

# Episode 125

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Therefore...

- Romans 8.1

I have on my desk a commentary on Romans 8 by the finest preacher and expositor of Romans, namely, Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Lloyd-Jones ministered at Westminster Chapel in London from 1939 until 1968. Over the last twelve-and-a-half years of his ministry, he preached a series of 372 sermons on Romans to hundreds of eager listeners each Friday evening. When he retired, he had these sermons transcribed and published as a series. The largest portion of these expository sermons focuses on this chapter of Romans. A one-page devotional will not do the depth of this portion of scripture any justice.

Instead, I want to invite you to drink deeply from this chapter in your own time. We will soon be finished with the ONE33 series, and will no longer be publishing a daily devotional, and perhaps you could pick up on this chapter then, allowing the rich wonder of God's word to saturate your heart and soul.

Paul says you belong to God; therefore, the power of the life-giving Holy Spirit is made available to you. What does it mean for us to have access to the life-giving Holy Spirit? Jesus promised the disciples that it was to their advantage that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Who is he to you? What life does he have to give in your circumstance, your dark space, your battle-weary bones? Take up and read. Chew on this chapter until it is mush. Meditate on it, memorise it, pray through it. There is so much here that falls under the eternal declaration: "Therefore..."

Paul also says that we have received the Spirit of adoption. Read through this chapter repeatedly and it becomes clear that Paul is speaking of us becoming conscious of the fact that we have been adopted into the family of God. A consciousness of it, not merely a belief of the fact. In other words, it affects our behaviour, it leaves its fingerprints on our prayers, it colours our daily lives, it turns mourning into dancing, peeling off our sackcloth and clothing us with joy! But we forget. We lose our way and doubt creeps in. Take up and read. Chew on this bold declaration until it is mush. Meditate on it, memorise it, pray through it. Make huge demands of heaven to bring you to this place once more. Cling to the God of the Covenant who says: "Therefore..."

Paul even says that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness, highlighting the fact that when we don't know what to pray, the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. Imagine a community that has tapped into these resources in prayer. What would it mean for your family to be saturated with the groaning of the Spirit on their behalf? Consider the impact on your business, your marriage, your day-to-day decisions? Surely there is more for us than the shallows we are splashing around in.

So, the invitation rings out: Take up and read. Chew on this chapter until it is mush. Meditate on it, memorise it, pray through it. Let us rediscover what the "Therefore" is there for.

# ONE33