

Assurance in the Trinity – *Romans 8*

- *Life in the Trinity #4*

Introduction – Our salvation is the glorious work of all three Persons of the Trinity. That salvation occurs by our covenantal union, our mutual-indwelling, with all three Persons as well. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit work together in and through us, piling assurance upon assurance that Their work is complete and final. That covenantal work, that personal and powerful work in us, is called the “*love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (v39).

Assurance of Freedom (vv1-11) – When the Law comes upon sinful flesh, all it can do is produce condemnation and death. But when we were given the Holy Spirit, we were set free from the law of sin and death. This is the gospel – I could not live according to the righteous requirements of the law nor pay for my debt. But the Father sent His Son and upon Him, God condemned my sin in the flesh. Covenantally bound to our Savior, Christ is in us (v10) and the Spirit is life for us: life to love God and walk with Him now, and resurrection life for our mortal bodies because Christ was raised from the dead.

I walk away from the guilt of my former sin and sinfulness (including my hatred of God and His law) because of the personal and powerful work of the Triune God in me.

Assurance of Suffering and Glory (vv12-18) – Until that resurrection, we remain in our mortal bodies and walk in a world of temptations and trials. How do we ever beat our sin? The answer lies in the Persons of the Trinity. We live by the Spirit, putting to death the deeds of the body (v13). This Spirit tells us we are no longer slaves (under bondage) but adopted sons and daughters; like Jesus, we are united in Him to our heavenly Father, crying “*Abba, Father.*” We have a personal knowledge of the Triune God by the indwelling Holy Spirit (v16). United to Jesus, we are heirs with Him – and that road of inheritance follows the same path Jesus took. The body of Christ will suffer with Him in order that it may be glorified with Him (v17), and that suffering is not worthy to be compared to the coming glory (v18).

I am able to walk more and more in the Spirit even in the midst of trials and sufferings because of the personal and powerful work of the Triune God in me.

Assurance that God Hears of our Suffering (vv19-27) – We have the firstfruits of the Spirit, this covenantal union, but we long, along with all of creation, for its fullness. Our Father knows this, not only because we groan but also because the Spirit in us groans – the Spirit who is not a power but a Person. He makes intercession for us and He does so perfectly, with groans which cannot be uttered (v26). These may be the secret things of God (Deut 29:29), which God knows about but which He does not entrust to us. The Father hears our prayers, the groaning of creation, and most importantly the perfect prayers of His Holy Spirit as He searches our hearts.

I can trust that God knows my circumstances, my desires, and my cries better than I can even know any of these because of the personal and powerful work of the Triune God in me.

Assurance that God Uses our Suffering (vv28-30) – Consider what we have so far. We are invited into the Life of the Trinity, joining with Jesus who, although in the flesh, is free from condemnation and enjoys perfect fellowship with His Father in heaven. We walk in this life, learning how to put to death the deeds of our flesh empowered by His Holy Spirit in a vivid union through Christ, that Spirit bearing witness to us that we are children of God. As we go through life, we join with Christ in suffering and cry out as He did; but our prayers are perfected in the prayers of the Holy Spirit who is walking with us and knows perfectly all that is going on and all that the Father intends to do. Now, we come to that well-known verse in Romans 8. We will never know all the “why”s but we are assured that everything going on is connected to that final purpose of God – our conformity to the image of His Son. Conformity is not being used as though we are being pressed into something we would never desire. Conformity to the image of Jesus is glorification (v30).

I know that all things work together for good because of the personal and powerful work of the Triune God in me.

Assurance of Covenant Love and Life in the Trinity (vv31-39) – The love of God is the covenantal bond of life in the Trinity. It is His intimate, personal union based upon covenant vows. This is what it means when God says, “I love you.” This is what it means when God says “Christ is in you,” or when He says that the “Spirit dwells in you.” This is what it means when God says that you are “in Christ,” and that you now walk “in the Spirit.” Because of the mutual-indwelling, the covenantal love of the Father and the Son, nothing could keep Christ from the Father. Because of the mutual-indwelling, the covenantal love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit upon, in, and through you, there is the same *nothing* that can separate you from God and His love for you. If He delivered Christ up for us all, will not all things be made right?

We are promised and we can hope for nothing less than “all things” because we have everything in Christ – because of the personal and powerful work of the Triune God in me.