

# Mindset

## Learning and Living the Will of God

*An Inductive Study of Romans 8*

*Sweeter  
than  
Chocolate!*  
**Flexible** Inductive Bible Study Series

by

*pam gillaspie*

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#### **Mindset: Learning and Living the Will of God**

Copyright © 2011 Pam Gillaspie  
Published by Precept Ministries International  
P.O. Box 182218  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422  
www.precept.org

ISBN 978-1-934884-30-0

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Printed in the United States of America

2011

## **Dedicated to the memory of . . .**

Bonnie Ness, a true lover of God, a good and faithful servant of God and man.

## **Acknowledgements**

I am grateful and still amazed that God has given me the opportunity to partner with Precept Ministries International—it's a thrill that just doesn't seem to wear off! Thank you Kay, David, Jack, and Tom for this opportunity.

Thanks especially to my editor Rick for doing the hard work that goes unseen but is so critical to the final product. Thanks also to Pete for helping make this material as concise and clear as possible. Cress, you can see an extra space at a quarter-mile distance and I so appreciate your gracious assistance.

Finally, thank you to Dave, Brad and Katie for walking through this process with me. There aren't words enough to tell you how much I love each of you!

To God be the glory!

# Mindset

## Learning and Living the Will of God

There is nothing quite like your favorite pair of jeans. You can dress them up, you can dress them down. You can work in them, play in them, shop in them . . . live in them. They always feel right. It is my hope that the structure of this Bible study will fit you like those jeans; that it will work with your life right now, right where you are whether you're new to this whole Bible thing or whether you've been studying the Book for years!

How is this even possible? Smoke and mirrors, perhaps? The new mercilessly thrown in the deep end? The experienced given pompoms and the job of simply cheering others on? None of the above.

Sweeter than Chocolate!™ is designed with options that will allow you to go as deep each week as you desire. If you're just starting out and feeling a little overwhelmed, stick with the main text and don't think a second thought about the sidebar assignments. If you're looking for a challenge, then take the sidebar prompts and go ahead and dig all the way to China! As you move along through the study, think of the sidebars and "Digging Deeper" boxes as that 2% of lycra that you find in certain jeans . . . the wiggle-room that will help them fit just right.

Beginners may find that they want to start adding in some of the optional assignments as they go along. Experts may find that when three children are throwing up for three days straight, foregoing those assignments for the week is the way to live wisely.

Life has a way of ebbing and flowing and this study is designed to ebb and flow right along with it!

**Enjoy!**

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# How to use this study

Sweeter than Chocolate!™ studies meet you where you are and take you as far as you want to go.

**1. WEEKLY STUDY:** The main text guides you through the complete topic of study for the week.

**2. FYI boxes:** For Your Information boxes provide bite-sized material to shed additional light on the topic.

## FYI:

### Reading Tip: Begin with prayer

You may have heard this a million times over and if this is a million and one, so be it. Whenever you read or study God's Word, first pray and ask His Spirit to be your Guide.

**3. ONE STEP FURTHER and other sidebar boxes:** Sidebar boxes give you the option to push yourself a little further. If you have extra time or are looking for an extra challenge, you can try one, all, or any number in between! These boxes give you the ultimate in flexibility.

## ONE STEP FURTHER:

### Word Study: *torah*/law

The first of eight Hebrew key words we encounter for God's Word is *torah* translated "law." If you're up for a challenge this week, do a word study to learn what you can about *torah*. Run a concordance search and examine where the word *torah* appears in the Old Testament and see what you can learn from the contexts.

If you decide to look for the word for "law" in the New Testament, you'll find that the primary Greek word is *nomos*.

Be sure to see what Paul says about the law in Galatians 3 and what Jesus says in Matthew 5.

**4. DIGGING DEEPER boxes:** If you're looking to go further, Digging Deeper sections will help you sharpen your skills as you continue to mine the truths of Scripture for yourself.

## Digging Deeper

### What else does God's Word say about counselors?

If you can, spend some time this week digging around for what God's Word says about counselors.

Start by considering what you already know about counsel from the Word of God and see if you can actually show where these truths are in the Bible. Make sure that the Word actually says what you think it says.

