

## ROMANS 8 ANALYSED (NET adjusted)

*The writing is poetic, using parallelism (both synthetic and antithetic), rhythm, repeated words, like-sounding words (clearer in Greek), rhetorical questions and even, towards the end, some numerical symbolism (7 for perfection; 10 for completeness). The word “spirit” occurs 21 times (3x7). Frequently, there are smaller climactic effects, building up to the final cry of triumph.*

### (1) The Spirit as the source of life (8:1–17)

#### God’s resolution to the human predicament (8:1–4)

##### No condemnation for those in Christ (8:1–2)

- 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- 2 For the law of the life-giving Spirit in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

##### The sending of God’s Son (8:3–4)

- 3 A For God achieved what the law could not do
  - B because it was weakened through the flesh.
    - C By sending his own Son
      - D in the likeness of sinful flesh
      - D\* and concerning sin,
    - C\* he condemned sin in the flesh,
- 4 A\* so that the righteous requirement of the law may be fulfilled in us,
  - B\* who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

#### The mind-set of the flesh and the mind-set of the Spirit (8:5–8)

*Third person, plural and singular*

- 5 For those who live according to the flesh have their **outlook** shaped by the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their **outlook** shaped by the things of the Spirit.
- 6 For the **outlook** of the flesh is death, but the **outlook** of the Spirit is life and peace,
- 7 because the **outlook** of the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to the law of God, nor is it able to do so.
- 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

#### The new situation of those in Christ (8:9–11)

*Second person plural*

- 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this person does not belong to him.
- 10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin,

but the **Spirit** is your life because of righteousness.

- 11 Moreover if the **Spirit** of the one who raised Jesus from the dead **lives in you**, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his **Spirit** who **lives in you**.

### The consequences of this new situation (8:12–17)

*First person plural*

#### Either death or life (8:12–13)

- 12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to **live** according to the flesh
- 13 (for if you **live** according to the flesh, you will **die**), but if by the Spirit you **put to death** the deeds of the body you will **live**.

#### A Spirit of adoption (8:14–15)

- 14 For all who are led by the **Spirit** of God are the **children** (lit. sons) of God.
- 15 For you did not receive the **spirit** of **slavery** leading again to fear, but you received the **Spirit of adoption** (lit. sonship) by whom we cry, “Abba, **Father**.”

#### Children, heirs, coheirs with Christ (8:16–17)

- 16 The **Spirit** himself bears witness to (lit. **with**) our **spirit** that we are God’s children.
- 17 And if children, then heirs (namely, heirs of God and also fellow heirs **with** Christ) —if indeed we suffer **with** him so we may also be glorified **with** him.

### (2) The Spirit as the source of hope (8:18–30)

#### The glory to be revealed (8:18–25)

*First person plural*

#### Thematic statement (8:18)

- 18 For I consider that our present sufferings cannot even be compared to the glory that will be revealed to us.

#### The longing of creation (8:19–22)

- 19 For the **creation** eagerly waits for the revelation of the sons of God.
- 20 For the **creation** was subjected to futility —not willingly but because of God who subjected it—in hope
- 21 that the creation itself will also be set free

from the bondage of decay  
into the glorious freedom of God's children.

22 For we know that the whole **creation** groans and suffers together until now.

### The longing of believers (8:23–25)

23 Not only this, but we ourselves also,  
who have the firstfruits of the **Spirit**,  
groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption,  
the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in hope we were saved.  
Now hope that is seen is not hope,  
because who hopes for what he sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see,  
we eagerly wait for it with endurance.

### The Spirit's assistance (8:26–27)

26 In the same way, the **Spirit** helps us in our weakness,  
for we do not know how we should pray,  
but the **Spirit** himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.

27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the **Spirit**,  
because the he intercedes on behalf of the saints according to God's will.

### The consummation of God's plan (8:28–30)

28 And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God,  
who are called according to his *purpose*,

29 because those whom he *foreknew*  
he also *predestined* to be conformed to the image of his Son,  
that his Son would be the *firstborn* among many brothers and sisters.

30 And those he *predestined*, he also called;  
and those he called, he also justified;  
and those he justified, he also glorified.

### (3) The irrevocable character of God's love (8:31–39)

#### Rhetorical questions and responses (8:31–36)

*NB ten questions*

#### First question and response (8:31–32)

31 Q1: What then shall we say about these things?

Q2: If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son,  
but gave him up for us all—

Q3: how will he not also, along with him, freely give us all things?

#### Second question and response (8:33)

33 Q4: Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

Q5: God, the one who justified?

#### Third question and response (8:34)

34 Q6: Who is the one who will condemn?

- Q7: Christ, the one who died?  
 Q8: and more than that, who was raised,  
 who is at the right hand of God,  
 and who also is interceding for us?

**Fourth question and response (8:35–37)**

- 35** Q9: Who will separate us from the love of Christ?  
 Q10: Will trouble, *NB seven items listed*  
 or distress,  
 or persecution,  
 or famine,  
 or nakedness,  
 or danger,  
 or sword?
- 36** As it is written,  
*“For your sake we encounter death all day long;  
 we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*
- 37** No, in all these things we have complete victory (lit. hyper-victory)  
 through him who loved us!

**Paul’s confidence in God’s love (8:38–39)**

**Why believers are victorious (8:38-39a)**

- 38** For I am convinced that *NB ten items listed*  
 neither death,  
 nor life,  
 nor angels,  
 nor heavenly rulers,  
 nor things that are present,  
 nor things to come,  
 nor powers,
- 39a** nor height,  
 nor depth,  
 nor anything else in creation

**Nothing stronger than God’s love (8:39b)**

- 39b** will be able to separate us from the love of God  
*in Christ Jesus our Lord.*