind on the Spirit?

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4) Paul here makes a case that our lives are shaped by whatever preoccupies our minds. What does your mind most naturally and easily fixate on when there is nothing else to distract you? Whatever that is is what you really live for.

5) Verse 13 says that by the Spirit we are to “**put to death** the deeds of the body.” This is what Christian theologians call “mortification.” What do verses 12-13 tell us about Christian mortification?

6) What do we learn about the importance, privilege, and process of becoming a child of God from verses 14-17?

7) What do we learn about prayer from verses 26-27?

8) Summarize your group’s discussion of Romans 8:1-30. How will these things shape your prayer life?

## **Application Questions:**

9) Think back to verses 18-25. As a Christ follower, how will you daily remember the glory you are heading to? How will it transform your view of your life?

## **Prayer:**

- Take turns, as many as may want to, praying through the ACTS model of prayer using Romans 8. Here’s an example:
  - Adoration: God, it is amazing how you have saved us through your power and by your Spirit.
  - Confession: I’m so prone to set my mind on the things of the flesh. Please forgive me.
  - Thanksgiving: Thank you, Spirit, for being the one who fights the flesh and produces change.
  - Supplication: Let me live more according to your Spirit and put to death the deeds of the flesh.

This study was shaped in part thanks to Tim Keller’s *Romans 8-16 for You* commentary. It is a great resource for preparation or further reading with this study.