

May 08, 2022



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Belief in Jesus's death and resurrection brings the assurance of life with Him forever

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Dear Jesus, help me to keep my eyes on You, whether I face difficulty in life or death. Let me find security and peace in You

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

Or I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better  
(Phil 1:23 NKJV)

*From "Our Daily Bread", June 08, 2016)*

**Series: God Frees and Redeems**

**UNIT 3: Liberating Letters**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Freedom and the Law  
(Galatians 3:18-29)**

## Freedom for the Future Romans 8:18-30

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Through Christ, the reign of sin and death has been overthrown by righteousness and grace (Romans 5:21). With the reign of sin and death defeated, believers are free. New life in Christ also means freedom from bondage to the law (7:1–6). Romans 8 brings these various elements to a climactic resolution. There is “now no condemnation” for those “in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). What the law failed to do, God himself has done through Jesus (8:3). Paul encouraged the Roman believers to keep the big picture in mind: we are “heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:17). Christians have a hope that persists through the ordeals of life. Outside of faith in Christ, this hope is not possible. Still, we observe and experience suffering. Focusing on these things makes a person nearsighted. Only with an eye on our future glory can a Christian not only endure hardship but also thrive in the hope of God’s promises. While we hope for the glorious future in Christ, we still have work to do. Though our minds turn to evangelism, and rightly so, these verses remind us that we also have a responsibility to all creation. God has made us stewards of his good earth. While people suffer, all creation suffers. Likewise, believers’ peace is the peace of the world; our glory will be the glory of creation. We wait in hope for the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promises. May we, as people who have died with Christ and live again in the Spirit, be beacons of God’s wonderful intentions for all creatures, great and small.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Hope** - What God has prepared in heaven for His children cannot compare with the earthly existence they are experiencing now. It's understandable why a person would feel hopeless and sad when a loved one dies; there is an illness/ stress about finances, or other personal concerns. Paul suggests that we can find joy amid difficulty because we have a living hope.

**A Taste of Heaven** - When Christians come into the fullness of sonship, they get a taste of heavenly fruit that wets the appetite for more of what is to come eventually. But the final coming to the heavenly home and receiving all the benefits of being in God's family is yet to be experienced.

**The Holy Spirit** - While the spiritual soldiers are in the thick of this earthly battle, God has not left His army to fight alone. He gives the greatest weapon in His arsenal—the Holy Spirit. When the suffering can't pray at their lowest point, God reminds the helpless, "I am here." He comes in the person of the Holy Spirit, who meets the deepest inner longings, emotions, desires, and thoughts of the heart. The third person of the Trinity can shape a human's words to God and be in harmony with His will.

**All for Good** - God is sovereign and able to manage everything that happens in life. He can bring it all together, causing it all to turn out for good in the end. Individuals can see this promise unfold because of their love for God. They are now confident of their purpose in this life. The Creator conceived this plan for each life long before He brought the earth into being. He is the author of the book called "My Life." The Father selects the characters and lays out each chapter. Then He is in the middle of the story making sure each scene goes according to His plan. The ultimate goal of each life is to become like Christ. We yield our inner will. He shapes and molds us. What we are walking through right now is not always going to be the case. God has good things planned for His children in the future, and even as we go through life now, He is with believers and will continue to be there to show the way and give peace.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Freedom through Suffering (Rom 8:18-23)**

#### *Suffering for a better future (18)*

- Suffering because there is a reward in Heaven (Matthew 5:11-12)
- Suffering because the future glory far outweighs the current temporary suffering (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
- Suffering because of the greater value of suffering for Jesus (Hebrews 11:25-26)
- Suffering because of looking forward to a better resurrection (Hebrews 11:35)
- Suffering because of a genuine faith (1 Peter 1:6-7)

#### *Suffering for a promised redemption (19-21)*

- A redemption that is part of Jesus' rescue (Rom 7:24-25)
- A redemption that has the Holy Spirit as a guarantee (2 Cor 5:2-5)
- A redemption that has a promise of a transformation into glory (Phil 3:20-21)
- A redemption that has as a reward a crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)
- A redemption because we are God's possession (Eph 1:14)
- A redemption by a God that has unfailing love (Ps 130:7)

#### *Suffering while being patient (22-23)*

- Patiently being still before God (Ps 37:7-9)
- Patient while we wait on God (Ps 27:14)
- Having a patient soul (Ps 130:5)
- Patient while seeking God (Lam 3:25-26)
- Patient while standing firm (Luke 21:19)
- Patient while doing work produced by faith (1 Thess 1:3)
- Patient while imitating those will inherit God's promises (Heb 6:12)
- Patient until Jesus' coming (James 5:7-8)

### **Freedom through the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:24-28)**

#### *Holy Spirit's provision of hope (24-25)*

- Hope in the Holy Spirit because of being a child of God (Gal 4:6-7)
- Hope in the Holy Spirit because He understands what God has given us (1 Cor 2:11-12)
- Hope in the Holy Spirit because He provides the righteousness promised (Gal 5:5)
- Hope in the Holy Spirit because of the glorious inheritance promised (Eph 1:18)
- Hope in the Holy Spirit because we are called into Him (Eph 4:4-6)

#### *Holy Spirit's intercession (26-27)*

- Intercession through Jesus who is at the right hand of God (Rom 8:34)
- Intercession through the one mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5)
- Intercession through the advocate of Jesus (1 John 2:1)
- Intercession because God saw the need for it (Isa 59:16)

#### *Holy Spirit's working out God's good purposes (28)*

- Purposes that may include suffering, but also hope (Rom 5:3-5)
- Purposes that renew us day by day (2 Cor 4:15-17)
- Purposes that matures us to completion (James 1:3-4)
- Purposes that results in joy and fulfillment of our salvation (1 Peter 1:7-9)

### **Freedom through Promised Security (Rom 8:29-30)**

#### *Security in God's conforming (29)*

- Conformed into His likeness (1 Cor 15:49)
- Conformed to reflect God's glory (2 Cor 3:18)
- Conformed into a new self (Eph 4:23-24)
- Conformed into a glorious body (Phil 3:21)

#### *Security in God's glorification (30)*

- Secure in God because He is the stronghold of our lives (Ps 27:1-3)
- Secure in God because He is our refuge and strength (Ps 46:1)
- Secure in God because He is greater than anything in the world (1 John 4:4)
- Secure in God because He is our helper (Heb 13:6)
- Secure in God because we are shielded by God's power (1 Peter 1:3-5)