Dwelling in the Word - Romans 8:14-39

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to
fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ 16 it is that very
Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God
and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Future Glory

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be
revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; 20 for the
creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that
the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the
children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; 23 and not
only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for
adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For
who hopes for what is seen? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very
Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind
of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Dwelling in the Word - Romans 8:14-39

28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his
purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in
order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called;
and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God's Love in Christ Jesus

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold
his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will bring
any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died,
yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us
from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or
sword? 36 As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
    we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that
neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor
height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

How to dwell in the Word

Dwelling in the Word is a way of listening to scripture, each other and God. It's not about finding the 'right' answers - it's about listening each other into free speech and discerning what God is up to amongst us.

You should set aside, without apology, at least 20 minutes to dwell in the Word. It won't solve all the problems or answer all the questions, difficulties and issues your group has to address. But, over time, this discipline forms a community of the Holy Spirit, where the Spirit is as welcome and expected a presence as anyone else there.

- Start with prayer, inviting the Spirit to guide your attending to the Word of God. You may like to use your own words, or read the prayer on the next page.
- When everyone is ready, begin with one person reading the passage out loud to the group.
- Let silence unfold. Notice where your attention lingers. This might be a word or a phrase.
- Ask a second person to read the passage out loud once more.
- Each person in the group finds someone they know less well and listens to that person as they describe what they heard in the passage. What captured their imagination, and what would they like to find out more about? Each person should listen well as they will be asked to report back to the rest of the group (or another pairing if you're a large group) what their partner said.
- What have you heard that might be significant? Discuss as a group what God might be up to in the passage for your group on that day. It can be helpful for the facilitator to make a brief note of what she or he hears from the group and to capture that in a short prayer at the end.
- Finally, let people know that as your conversation on other matters continues, anyone at any time may call for the gospel and the group will return to the passage.

How to dwell in the Word

God of gentleness and love
Draw near to us as we draw near to you
Dwell in every heart and conversation
Fashion in us the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Help us to discern together all that you are calling us to be
And all that you are calling us to do.
Assist us, by your Spirit, to become a more contemplative, more compassionate and more courageous Church
For the building of your kingdom and the glory of your Son.
Amen

Dwelling in the Word.
So that the Word begins to dwell in you.
oxford.anglican.org/dwelling

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