

## The Gift of Righteousness ROMANS 8:14-28

### Romans 8:14<sup>1</sup>

*For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

- The sons of God ARE being led by the Spirit.
  - LED: to lead, to bring, to carry
  - This verse DOES **NOT** SAY: “For all who are **following** the Spirit of God...” Notice the emphasis is on being **led**, not on following. In other words, the subject of the sentence is the Holy Spirit, not us!!! We usually think of us following when we think of someone leading, but the word is used most often in the sense of someone bringing/leading someone else along. This is to say that we are being brought along by God’s Spirit. He is doing the work. We are simply allowing ourselves to be brought along or led. The picture is of someone taking you by the hand or putting an arm around your shoulder to guide you or of pointing the way, even carrying you.
- **This takes the focus off of our ability to follow and puts it on HIS ABILITY TO LEAD. Praise God!**
- We are yoked together with Christ. He is leading us. His yoke is easy. His burden is light.
  - **Matthew 11:28-30**  
*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*
- We are “led” as in being yoked together with Him. We do not stagnantly wait for a specific word from God to direct our every move.
- Because we are being led (brought along, carried) by the Holy Spirit we don’t have to worry about which direction to go. He will lead us. While the Holy Spirit is leading us, he is also speaking to us of things to come. We are working in cooperation with His foresight. This makes our yoke easy and our burden light.
  - **John 16:13**  
*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*
    - ◆ **GUIDE:** hodegeo hod-ayg-eh'-o: to show the way (literally or figuratively [teach]): - guide, lead.

# Rest

*We tend to have the false concept that we are saved by grace through faith, but after that it is up to us!*

<sup>1</sup> Main text scripture is from the NASB, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Supporting scripture is usually from the NKJV, Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc..

- **John 10:27-30**

*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup> And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and My Father are one."*

### Romans 8:15

*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*

- He lead us because we are His sons, we do not have an Old Covenant spirit of slavery and fear of God. We do not fear God as a slave would, or as someone who is afraid of being punished because he can't live up to rules or commands.
  - Slavery=bondage
  - Leading=resulting; the spirit of slavery results in fear.
  - Again: We used to have a spirit of slavery leading to fear; but not now.
- We are now His true and beloved children and we now relate to and call out to God as our Abba father.
  - **ABBA FATHER** (From Galatians, Gordon D. Fee)
    - ◆ "Abba" was the Aramaic address of intimacy used in a Jewish home.
    - ◆ Jesus' use of the term was unique in known Jewish literature.
    - ◆ Jesus' understood His unique relationship to the Father.
    - ◆ As adopted sons, His disciples are invited to use the term as His extension of grace to them.
- We address God in the same intimate term Jesus used.
  - **1 John 4:17-19**  
*By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love, because He first loved us.*
  - **2 Timothy 1:7**  
*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*
  - **1 John 3:1-3**  
*See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*
- Because we are yoked and led by the Spirit, He will never lead us into a legalistic approach to God. Rather, He will lead us as the very sons of God.
  - **Galatians 5:18**  
*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.*

**Romans 8:16-17**

*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him*

- You know in your spirit that you that you are His child, no matter what some preacher may say, no matter what the devil may say, no matter what some current sin you may have committed may say.
- This means that we are co-heirs with Jesus. What He gets we get. This does NOT mean we obtain God-status because Jesus was God before the foundations of the earth. There is ONE God and there will always be ONE God.
  - **Titus 3:4-7**  
*But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
- “If” does not mean that in order to be glorified with Him we must suffer. This would be to endorse a works-based system and imply if we don’t suffer with Him, we will not be glorified with Him.
- “If” can translate “seeing that” or “since indeed” we suffer with Him. It is assumed we WILL share in His sufferings.
- The primary way that a Christian suffers in this life is from persecution. When we stand up for the truth of the Gospel, we will likely be persecuted from non-Christians and law-based Christians.
  - **Matthew 5:10-12**  
*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*
  - **1 Peter 3:14**  
*But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”*
  - **Paul suffered greatly in many ways: from the difficulties he faced in his travels, the persecutions, and his heart of compassion for the churches. All Christians will suffer persecution.**  
**2 Timothy 3:10-13**  
*But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, <sup>11</sup> persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. <sup>12</sup> Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. <sup>13</sup> But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.*
  - **1 Corinthians 11:23-28**  
*Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. <sup>24</sup> From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was*

stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; <sup>26</sup> in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; <sup>27</sup> in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—<sup>28</sup> besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

