

Hear, Reflect, Speak.

NOVEMBER 2021 | ISSUE NO.20
FREE



YOU LOVE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATE WICKEDNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS SET YOU ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS BY ANOINTING YOU WITH THE OIL OF JOY. **PSALM 45:7**





Hear, Reflect, Speak.

DAILY BIBLE REFLECTIONS
NOV 2021 • PART II

BY TRINITY CHURCH MODBURY

This volume of daily Bible reflections has been prepared by lots of members of Trinity Church Modbury to help us all:

1. Hear the voice of God daily
2. Reflect on what he's personally saying to us &
3. Speak to God our Father, Jesus our Saviour, & the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

We'd love this to be a year where we all grow in our passion for God.

[Special thanks to John Cronshaw for helping to enable this project]

Monday 8/11/2021

By David Simon

Hear God's word to you

Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives? 2 For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to him. 3 So then, if she has sexual relations with another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress if she marries another man. 4 So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

Romans 7:1-4

Reflect with me on God's word

Earlier in his letter to the Romans, Paul pointed out the futility of trying to keep the law – the Law of Moses – to make oneself right with God – he showed that it will always fail (Chapter 2). However, there is still one other question regarding the law that needed answering; is the law still in effect – that is, does one still need to keep the law, whether Jew or Gentile? Paul notes that the law has not been done away with (Chapter 7:12, 14), so the question is valid, even today.

Paul answers with a resounding 'no' – the law has no authority upon our soul, whether Jew or Gentile, and in these few verses in Chapter 7 he sets about proving this reality. The basis of his argument is that a Christian has died to sin, which is the subject of Chapter 6 (e.g. verse 6:2) – and death nullifies the law's force. Paul uses the example of the law of marriage to demonstrate this fact. A married person (and Paul focuses on the woman)

would be in breach of the commandment not to commit adultery (Deuteronomy 5:18) if she slept with anyone other than her husband. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry another man and the law is not broken. Why? Because death releases her from the law that bound her to her husband (verse 2).

So how does this apply to a Christian? Paul, having shown in Chapter 6 that our old self (the flesh) is dead (baptism demonstrates this – Romans 6:2-4), he now shows our death to sin releases us from the law, in that we have died to sin and have been raised to newness of life (this is what being born again means). And it is this that releases us from the law just like the death of a husband releasing the wife to marry another. Our new reality is we are not dead but alive: raised from the dead, a new person – the baptized person does not remain submerged, but is raised up, signifying this fact (Romans 6:4). Paul goes on in this verse to show that we are not raised to do anything we want to do, but rather to be ‘married to another’ being Christ. Thus the law no longer has any authority over our soul but rather the believer is subject to the authority of Christ.

In summary, it’s not that Christ has done away with the law (he didn’t) – indeed the next part of Chapter 7 examines this – but rather the law has no legal authority upon a believer’s soul. And therefore Paul can write in verse 6: “..., by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written law.” (NIV).

Personally reflect on God’s word to you

1. If we are free from the power of the Law, by what means should Christians be guided in pleasing God and bearing fruit?
2. Given we are not under the law, reflect on the impact of this on our relationship with God the Father?

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Tuesday 9/11/2021

By Lee-Anne Cronshaw

Hear God's word to you

For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. 6 But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Romans 7:5-6

Reflect with me on God's word

The reference to fruit in verse 5 reminds me of the fruit on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden. I am a child of Adam. I know my faults. God knows them too. I am corrupted by these sinful passions and have become like rotten fruit. Left to my own sinful nature, the fruit of my labour is death.

But in Christ Jesus I have been released from the law and sin no longer controls me. Rather than serving up rotten fruit I now bear good fruit walking with the Spirit in Christ by faith. By faith in Christ I have been saved and this leads to good works or good fruit. I no longer have to follow the letter of the law in order to be saved, as good works cannot lead to salvation. Only God can save us, and he has done that by sending his own Son to die for our sins. Thanks be to God.

Personally reflect on God's word to you

1. Is there a part of your life that you need to die to?
2. Spend time in prayer with God, thanking Jesus for your new life freed from the law.

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Wednesday 10/11/2021

By Ian Dickson

Hear God's word to you

What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead.

