

Revealing Our Loving, Good & Gracious God

- I. **The fact that God always loves us can be believed and experienced even in the darkest times.**
 - A. Fortunately, when we give our lives to Jesus, God sends His Holy Spirit to supernaturally help us, making us feel loved and confident
 - B. Paul explains these blessings to us in Romans 8.
 1. First, when we receive Jesus, we no longer live under condemnation (Romans 8:1).
 2. Second, we receive the “Spirit who gives life” (Romans 8:2).
 - C. The Spirit helps us to understand how much we are loved as God’s children. Even when we suffer, we realize our lives are under God’s loving care. We cry, “Abba, Father,” and the Spirit strongly testifies that we “are God’s children” (Romans 8:14-16).

- II. **As God’s children, we still suffer while living in this fallen world but from a completely different view than the world around us.**
 - A. First, there is a glory we share with God even in this life (Romans 8:17).
 - B. Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).
 - C. The Spirit helps us in our weakness to pray prayers that are answered, even when all we can do is groan (Romans 8:26). The Spirit intercedes in accordance with God’s will, so we can be assured of a great answer (Romans 8:27).
 - D. “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).
 - E. “What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also along with Him graciously give us all things (Romans 8:31-32)?
 - F. Who shall separate us from the loving care of God (Romans 8:35-39)?

- III. **The powerful and happy lifestyle of those who “rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances” (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).**
 - A. These things are God’s will for us in Christ Jesus (I Thessalonians 5:18).
 - B. This lifestyle creates an ability to hear God’s voice and recognize His plans.
 - C. When we live this way, there is a remarkable power to shape the attitudes of people around us. We really stand out. We shift the atmosphere.
 - D. We gain a great ability to build strong relationships with both strangers and friends.
 - E. Giving thanks in all circumstances helps us live with less stress and depression (E.g. Vietnam veterans).

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