### Romans 8:18

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed in<sup>2</sup> us.*

- Paul is referring to persecutions and hardships not to sickness, poverty, or death. In fact, Jesus promised that our needs would be met and; furthermore, was beaten for our healing.  
**Matthew 6:33**  
*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (all of your needs).*
  - **1 Peter 2:24**  
*who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*
  - **Hebrews 2:14-15**  
*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*
  - Paul seemed to understand that he would eventually be martyred for His belief in Jesus. He knew if he died, he'd be with Christ. However, he wanted to live in order to continue to minister to the church the gospel of God's love and grace.  
**Philippians 1:21-26**  
*For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup> For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. <sup>24</sup> Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. <sup>25</sup> And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, <sup>26</sup> that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.*
- But even if we experience the tribulations and sufferings of life, (poverty, sickness, death, injustice, hardship, [perceived unanswered prayer]), not even these things are worthy, (don't attribute any worth to them), to be compared to the glory that will be revealed.
- Although Paul and the other believers suffered greatly, they knew that this life is not "it". There is a hope and a future beyond this present age.
  - **2 Corinthians 4:15-18**  
*For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause*

<sup>2</sup> NASB reads "to" us. The Greek is "into" us. I have selected the NKJV which renders this word "in" because it seems the most likely translation given the context.

thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.<sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,<sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- **WE WILL BE GLORIFIED TOGETHER WITH CHRIST!!!** This is stunning since “glorify” is most commonly used of God or the word of God.
  - **The words “glorified together” are actually one compound word in the Greek. This word is ONLY USED ONCE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**
    - sundoxazo; from G4862 and G1392; to join in approving, hence to glorify together: - glorified (1); to exalt to dignity in company (that is, similarly) with
      - **G4862A** primary preposition denoting *union; with or together*
      - **G1391**; to render (or esteem) glorious
        - **Romans 8:30**  
and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.
        - **We ARE GLORIFIED, AND WE WILL BE GLORIFIED WITH HIM. THIS IS COMPLETELY AMAZING.**
- **The glory that is to be revealed in us is our ultimate salvation. This is that for which we hope. This hope of His return both comforts us during hard times but also purifies us.**
  - **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**  
*For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.*
  - **1 John 3:2-3**  
*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

### Romans 8:19

*For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.*

- **The “revealing of the sons of God” is referring to when we are changed into His likeness at His coming.**
  - **1 John 3:2-3**  
*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*
  - **1 Corinthians 15:50-54**  
*Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed,— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.*

For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and **we shall be changed**.<sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.<sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible has put on **incorruption**, and this mortal has put on **immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

- "The creation" here and in subsequent verses is referring to all of nature.

#### Romans 8:20-22

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope<sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

- **Amazingly, all of creation is looking forward to our ultimate glorification and salvation for in it the earth also will be redeemed and made new.**

- **2 Peter 3:13**

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- **Revelation 21:1**

I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Denney comments; "First testimony to this glorious future: creation sighs for it. In some sense the hope and promise of it is involved in the present constitution of the world. . . In Paul, however, the spirit of the passage is rather poetic than philosophical. Its affinities are with Genesis 3:17, where the ground is cursed for man's sake: he conceives of all creation as involved in the fortunes of humanity. But this, if creation be personified, naturally leads to the idea of a mysterious sympathy between the world and man, and this is what the apostle expresses. Creation is not inert, utterly unspiritual, alien to our life and its hopes. It is the natural ally of our souls. What rises from it is the music of humanity – not apparently so still and sad to Paul as to Wordsworth, but with a note of hope in it rising triumphantly above all the pain of conflict." "Manifestation" is apokalupsis, "an uncovering, a laying bare." That is, the non-rational creation, subject to the curse put upon it because of man's sin, is expectantly waiting for the glorification of the saints, that it also may be delivered from the curse under which it now exists. -Wuest

#### Romans 8:23-25

And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.<sup>24</sup> For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?<sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