Romans 7: 7-8

Reflect with me on God's word

These verses and their context within Paul's letter proved too difficult for me, so I referred to John Stott's commentary and found that my initial thoughts were way off beam! The following is a very brief summary of some ten pages of the commentary.

Earlier in the letter, Paul, a Pharisee, considers the place of the law in Christian discipleship. He agrees that anyone who keeps the law, will live by it, but no-one has ever succeeded. In fact, the law defines sin and condemns the sinner, so could never provide a path to salvation. After pointing out that it was by faith that Abraham was considered righteous by God, and that the death of the husband releases the widow from her marriage vow, Paul states that in dying to sin spiritually and being bonded to Jesus through spiritual resurrection, the believer is released from bondage to sin and the law.

It appears that some detractors were arguing that meant that the law could be ignored. This Paul strongly refutes (in verse 7 above)

and then uses the law “you shall not covet” as an example of how it causes temptation by raising the possibilities.

John Stott indicates that faith in Jesus upholds the law by assigning it to its proper function of guidance. Stott also states that “Paul’s view is that the whole gospel vocabulary of promise, grace and faith is incompatible with law”.

Personally reflect on God’s word to you

1. Thank God for justifying us through Jesus’ sacrifice and his gracious releasing of us from the bondage of sin.
2. Though we are free from bondage to the Mosaic Law, what actions should we take when it conflicts with the laws of the State?

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Thursday 11/11/2021

By Sharon Lockwood

Hear God's word to you

Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. 10 I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. 11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. 12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. 13 Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

Romans 7:9-13

Reflect with me on God's word

Although Paul is speaking in first person here, I don't think these verses were written as a confession of his personal struggles. An autobiographical account of his own life would look more like Philippians 3:5, where he begins by saying he was circumcised when he was 8 days old. Paul had very little opportunity to be "alive apart from the law."

It seems he is setting up a thought experiment to give evidence for the previous verses. "I" represents a hypothetical human being. Paul invites us to gather around and watch closely to see what happens when the commandment of the law is added to the experience of this individual. We can almost imagine the fizzing sound of a chemical reaction, with froth oozing over the sides of a beaker, as sin erupts to life in the consciousness of this human test case.

Of course, we can all relate to this person's predicament. We have all been in situations where it was so much more appealing to do the opposite of

what we knew was right. The scenario of “sin seizing an opportunity to deceive” has happened to every one of us since it happened to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden.

Paul has personified sin to make it clear that sin is the bad guy in this story. He is protecting God’s honour and vindicating him of doing any wrong through giving the law. The commandment came from the creator of life to guide and guard his people so they might flourish. It is holy, righteous and good. But sin opposes God and schemes to turn all that he has made orderly and good into a mess of destruction and death.

Although they oppose each other, Paul shows us that through the weakness of human nature, the law and sin have become a combination that proves deadly to us. Only God, himself, in human form could resolve this problem. He has graciously set us free from sin’s power and given us new life in Jesus, the one who was able to honour the law and resist sin to the very end.

“For sin will have no dominion over you since you are not under the law but under grace.”

Romans 6:14

Personally reflect on God’s word to you

1. Think about the good intention of the law. Consider the goodness of God who wants to see his people and all his creation flourish.
2. Thank God that his Word shows us the truth about our lives and exposes sin for what it really is – because of his immeasurable love for us!

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Friday 12/11/2021

By Barb Page

Hear God's word to you

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Romans 7:14-20

Reflect with me on God's word

Have you ever started your day thinking it's a great day? I haven't blasphemed, I haven't lied, I haven't coveted, I haven't..... and then you get out of bed.

God's law helps me to see who I really am before him. Paul says:

v14 The Law is spiritual. I am unspiritual. I am sold as a slave to sin.

v15 I don't understand what I do. Instead of doing what I want to do I do what I hate.

God's law helps me discover:

v16 If I do what I hate to do, I agree that the law is good.

