

The Holy Spirit assures us of salvation

discussion guide

based on **Romans 8.1-17** (Linked to sermon of 7/5/17)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This was the first part of our 'What does the Holy Spirit do?' series, leading up to Pentecost.

Intro: Name a time when you have seen the Holy Spirit clearly working in someone or name a time when you have been unsettled by something claiming to be about the Spirit. [Hopefully most will answer the first question, but it's important that those with bad experiences are able to share them.]

Jesus said it was for our good that he went away – so he could send his Spirit (John 16.7). Do you really think that having the Holy Spirit in us would be better than having Jesus next to us?

Read Romans 8.1-4

Paul had said in 7.18-19 "I know that nothing good lives in me ... For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is no the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing." Yet in Romans 8.1 he seems very confident about his salvation. What gave him such confidence?

Do you ever doubt your salvation, thinking you won't be good enough for God? How do these verses give you confidence?

v2 says "The law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death [our attempts to please God by rule-keeping]." What could you do to welcome this aspect of the Spirit's work in your life?

Read Romans 8.15-17 [some of the intervening verses are similar to next week's passage – hence not looking at them particularly now]

How easy / difficult do you find it to relate to God as Abba, Father?

What fears (v15) can enslave you from time to time?
How might knowing God as Abba, Father, help put those fears in their place?

Dan suggested three things that might help us experience intimacy with God as Father: stepping out of our comfort zone more; unplugging from devices so we can give uninterrupted time to God (eg the upcoming quiet day); repeating the truths of these verses to yourself each day for several weeks. Do you think you need to try any of those suggestions?

Up: spend some time praising God for his Fatherly love towards you, and asking God to fill you afresh with his Holy Spirit.

In: what could you do as a group to help those who struggle to relate to God as Father?

Out: a colleague or friend says, "I could never be good enough for God." Another says, "Christians are hypocritical – they claim to be so good, but they're not really." How would you open up a discussion with them?