- We have the first fruits of the Spirit, the down payment on our salvation, and it causes us to wait eagerly for the completion of our salvation when our bodies become immortal and we are ultimately adopted as sons.
- This is not to say that we are not sons of God now, but that when our bodies are redeemed we will “appear” as His sons.
  - **1 John 3:1-2**  
*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, **now** we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*
  - **Galatians 3:26**  
*For you **are** all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*
- We are saved in hope, not by hope. Faith is the substance of things hoped for (Heb. 11:1). We are saved by grace through faith now, and we joyfully look forward to the fullness of the benefits of our salvation now and when we step into eternity.
  - **1 Corinthians 13:12**  
*For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

*Romans 8:26-27 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; <sup>27</sup> and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

- In the same way that we hope for all that Jesus purchased for us in salvation, we “hope” (know) that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness, especially in prayer.
  - *“The Holy Spirit of God dwelling in us, knowing our wants better than we, Himself pleads in our prayers, raising us to higher and holier desires than we can express in words, which can only find utterance in sighings and aspirations. **Wuest’s Word Studies***
  - *“Helpeth” is sunantilambanō, made up of sun, “together with,” anti “over against,” and lambanō, “to take.” The word speaks of the action of a person coming to another’s aid by taking hold over against that person, of the load he is carrying. **Wuest’s Word Studies***
  - **1 Corinthians 14:14-15, 18**  
*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup>What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. <sup>18</sup>I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all*
  - **John 16:13**  
*“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*

- Whatever our circumstance, we can come without shame; that is **BODLY** (with confidence) to the throne of grace. Our High Priest is a compassionate One who loves us infinitely.
  - **Hebrews 4:15-16**  
*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

**AMPLIFIED:** *We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.*

- “And we know with an absolute knowledge”-Wuest New Testament Studies
- This verse does not stand alone. It is part of the section above and below it. It is connected to the Holy Spirit interceding with us.
- Some have made this a conditional verse saying such things as, “Well, this verse only applies to those who really love God and who are doing His perfect will.” **THIS IS NOT TRUE.** This is clearly referring to believers in Jesus. If we are saved, it is assumed that we love God and that we are therefore called according to His purpose.
- Wuest’s translation of Romans 8:28 is as follows: *And we know with an absolute knowledge that for those who are loving God, all things are working together resulting in good, for those who are called ones according to His purpose.*
- So problems, tribulations, injustices, and any other horrible life problem (although not initiated or “allowed” by God) will absolutely work together for our good.
- **Romans 8:28 is NOT, NOT, NOT saying that God causes all things to happen NOR is it saying that he ALLOWS things to happen.**
  - *It clearly says that he causes all things, including things that come our way with the intention of destroying us (see the next verses) to work out for our good.*
- Even our mistakes He works for good. **Examples:**
  - *Abraham lied about Sarah being his sister, and ends up receiving riches from Pharoah.*
  - *Someone goes to a party to get stoned and ends up witnessing to someone who later gets saved as a result.*
  - *A drug addict is born again and ends up bringing the gospel to drug addicts.*
  - *An alcoholic is healed of liver disease and gives God praise.*
  - *A couple who is intimate outside of wedlock are blessed with a child.*
  - *Business or financial mistakes end up putting someone in a better position financially.*

God's grace is NOT dependent  
on our perfect performance.

If it were,  
we would all be doomed for  
destruction.

He is constantly working ALL  
things together for our good, even  
our mistakes!!!

**BEHOLD, THE INCREDIBLE OVERWHELMING AMAZING PARTNERSHIP WE HAVE WITH GOD!**

We are led (guided) along by the Spirit, yoked <u>together</u> with Christ.	Romans 8:14
We have been united <u>together</u> with God by adoption as sons.	Romans 8:15
The Spirit is testifying <u>together</u> with our spirits that we are sons of God.	Romans 8:16
We have been made <u>co-heirs together</u> with Jesus.	Romans 8:17
We suffer <u>together</u> with Jesus.	
We are and will be glorified <u>together</u> with Him.	
Even creation is groaning and suffering <u>together</u> with us.	Romans 8:22
The Spirit is <u>together</u> with us supporting our weakness.	Romans 8:26

The Spirit is interceding <u>for</u> us according to God's will.	Romans 8:27
God is working ALL things for our good, even those things meant to destroy us...even our own mistakes.	Romans 8:28