I realize I need a Saviour and the only one who can rescue me is Jesus. He fulfilled the law and became sin for me. He enables me to recognise the depth of my sinfulness and the amazing grace of my

God. He takes me from death to a new life in Christ. How amazing is that! But we still live on this side of Heaven and the struggle with sin is real isn't it?

v17 It is no longer myself who does wrong but sin living in me

v18 Good does not live in my sinful nature, for I have the desire to do what is good but I can't carry it out.

v19 I keep on doing the evil I do not want to do.

v20 If I do what I don't want to do it's no longer me who does it but sin living in me that does it.

Abba Father who sent his Son for me and now dwells in me by his Spirit enables me to recognise the sin in me. He gives me the desire to do what is good and enables me to recognise that I cannot carry it out and so I go to him. Praise be to our God who sent his Son so we might be set free from the law of sin and death and know new life in him. Amen

Personally reflect on God's word to you

1. What sin are you struggling with?
2. Taking time to praise God for his law enables us to recognise our sin.
3. Take time to ask God for forgiveness through his Son and for help to daily turn from sin and live for him.

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Saturday 13/11/2021

By Neptune Tang

Hear God's word to you

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 7:21-25

Reflect with me on God's word

In verse 22, Paul talks about delight in God's law. I don't know about you, but "law" and "delight" are not words that I generally associate with each other. In my personal experience "law" is more likely to be associated with "SAPOL expiation notice". Now picture a chaotic scene of scooters, overladen trucks and pedestrians all vying for the same patch of dodgy road. This scene makes me quite thankful that we have generally effective enforcement of road rules and reasonable maintenance. In Psalm 119, we have 176 verses highlighting how God's law is a blessing, righteous, praiseworthy, a source of strength, life preserving ... and the list goes on. So there is this tension. We can know that the law is good, something we ought to follow and yet we have a tendency towards drifting away from the law and going our own way.

The law (God's Word/the Bible) is good because it is given to show us what is good and following it preserves and enriches our lives. God is

holy and the law shows us God's perfect standard. However, it also shows us how we fall short. The law shows us that departing from God's standard leads to brokenness in our lives and in our relationship with God and others. So the question posed is, how can we be rescued? In verse 25 we read that God delivers believers through Jesus. God shows us his standard, he shows us that we have fallen short, he shows us that we are prisoners heading toward death, but he doesn't leave us there, he makes the way that we can be rescued and delivered as Jesus dies in our place. So our reasonable response in verse 25 is to give thanks to God and to recognise that Jesus who gave himself for us is Lord, worthy of our obedience and praise.

Personally reflect on God's word to you

1. Are you finding it hard to do good, to obey God? Note what this verse has to say about the cause of your struggles. More importantly, note the solution.
2. What can help you delight in God's law? Psalm 119 may be an encouragement. If you are a follower of Jesus, do you thank God regularly that he has rescued you by sending Jesus?

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Monday 15/11/2021

By John Cronshaw

Hear God's word to you

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Roman 8:1-4

Reflect with me on God's word

Without Christ I am condemned. My sin is a barrier between God and myself. I cannot remove sin by obeying the law. My sinful nature prevents me from achieving a complete obedience to the law. So, my sin leads to death which is just. I am condemned by the law of sin and death.

But in Christ I am released from the law of sin and death. His death on the cross has set me free. My sinful nature is a thing of the past. I have been born again. His Spirit has transformed my life. I live for Christ and live according to His Spirit. He did this for lowly me, a sinner. What grace. What love.

How uplifting is this? The burden or yoke has been lifted from our shoulders. Now being created in Christ, with the support of His Spirit, we do the good works God had prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

Personally reflect on God's word to you

1. Are there circumstances in your life where you still feel bound by the law?
2. Bring this before Jesus in prayer and let him lift this burden from you.
3. What steps will the Spirit guide you to take this week?

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Tuesday 16/11/2021

By Margaret Dickson

Hear God's word to you

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:5-8

Reflect with me on God's word

Some verses of the Bible say "flesh", and other versions say "sinful nature". I can't decide which I prefer! Both imply that we cannot help ourselves, that we are bound to sin. Wives and mothers are constantly concerned with the fleshly needs of their family, feeding them and keeping clothes and house clean. Are we beyond God's care? Of course not!