# Week One

## Living on Purpose

*... in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer  
through Him who loved us.  
—Romans 8:37*

It is the best seller every year as far back as they've been keeping score. No piece of literature, ancient or modern, rivals the Bible—God's very words recorded for men and women to learn not only about Him, but also about themselves and how to practically live, not only well, but above the pack as more than conquerors! But questions abound—*How do I start? How does it all fit together? How do I go about understanding such a big Book? And while we're at it, how can I find all those life answers people tell me are in there?*

Romans 8, which sits smack dab in the middle of the book of Romans, gives us a one-chapter look at the heart of biblical theology. Don't choke on those words! Biblical theology is simply a way of describing how we understand the main teachings in the Bible—teachings that inform us how to survive and thrive on the planet while eagerly awaiting the mind-blowing future God has in store for us! Understanding creation (how God made the world), sin and the broken condition we find ourselves in, salvation and how God is bringing it about, and then glimpsing into the future He has prepared all work together to help us live purposefully and victoriously today.

The ironic thing about theology is that while the categories and phrases often used to talk about it—soteriology, eschatology, -ology, -ology, -ology—cause a spontaneous eye glaze in many people, the issues theology addresses can wake the dead. *How did we get here? Is there a purpose to life? Am I broken beyond repair or is there hope for me? Are good and evil equal duelling powers? Is anyone in control? How can I live as more than a conqueror?* and those, my friend are just the start.

So what are we waiting for? Let's get started!

### FYI:

#### If you're in a class . . .

Complete **Week One** together on your first day of class. This will be a great way to start getting to know one another and will help those who are newer to Bible study get their bearings.

## FYI:

### **There's No Question Too Big for God**

I have a degree in biblical studies and I learned much in college that laid a solid foundation for what has become a lifetime of studying the Bible. Probably the most significant truth came in the first semester of my freshman year in a theology class required of all students. The professor told us there is no question too big for God. We don't have to fear asking the one question that will somehow "undo" Him. He is the sovereign God! He is big enough to stand up to all of our doubts, to all of our questions.

That doesn't mean we'll find answers to absolutely every question. The secret things belong to God; He's revealed all we need to know (Deuteronomy 29:29). There will always be some mystery because we are limited in our ability to understand. But we can press into Him with confidence that He is big enough to stand up to whatever questions we have.

Nothing catches Him by surprise. Nothing catches Him at a loss of power. Nothing catches Him with an inability to respond. This doesn't mean life always turns up rainbows and butterflies. The Book tells us it won't. Yet even in the midst of terrible and painful situations, we can choose to remember—as hard as it may be at times—the truths of both the sovereignty and goodness of God.

## **CONSIDER the WAY you THINK**

What life questions do you hope the Bible answers?

Have you ever seriously looked at the Bible in order to answer these questions? Why/why not?

Where do you typically look for answers to life's big questions? How satisfied have you been with the answers you've found?

What is your view of the Bible? Do you believe it is God's Word or are you still wrestling (or maybe just starting to wrestle!) with this issue?

# Digging Deeper

## Examining the Context for Yourself

In the next section, I'm going to give you basic background information on the book of Romans. Before I tip my hand, though, if you have time it would be great for you to read it and consider general questions on your own.

If you choose to dig information out for yourself, you'll want to pay attention and look for answers to specific questions. I've given you some direction below. In the parenthesis you'll find terms commentators attach to these basic questions we want to address to any book in the Bible we're studying.

Who wrote the book of Romans? Is this clear or questionable? Explain. (Author)

Who was it written to? Where were these people located? Was it a homogenous or mixed group of people? (Recipient/Destination)

When was it written? What facts lead you to this date or date range? (Date)

What historical context clues does the text give about the culture at the time of writing?

Why was Romans written? (Occasion/Purpose)

Where was the author when he wrote it? Why do you think this? What facts support your answer? (Place of Origin)

What are some key words that you've noticed? What are some significant themes?

### **FYI:**

#### **Overviewing the Text**

Pastor John Piper talks about how we should "pray and ransack" the Bible as we look for truth. I love this counsel. We don't just casually read over the words; we fully engage and seek to plumb the riches of the Word and find every last morsel God has for us. As we overview the text, we begin the respectful ransacking process of asking questions, turning over rocks, and looking for treasures in the Word.

You can check out the full article at this address: [http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByDate/1998/1025\\_Wonderful\\_Things\\_From\\_Your\\_Word/](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByDate/1998/1025_Wonderful_Things_From_Your_Word/)

**FYI:****Why the Background Matters**

Whenever we study Scripture, it's critical to pay attention to context. While we're focusing our attention on Romans 8, we need to keep in mind that it is part of a greater whole. Knowing the background is part of staying attentive to context.

