

ROMANS

THE PROMISE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS



SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

ALIVE, ADOPTED, AND ABLE TO DEFEAT SIN

ROMANS 8:12-17

JAN. 18, 2015

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some next steps to walk in this truth this week. Don't feel constrained to these but feel free to use them.

- Memorize Romans 8:15 this week.
- Pick one sin in your life to fight against this week and ask others to encourage you to do so *by the Spirit*.
- Pray for an opportunity to share with an unbeliever the wonderful truths of adoption and what it means to know God as Father.
- Encourage another Christian this week with something from Romans 8:12-17 that has encouraged you or stuck with you.

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Confess any known sins of the flesh you've been walking in.
- Praise God for the gift of the Spirit, for the promise of life, for adopting us as sons, for giving us intimacy with him, for making us heirs, and that our suffering will end in glory.
- Thank God for specific ways you've experienced his care or love.
- Ask God to help you this week put to death the deeds of the body and the flesh by the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to draw near and deepen your intimacy with him. Ask him to pour his love into you through the Spirit (Rom. 5:5).

APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

1. What are some of the benefits we receive through the Spirit (8:12-17)?
2. **We are told to actively fight by putting to death the deeds of the body, but we're also told the Spirit leads us in this battle. How do we give effort so that we are fighting sin and yet do so by the Spirit and not on our own?**
3. In this passage we are called sons of God, adopted, beloved children, and heirs of God. How does reflecting on our identity and the reality of God's love and care for us encourage us to seek and obey God all the more?
4. **What is a "deed of the body," or sin, you've been giving in to that you need to fight with more vigor? How can you fight this sin by the Spirit and what provisions has God given you for this fight?**
5. **This text tells us we can go to our Father without any fear or reservations. What lies keep you from approaching God in intimacy? How can you take a step this week in cultivating intimacy with our Father?**
6. The Spirit leads us to glory but it's through the road of suffering with Christ. How can knowing we suffer with Christ and that our suffering with him will lead to glory with him encourage us to keep going? Is there an area of your life you need to apply this truth to this week?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- To better understand what it means to "walk in the Spirit," purchase one of the books on the Holy Spirit now available in the Resource area (next to Guest Reception and the coffee).
- **Put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit:** Col. 3:5; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:17-24; 6:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:11.
- **Sons of God & adoption:** John 1:12-13; Gal. 3:26; 4:1-7; Rom. 5:5; 8:19; 9:26; 2 Cor. 6:18; 1 John 3:1.
- **Witness of the Spirit:** Rom. 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14.
- **Heirs with Christ:** Gal. 3:29; 4:1-7; Titus 3:7; 1 Cor. 2:9; Rev. 21:7.
- **God's love towards his children:** Ps. 63:3; 103:8; Rom. 5:5; 8:31-39; 1 John 3:1-2; 4:7-21; Luke 15.