Then what do "flesh" or "sinful nature" mean? What nature desires, versus what God's Holy Spirit desires. Those who are controlled by God's Spirit will know life and peace in contrast with those who live according to the flesh and the desires of the flesh. They will know that "peace of God which passes all understanding", because they are living according to God's direction, and are not led by the "flesh", that is, their own natural desires.

Personally reflect on God's word to you

1. How can we be sure that we are living in accordance with the Spirit?
2. What can we do when we fail?

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Wednesday 17/11/2021

By Andrew Lee

Hear God's word to you

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Romans 8:9-11

Reflect with me on God's word

Paul's letter to the Romans is challenging. In it we see some of the deepest theology in the New Testament.

Chapter 8:9-11 is both a warning and a message of assurance. Paul is asking his readers to consider the implications of sin compared to living in righteousness through Christ. Paul asserts that there are two ways to live. The first way is to be controlled by our sinful human condition which leads to spiritual death. That is the warning. The second way is to be controlled by God's Spirit which makes us alive in Christ. That is the assurance.

This is a complex idea, how can we be dead if we are still alive?

Paul points out that our normal human nature is to live under sin's control. Sin causes us to die both spiritually and physically – as we can see in Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve sinned. However, if we have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us, our Spirit is made alive and our bodies will be raised again.

How can this be? Paul says it is because God raised Jesus from the dead, our bodies and spirit become cleansed from sin and we now live because Jesus lives in us. The life we now lead is controlled by his Spirit - not by our sinful nature, and this leads to spiritual life. While our mortal bodies will still die in time, the assurance is that we will be raised just like Jesus was raised, with a perfect and incorruptible body.

This is true hope indeed. It is the assurance that Christ has changed our condition from being dead in sin to being alive in him. There is no assurance greater than this! Even though our bodies are not yet made perfect until Jesus returns, and even though we still sin, we can live with the assurance that by Jesus' death our sin has been accounted for - literally taken away, and we are now free from spiritual death.

As I reflect on this amazing passage, I am reminded that it is not because of my own works that I am saved - how could I save myself from sin when I am a sinner? No, it is only by God's amazing grace that I now live. It gives me hope when I fail, when I sin and disobey God. God is greater; his own Spirit is dwelling within me, and I know that I am truly alive. My assurance is rooted in his promise.

Personally reflect on God's word to you

1. How does this assurance of grace and life make you feel?
2. How will you respond to this assurance?

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Thursday 18/11/2021

By Stephen George

Hear God's word to you

For the director of music. To the tune of "Lilies." Of the Sons of Korah. A maskil. A wedding song.

My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer. 2 You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever. 3 Gird your sword on your side, you mighty one; clothe yourself with splendor and majesty. 4 In your majesty ride forth victoriously in the cause of truth, humility and justice; let your right hand achieve awesome deeds. 5 Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies; let the nations fall beneath your feet. 6 Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. 8 All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; from palaces adorned with ivory the music of the strings makes you glad. 9 Daughters of kings are among your honored women; at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir. 10 Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention: Forget your people and your father's house. 11 Let the king be enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord. 12 The city of Tyre will come with a gift, people of wealth will seek your favor. 13 All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold. 14 In embroidered garments she is led to the king; her virgin companions follow her— those brought to be with her. 15 Led in with joy and gladness, they enter the palace of the king. 16 Your sons will take the place of your fathers; you will make them princes throughout the land. 17 I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

Psalm 45

Reflect with me on God's word

In our culture the energy and attention at a wedding is mostly directed toward the bride. There is often an enormous amount of effort that goes into what she will be wearing and doing compared to what the groom will be wearing and doing. He buys or hires a fairly ordinary suit and loiters uneasily up the front of the church. She has a dress crafted and contoured and then bursts down the aisle at a carefully orchestrated moment in time to an emotional song. It's a lot of fun really.

In this psalm, 'A Wedding Song', the energy and attention is the opposite. It's mostly directed toward the groom. His character, his attire, and even his perfume are getting all the attention in a way that almost feels excessive to us. In fact, the language used to describe this king is so abundant that it starts to feel quite uncomfortable. How can this king, this Son of David, be described as God, and yet be in relationship with God? It lifts the role of the King of Israel up into heights that border on being blasphemous. Some sort of idealised, ultimate, divine king of God's people seems to be on view.