**FYI:****"God said it" settles it for me . . .**

Since you're doing this study my best guess is that "God said it" settles matters for you, too. So when the text of Scripture says Paul wrote Romans, we're satisfied. Thing is, though, not everyone takes God at His Word. If you encounter someone with doubts about the Bible, Romans is a great place to direct them because even liberal scholars accept its authenticity. Does this mean we call into question every book of the Bible? Absolutely not! I take what God says at face value and trust it, but I also want to know enough about how other people think so I can best engage them where they are and hopefully encourage them on their path toward God.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION on ROMANS**

While our focus in this study is Romans 8, we need to examine the context and gain an understanding of the basics of the letter to the Romans. What are the basics? We're looking in the text for who wrote the letter and to whom. We want to know as closely as possible when and where the letter was written. We also want to know what the occasion was—why the author penned the letter. To help set these context questions in your head, we'll look at them individually below. They're not always easy to answer and sometimes we have to settle for "God knows, but I don't." Who authored the book of Hebrews, for instance, remains a mystery. For Romans, however, internal evidences are reasonably clear.

**Authorship**

Nearly all scholars liberal and conservative agree that Paul wrote the book of Romans. The book bears his name and even critical scholars accept Romans as Paul's work. The closing chapter indicates that Tertius scribed the letter (Romans 16:22), but the content is certainly Pauline.

**Recipients**

Paul wrote to the "beloved of God in Rome," obviously a reference to the church. A difficult follow-up question is, "What was the makeup of the church?" The letter itself suggests the church was comprised of both Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus Christ.

**Occasion**

On a very basic level Paul writes that he is planning to visit Rome (Romans 1:10-11). Romans is not a follow-up letter to a church Paul has either established or visited. Rather, it is a greeting sent prior to his coming.

**Place of Origin**

Paul probably wrote to the Romans from Corinth toward the end of his third missionary journey, but some scholars also suggest Ephesus as the place of origin.

**Date**

Paul may have written the book of Romans as early as 54 AD, but the strongest evidence suggests a time frame of AD 57 to 59. Acts and extra-biblical records for officials and rulers confirm Paul first visited Rome about AD 60. This implies Romans was written prior to that, probably before his imprisonment in Caesarea, so AD 57 to 59 has solid foundation.



## OBSERVE the TEXT of SCRIPTURE

**READ** Romans 8. **CIRCLE** every reference to the *Spirit*; **UNDERLINE** every reference to the *flesh*; and **WATCH** for other key words.

### **Romans 8**

- 1 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*
- 2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*
- 3 *For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,*
- 4 *so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*
- 5 *For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*
- 6 *For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,*
- 7 *because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,*
- 8 *and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*
- 9 *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*
- 10 *If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.*
- 11 *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*
- 12 *So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—*
- 13 *for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*
- 14 *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*
- 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!”*
- 16 *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,*

## **FYI:**

### **Keeping First Things First**

Whenever you come to God's Word to study or read, don't forget to pray before you begin. Why? Because Jesus said, "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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you" (John 16:13-14). When you sit down to dive in, ask the Spirit to guide you. Jesus said He would, so take Him at His word and ask.

## **INDUCTIVE FOCUS:**

### **What is a Key Word?**

A key word unlocks the meaning of a text. Key words are sometimes repeated and are critical to the message of the passage. As you read through Romans 8, several repeated key words will probably pop out at you. Watch for words that cluster within a few verses and are key to sections of the text. If you don't see them right away, don't worry. I'll help by pointing some out as we go. Identifying key words is a skill that develops over time, but you practice by observing carefully. So keep your eyes opened. You will get it, just keep praying and keep looking.

## INDUCTIVE FOCUS:

### Key Words: Spirit and Flesh

You'll quickly notice *spirit* and *flesh* appearing throughout Romans 8. Other important words appear clustered in sections. As you identify clusters, it will help you remember the flow of the text. Here are a few to keep an eye on and consider marking. Some of the reference ranges below *do* overlap—it's intentional!

