

SMALL GROUP LESSON  
NOVEMBER 1, 2017  
**SOMEONE ON THE INSIDE**  
**ROMANS 8:26-30**

Did you know that there is someone living inside of every Christian and that this someone has a very important responsibility? Read and then reread these important verses of Scripture in Paul's letter to the Romans. In fact, read these verses in several different translations. Then do your best to come up with some answers to these questions. But before you do, read the story on the reverse side of this sheet. It might help you to understand what Paul is saying in this passage of Scripture.

1. Who is living within the life of every person who claims Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? When did that person take up residence, and what is that person's name?
2. That person has a very important responsibility. What is it and why is it so important? Review the box below and think about how your "person on the inside" has changed and might further change you life.

With the Spirit living inside us .... (chapter 8)

1. We are no longer condemned (vs.1)
2. We are set free from slavery to our earthly desires (vs.9)
3. We are led by the Spirit to live as children of God (vs.11)
4. The Spirit directs our thoughts towards God (vs. 16)
5. The Spirit gives us hope in suffering (vs. 23-24)
6. **The Spirit prays for us according to God's will (vs. 26-27)**
7. **God's Spirit works to bring good out of all situations (vs. 28)**

3. Because this someone is living in the life of every believer, what can we be assured of with regards to our lives as Christians?
4. What does God desire, and, indeed, what has He planned to take place in the life of every Christian?
5. What are the five steps by which this transformational process takes place? And why is the last one so important?

## **THE TEACHER, THE STUDENTS, AND THE MENTOR**

Once upon a time there was a very wise teacher in a great university. He loved the students that were in his class. He wanted them to graduate with honors and to acquire the skills and abilities that would enable them to make this world a better and finer place in which to live. He had really gotten to know his students. Not only did he know their names, he had also delved into their backgrounds so that he had excellent understanding of who they were. In fact, he had chosen each of these students to be in his class.

He had also done something else. He had chosen a mentor to work with these students so that they would excel in their studies. Even though these students had great potential, he was aware they were not perfect. Their knowledge of the subjects he was teaching them was very limited, and sometimes their actions and attitudes were not the best. They made mistakes and sometimes turned in papers that revealed that they had no idea whatsoever what they were supposed to be learning. In fact, sometimes their work was so completely deficient that it would have brought great harm upon themselves and others if permitted to be published.

That's why the role of the mentor was so important. It was his job to help the students do and be their best. So, for example, when students would turn in a paper to the teacher, the mentor would carefully read and study each of them. Sometimes they really needed to be completely rewritten. Nevertheless, the mentor would show them to the teacher and together they would come up with some ways these papers could be more properly written, expressing concepts and ideas that were in line with what had been taught in class.

Then the mentor would go back to the students and gently encourage them to rewrite their papers, suggesting changes that would greatly improve what they had previously prepared. Sometimes this process had to be repeated several times. But finally each student would prepare a number of documents that both the mentor and the teacher could wholeheartedly approve. They were ready for publication, an indication not only of the student's maturity, but also of what can become a reality through the assistance of a mentor who works with his students.