As we read this psalm we start to see that it can only comfortably belong to King Jesus. The book of Hebrews confirms this suspicion in Chapter 1:8-9. Ultimately this psalm is speaking about the one who is worthy of all praise and the bride he loves. Ultimately this psalm is about Jesus and us his people. Jesus really is worthy of all our energy and attention, and yet we are genuinely honoured and esteemed by him, beyond what we deserve. We are caught up into a privilege and a relationship beyond the heights of anything else we could ever find in this life.

Personally reflect on God's word to you

1. Jesus has anointed you 'with the oil of joy'. He is the 'most excellent of men'. His 'lips are anointed with grace'. He is victorious in the 'cause of truth, humility and justice'. This is a picture of someone who is strong, good, happy and kind. How does that line up with how you picture Jesus?
2. The bride (probably a foreign princess) is told to forget her people and her father's house. She is to let the king be enthralled by her beauty and to honour him, for he is her lord. In other words she is told to consider her present and her future as being bound completely with this king. How does this line up with how you picture your present and future?

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Friday 19/11/2021

By Noel Kluge

Hear God's word to you

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Romans 8:12-13

Reflect with me on God's word

I can remember an interview with John Maxwell (a Christian leadership guru) after he had survived a life-threatening heart attack. He was talking about the changes he had made to his lifestyle to give his body the best chance of living a long healthy life now that he had been given a second chance. John acknowledged how hard it was to stick to these changes. His doctor had told him that the vast majority of people who experience a heart attack and subsequent surgery end up going back to the same lifestyle that caused the heart attack in the first place. John didn't want to be one of those people. Knowing that he had come very close to dying, he felt obligated to look after his body so that he could make the most of the second chance God had given him.

In our reading for today, the apostle Paul talks about an obligation we have as people who have been given a second chance with God. These verses form a book end to the opening verses in Chapter 8 where we read, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."

(Romans 8:1, 2) God's gift of new life through the Spirit carries with it an obligation. That obligation is not to "the flesh" which is the power we use to live under without God before he saved us, but to the Spirit, the power he has given us in Christ.

Paul is serious about the need for us to play our part in living out the new life God gives us. Our response is not optional. It is necessary and the reason for this is that living according to flesh will lead to spiritual death. The good news is that our response is empowered by the Spirit. We cannot stop giving into our flesh (sinful nature) in our own power. It can only be done by the Spirit. Unlike the survivor of a heartache who is trying to live a better lifestyle through sheer will power, we have the power of the Holy Spirit to draw on together with the assurance that "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Personally reflect on God's word to you

1. What are you living your life according to? Is it the Holy Spirit or your old sinful nature?
2. Are there ways you can be more attentive to the Holy Spirit in your life? How can you turn up the voice of Spirit and turn down the voice of the old sinful nature?

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter

Saturday 20/11/2021

By Daryll Pain

Hear God's word to you

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:14-17

Reflect with me on God's word

How wonderful it is to reflect on the truth that the Spirit of God does the work of salvation in all who are children of God. The Spirit softens our hearts so that we hear, listen to and receive by faith through grace the undeserved offer of salvation made by Jesus. In the flesh this is impossible, incompatible with the world's noise and distractions, so this work of salvation is a miracle. And he does not desert us, in fact as v16 says so beautifully "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children".

As Jesus promised, he continues to lead, help, assure, strengthen, console and comfort us, teaching us what and how to pray, pouring the love of Jesus in and through us. Our sin nature still fights within us but its power is broken, we are no longer slaves to sin, we are set free of sin and fear by the work of Jesus on the cross. Like children we can enter and receive our eternal inheritance guaranteed by

Jesus as co heirs and adopted sons of God whom we are privileged by the Spirit to call “Abba”, Father. Thanks be to God!

Personally reflect on God’s word to you

1. Have you reflected on how the Spirit is calling you to turn and become a child of God?
2. Do you rejoice in how wonderful it is that you have become a child of God?
3. Does this passage (and all of Romans 8) motivate you to share the offer of life in Christ made possible through the Holy Spirit?

Speak to God your Father, Jesus your Saviour, & the Holy Spirit your Comforter