

# ACCESS

Live life to the fullest!

Romans 8:3-8

1. Live out your new life in your new **CONDITION!** vs. 3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17
  - Old weapons to fight battles: **PENTATEUCH**, wisdom, logic
  - What the **LAW** could not do... **GOD** did through Jesus
  - New weapons: His **WORD** and The **SPIRIT** 1 Corinthians 2:9-12
2. **COMPARISONS** between the two conditions! vs. 5-8
  - **SELF**-focused versus **GOD** focused vs. 5; Gal. 5:19-23
  - Results in **DEATH** versus **LIFE** and **PEACE** vs. 6
  - **HOSTILITY** toward God versus **PLEASING** God vs. 7-8
3. We are now in the **FAVORABLE** condition! vs. 9
  - ‘you are’ = our **DECLARED** position
  - The Spirit **DEPOSITED**; now to be **DISPLAYED** Colossians 3:1-13

## Life Group Discussion Questions – October 10, 2021

**Romans 8:5** *For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

### DISCOVER (Read Romans 8:5-8)

1. Define the term “set our minds on.” What are some of the ways we “set our minds on the Spirit”? ...or “set our minds on the flesh”?
2. Re-read v. 6. What is the context of “life and peace” that Paul refers to? Have you ever experienced this “life and peace” when you submitted to the Holy Spirit? Has this been a fleeting or a sustained, permanent experience for you?
3. In our culture, most would say living the American Dream is a full life. Is it possible to pursue the dream and still please God? How is this full life different than the fullness God offers? Why is it that those who are in the flesh cannot please God?

### EXPLORE

1. Read Galatians 5:16-21. If you notice that you often fall into one or more of these sins, what should you do? How can we be more Spirit-filled and therefore have the self-control we need to avoid these sins?
2. Should we embrace the concept that we are struggling to be a new creation? Why is this important? (see 2 Corinthians 5:16-17)
3. Read Romans 5:1-2 and Hebrews 10:19-22. God never denies us access to Him. Why does He do this? In contrast, in what ways do we deny God access to us? Why are we afraid to surrender and expose these areas to Him especially if He already knows what they are? What happens to us when we bring these dark areas of our lives to into His light?

### EXPERIENCE

1. How can a person know if he or she is controlled by the sinful nature (the flesh) or by the Spirit?
2. In a sense, when we “set our minds on the Spirit,” we are making God’s thoughts our affections. We are taking our thoughts captive in Christ. (see 2 Corinthians 10:5) Have you had this success in your thought life? When have you gained this victory?
3. What might we see in a life that is fueled by the love from God? What might we see in a life that is fueled by a love for God? If these were opposite ends of a scale, where would you mark your life?

### PRAY/ACTION

*Pray... Father God, it is too easy to be double-minded; to set our minds on the flesh and yet call ourselves bond-servants of Christ. Our heart-cry is to be Spirit-filled once and for all. But until we are in glory with You, this struggle will continue. Show us how to accept this battle; that we might glorify You in spite of our best efforts. Help us to live a life that is fueled by our love for You; that we would become consistent in bringing a smile to Your face.*

*Action...* Identify one area in your life that is prone to be lived in the flesh. Confess it and repent.