1-4	law, condemn/condemnation
5-8	mind set/set their minds
9-13	dwells, alive/live/life, die
14-23	adoption, children, sons, heirs
16-25	creation, hope, glory/glorified, waits eagerly, suffer/sufferings, groans
26-34	intercedes
34-39	separate, love, negative conjunctions

- 17 *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.*
- 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 to us.*
- 19 *For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.*
- 20 *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope*
- 21 *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.*
- 22 *For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.*
- 23 *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.*
- 24 *For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?*
- 25 *But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.*
- 26 *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;*
- 27 *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.*
- 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.*
- 29 *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;*
- 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.*
- 31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*
- 32 *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*
- 33 *Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;*
- 34 *who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*

- 35 *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*
- 36 *Just as it is written,*  
*“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;*  
*WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”*
- 37 *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*
- 38 *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*
- 39 *nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**DISCUSS with your GROUP or PONDER on your own . . .**

What are your initial observations on the text?

What important word opens up Romans 8? What does it refer back to?

What is the earliest biblical event alluded to in Romans 8?

**FYI:**

**Marking the Text**

Marking the text is a tool that can help you draw the meaning out of the text, particularly if you are a visual learner. If you're uncomfortable marking the text of your Bible, practicing on the text in your workbook is a great way to try the tool.

There is nothing magical about the process. Doing it doesn't make you a better student, just as not doing it doesn't make you a worse student. There are excellent Bible scholars who don't use colored pencils to mark the text just like there are others who use colored pencils and don't handle the Word well.

Marking shows repetition and an author's emphasis—what's important in his message—and leads to understanding subjects and flow of thought.

**FYI:**

**What is the *therefore* there for?**

Whenever we find a *therefore* in text, we need to ask this question: "What is the *therefore* there for?" Because a *therefore* shows up in Romans 8:1, we need to look in the chapter(s) preceding it to answer this important question.

**INDUCTIVE TIP:**

**Think Color Schemes**

As you start becoming comfortable with **marking** key words, consider other **markings** to help you identify things such as patterns or groups within the text.

In Romans 8, for instance, there's a huge contrast between two ways of living and the resultant outcomes. *Spirit, life, peace,* and *righteousness* sit on one side of the aisle while *flesh, death, hostility,* and *law* are juxtaposed on the other. If you're using colored pencils, you may want to highlight the *spirit/life* words and results with one color and the *law/death* words and results in another.

This is just another way you can **mark** the text. You can still **mark** individual key words and then hit related word groups with a common color.

Again, if you hate **marking** either forget I mentioned this or, better yet, try this as a simple first step in **marking** the text. You may be pleasantly surprised by the results! **Marking** doesn't make the text say something different, but it can help make what it *does say* stand out more clearly.

By the way, any idea what the key word in this sidebar is?

What other broad time periods does Paul refer to? (This is a general question, don't overanalyze—think broadly!)

Look back through the whole chapter and list the benefits that come to people who walk according to the Spirit. In another column, list the condition of those who walk according to the flesh. It will be helpful for your discussion time if you record the verse numbers where you find your answers.

SPIRIT	FLESH

How appealing is life in the Spirit? What specifics appeal to you the most?

From what you have observed in the church, do the lives of most professing Christians resemble the “life in the Spirit” described in Romans 8? Explain. How can this affect those outside of the faith?

Why don't you take a few minutes right now and ask God to guide you through this class and help you to rest in the work He is doing in you as He conforms you to the image of Christ, continually aligning your heart more and more with His.

## TRUE STORIES:

### **Acts: The Arrival of the Spirit**

While we see the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the pages of the Bible, there is a fundamental shift in the book of Acts. Before the day of Pentecost, the Spirit was given to certain people for certain tasks, but never to God's people as a whole. At Pentecost, everything changes. Jesus told his disciples in John 16:5-15 that when He goes away, He will send the Spirit to guide them into all truth. His Words are fulfilled in Acts 2. If you have some extra time, read John 16:5-15 to hear Jesus' words about the Spirit first hand. If you're really up for some reading, work your way through the book of Acts and observe how the presence of the Holy Spirit changes the timid disciples. Record your observations below.

## ONE STEP FURTHER:

### Word Study: Creation

If you have some time this week, look closely at the usage of the word *creation* in Romans 8 and compare that with its usage in the rest of Romans, the other writings of Paul, and the rest of the Bible. After you have done your own study, consult word study resources including bible dictionaries and commentaries. Record your findings below.

## FLASH BACK, FLASH FORWARD, FLASH SIDEWAYS . . .

Now that we've established an overall look at Romans 8, it's time to buckle in. As we've seen, Paul flashes back to creation, flashes forward to the glory to come and also talks about this present life. He's candid about not only the extreme benefit of being in Christ but also of the present suffering that goes with it as well.

