

Session #30: “THE INTERCESSION OF THE SPIRIT”— Romans 8:26-27

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),

Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net

For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

Questions:

- What verse/s do you think are referred to, in the “likewise, the Spirit also helps” of verse 26?
- In verse 26, what does “our weaknesses” refer to? Who are you trusting? Yourself or the Lord?
- Our infirmities may lead us to sin, but are our infirmities in and of themselves sinful? Will we ever stop being weak until the Lord comes again?
- Whose groaning are those referred to in verse 26? Those of the Holy Spirit? Yours?
- When a lawyer addresses the court in behalf of his client, of whom does he illustrate the work?
- When the lawyer instructs the client as to what to say, of whom does he illustrates the work?

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 1:18-8:39

Principle #1 - CONDEMNATION - 1:18-3:20; Principle #2 - JUSTIFICATION - 3:21-5:21

Principle #3 - SANCTIFICATION - 6:1-7:25; **Principle #4 - SECURITY - 8:1-39**

1A. **GIVEN BY THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - ROMANS 8:1-17**

2A. **GROUNDED IN OUR HOPE - ROMANS 8:18-25**

3A. GUARANTEED BY THE FACTS - ROM. 8:26-39

1B. **The PRAYER of the Spirit - 26-27**

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses (no strength whatsoever!). For we do not know what (the what) we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered (wordlessness).

Rom 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

We will consider seven things:

1. The Setting or Context of this prayer – “likewise...also”
- Vs. 26- 2. The Condition which necessitates this prayer - “weaknesses- totally without strength”
3. The Cause which makes the prayer of the Spirit so essential – We don’t know the what!
4. The Consequence of our lack of knowledge about the what and why of our trials – Wordlessness, because we don’t know why or what is happening to us.
- Vs. 27- 5. The Character of the Spirit’s work in us – Helps and makes intercession!
6. The Confidence that we have – “He...knows what the mind of the Spirit is!”
7. The Conclusion we can draw – “He knows..makes intercession...according to the will...”

1C. **The Context of this prayer - “likewise & also” - Romans 8:16; 8:28**

1D. It refers to the trials and sufferings, the Spirit helping us like hope does. (not the best view, but the common one most believe)

2D. **It refers to the work of the Holy Spirit to which he has been referring throughout the chapter (best view)**

Note: He was talking about the “Spirit of adoption” when he brought up the issue of suffering at the end of *verse 17 - vv. 18-25* were a slight digression - **now in verse 26, he returns to the main arguments** of our security that deal with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives - **the real issue of the chapter is security or the assurance of our salvation.**

The phrase “the Spirit also...” – in addition to the other things about the Spirit that he has mentioned. The immediate connection is with the words - “the Spirit bears witness...” and “the Spirit also helps...”

2C. The Condition which necessitates this prayer - “weaknesses” - Several MSS contain the singular “infirmary” including one of the earliest papyrus manuscripts. The Greek word *astheneia* refers to “no strength” - the way it is phrased in this verse is not referring to the sufferings of the previous context but rather the common condition of us all - “weak” We are “weak” - utterly helpless without the Lord’s strength and help. - cf. Rom. 8:3; Matt. 26:41; Rom. 3:10-12; Heb. 5:2. Our infirmities may lead us to sin, but our infirmities in and of themselves are not sinful. We are either trusting ourselves or we’re trusting the Lord! Do we ever outgrow our need to constantly trust in the Lord? Even if I’m not sinning, I’m still weak! Luke 22:31-34-Peter

3C. The Cause which makes the prayer of the Spirit so essential - “for we do not know what we should pray for as we ought” Greek: “the what” - it is not that we don’t know how to pray (although that is a problem - cf. Luke 11:1 - “Lord, teach us to pray”) - the problem is that we don’t know WHAT to pray when we are going through trials and great difficulties. Note: The primary effect of our “weakness” is that we don’t know what to pray in a difficult situation. The possibilities are much broader than we are willing to admit - and it is the sovereignty of God that will bring the final answer!

(1) “Lord, please take this away from me!” (No!) - cf. 2 Cor. 12:7-10

(2) “Lord, please give me what I want!” (No!) - cf. Deut. 3:23-28

(3) “Lord, why are you doing this to me?” - cf. Job 1:20-22; 2:9-10 – Thy will be done!!

4C. The Consequence of our lack of knowledge about the what and why of our trials - “groanings which cannot be uttered” - These are not the “groanings” of the Holy Spirit - He is God! They belong to us. Compare Gal. 4:6 & Rom. 8:15 - “cannot be uttered” - not referring to heavenly language or speaking in tongues; it simply means “wordless” - we have nothing to say because we don’t know why these things are happening to us. - cf. Acts 7:34 and Exodus 2:23-25 These “groanings” within us are the proof that we belong to the Lord, and that the Spirit is working in us. The groaning are the evidence of the Holy Spirit in us! –What verse follows vs. 26-27?

5C. The Character of the Spirit’s work in us – 26 - “helps (carries the other end of a heavy log)” & “makes intercession”

- The word “helps” combines three words in Greek: *sunantilambanomai* - - the word “together” + “in the stead of” + “to receive or take” - the idea is that of one person helping another - cf. Luke 10:38-42 and Matt. 11:28-30 (yoke of oxen example) The Spirit “helps” but does not do all the work - interesting! cf. Gal. 4:6 with Rom. 8:15 - The Spirit leads us to cry “Abba, Father” but the cry is uttered by us, not Him, for He is not the Son of the Father!

The Spirit “makes intercession” - as a lawyer would do, but a slight difference when comparing the intercessory work of Jesus Christ – both are “advocates” or “comforters” - called alongside of to help. When a lawyer addresses the court in behalf of his client, he illustrates the work of our Lord Jesus Christ - (Christ)Rom. 8:34; (Holy Spirit)Luke 12: 11-12; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2 - When the lawyer instructs the client as to what to say, he illustrates the work of the Holy Spirit.

6C. The Confidence that we have - “He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is” - Acts 1:24, 2:14; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Heb. 4:12-13

We cannot read another’s heart or even our own! God not only hears our groans, He understands them when we do not! He knows why it is all happening to us. He knows how it’s going to turnout!

7C. The Conclusion we can draw - “He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God” - We don’t know what’s going on, but He knows!!!

Prayer is the training camp that prepares us to face all of life with total confidence in the sovereignty and purposes of our blessed Lord - to Him be all the glory! Romans 11:33-36