

What's Next Papa? (Romans 8:10-17)

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Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

Introduction: In Romans 8, one of the especially great chapters of the Bible, Paul is teaching that though our faith in Christ our "do-it-yourself-life" that is a dead life is taken over by a life that is "living and breathing God." The divine and eternal life that we see in Jesus enters into us so that we come to know that we too are loved children of the Father and have God's power to overcome difficulties. If we're participating in what God is doing around us and in us then we won't be bored — we'll live "adventurously expectant," continually asking God, "What's next, Papa?" Paul lived out this joyful, resurrection-enlivened, and Spirit-led adventure while in prison and on death row in Rome.

Opening Prayer: "What's next, Papa?" (Romans 8:15, MSG).

Read Scripture: Romans 8 (MSG)

10-11 Welcome this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ... It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

12-14 So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!

15-17 This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us — an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

1st Reading: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

2nd Reading: Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3rd Reading: What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.