In order to understand how the past and the future impact how we live today, we're going to examine the biblical time periods and concepts he refers to for ourselves. We'll flash back with him to the creation story in Genesis, we'll flash forward with him to the future hope and we'll look at how all of it affects the here and now—how we can live lives of God-focused purpose and influence in a fallen world.

As we move on this week, let's take our first flashback. Romans 8 talks quite a bit about creation, which presupposes a Creator. While we'll flash back even further a little later in the study when we consider God's foreknowledge, for today we'll start in Genesis.

## OBSERVE the TEXT of SCRIPTURE

**READ** Genesis 1–2 in your Bible paying close attention to repeated words and phrases that describe God's activity in and His estimation of creation. Record your observations below, then I'll ask a few questions. As always, I'm hoping you'll be asking questions of the text independently (*before* you find them in this study guide).

## DISCUSS with your GROUP or PONDER on your own . . .

What does the Genesis account assume about the beginning of the world?

Does Genesis try in any way to explain creation beyond attributing it to God?

What do we do with this in a world that assumes evolution? What options do we have as we engage our culture and teach the next generation?

What phrase does God repeatedly use to describe what He created? How does He describe His creation of man?

What is significantly different in man as opposed to the rest of creation? What characteristic sets man apart from the rest of creation?

Does this fit the evolutionary worldview? Why or why not?

## FYI:

### **Start with Prayer**

You've probably heard it before and if we study together in the future, you're sure to hear it again. Whenever you read or study God's Word, first pray and ask His Spirit to be your Guide. It's one way to purposefully set your mind on the things of the Spirit.

## FYI:

### What's up with the open-ended questions?

If you haven't noticed yet, I often pose an open-ended question after you observe a passage of Scripture. Why is that? I want to give you the opportunity to get your thoughts down before tipping my hand to what I've seen in the text. This will help you reason through the text more and more for yourself.

## OBSERVE the TEXT of SCRIPTURE

**READ** Romans 1:20 and **UNDERLINE** what Paul says people know about God simply from looking at creation. We'll look at the greater context of Romans 1 next week, but for now let's focus on what this verse says about creation.

### *Romans 1:20*

*20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*

## DISCUSS with your GROUP or PONDER on your own . . .

According to Romans 1:20, what can people know about God simply by looking at creation?

How does belief or disbelief in a Creator frame a person's entire worldview?

If the world came about through a set of random occurrences, is there any room for concrete hope in the future? Explain your answer.



# Digging Deeper

## What does it mean to “set the mind”?

In the text of Romans 8:5-7, we see a form of the phrase “set the mind” or “the mind that is set” appearing four times over the span of just three verses. The mind set one way is death, while the mind set the other way is life. If you have some extra time this week, examine the Greek phrases involved more closely to see where else they are used in Romans and in the rest of the Word of God.

What Greek words are used in these key phrases in Romans 8?

Where do they occur and how are they used?

Where else do these word appear together in Paul’s writings?

Do they appear in the Gospels? If so, where and under what circumstances?

## INDUCTIVE FOCUS:

### Questioning the Text

The key to exegesis (the fancy word meaning to draw meaning out of Scripture) is questioning the text. The basic investigative questions *Who? What? When? Where? Why?* and *How?* are your framework. Not every question can be addressed to every verse, and most verses require several variations on the same question. As we study God’s Word together, realize that not every question that can be asked will be asked, but don’t let that stop you from asking other questions and exploring further on your own. We will never run out of questions to ask and answers to glean from God’s Word!

If you’re at a loss for what questions to ask, pay attention to the words that you’ve marked. Go to your key words and start there with your questions! Marking not only helps you see the main idea, it always helps in asking questions.

Does this word group show up elsewhere in the New Testament?

Do we see this concept in the Old Testament?

From your study, what does setting one's mind on the Spirit mean?

What, if any, additional insights have you gained from word study books and commentaries?

## @ THE END OF THE DAY . . .

Romans 8 can be simultaneously encouraging and convicting. We still live in a fallen world where on some days following God is incredibly hard work. But God through His Spirit gives us everything we need to live and live abundantly with our minds set on His ways. Through His Word and His Spirit we can learn more and more to view the world biblically and live purposefully even in the face of suffering when hope seems far off.

As you close out your study this week, take some quiet time (perhaps 30 minutes to an hour) and talk to God about what you've learned so far in Romans 8. Ask Him to cement specific truths to your heart as He begins to change the way you look at life to conform it more and more to the way of His heart. Record any additional thoughts below.

