

The Hope of Salvation and the Help of the Spirit Romans 8:24-27

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Review

Chs 5-8 The gospel and the sure hope it gives

5:1–2 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in **hope** of the glory of God.”

8:18-39 Assurance of hope

8:18-23 Suffering with Christ in the present age is nothing in comparison to the future glorious revealing of the sons of God, that will be accompanied by the liberation of the creation from its bondage to corruption. Like the creation we groan in the pains of childbirth, as we wait eagerly for the redemption of our bodies.

The hope in which we have been saved (24-25)

24 “For in this hope we were saved...”

1. Refers back to...
 - verse 23
 - verses 18-19
 - verses 16-17
2. We were saved when we were justified
 - The *Jerusalem Bible*, a Catholic translation of the Bible, wrongly translated verses 24-25,
“For we must be content to hope that we **shall be saved**-our salvation is not in sight, we should not have to be hoping for it if it were--but, as I say, we must hope to be saved since we are not saved yet-it is something we must wait for with patience.”
3. This hope is for the completion of our salvation with glorification
4. This hope is based on the clear and sure promises of God
 - **Heb. 6:17–20** “So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise **the unchangeable character of his purpose**, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is **impossible for God to lie**, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to **the hope set before us**. We have this as **a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul**, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf...”

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV).

5. This hope is for every believer
6. False Christianity looks chiefly at life in this world. In contrast, true Christianity sets its mind “on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Col 3:2).

24 “...Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?”

1. Hope, by definition, concerns something we will not experience until sometime in the future
2. We do not yet see “the glory that is to be revealed to us” (18)

verse 25

1. “patience”
 - The Greek word is often translated in other places, ‘perseverance’ or ‘endurance’
 - **NKJV** “we eagerly wait for it with perseverance”
 - **NET** “we eagerly wait for it with endurance”
2. **Rom. 5:2–4** “Through [Christ] we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that **suffering produces endurance**, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,”
3. Suffering is in the context in 8:17, 18, 35
4. Hope enables perseverance. And as we persevere our hope grows stronger.

The Christian hope is one of the great riches we are given in Christ!

The intercession of the Holy Spirit (26-27)

verse 26

1. “Likewise” may relate this verse back to what was said in vv 16-17
2. “helps”
 - The Greek word has the idea of a person coming alongside another to take part of a heavy load and help him bear it
 - Similar concept to “the Helper” Christ promised in **John 16:7** “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, **the Helper** will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”
3. “weakness”
 - Not to be confused with sinfulness

4. “For we do not know what to pray for as we ought”
 - Christ promised answers to prayer that is according to His will. **John 16:23–24** “Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father **in my name**, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing **in my name**. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”
 - Moses prayed to enter the Promised Land (Deut 3:23-26)
 - Elijah prayed that the Lord would take his life (1 Kng 19:4)
 - Paul prayed that the Lord would take away his thorn in the flesh (2 Cor 12:7-9)
 - All Christians find prayer difficult
5. “but the Spirit himself intercedes for us”
 - Related to verse 15
 - He helps us by pleading our case with our Father when we do not know how to do so
 - He also helps us to pray and to grow in prayer (15 “by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”)
6. “with groanings too deep for words.”
 - The creation groans (22), believers groan (23), and the indwelling Spirit groans
 - Has nothing to do with speaking in tongues. This verse pertains to every believer, but the gift of tongues was only given to some (1 Cor 12:30)
 - In a way that is beyond human comprehension
 - In a sense He groans with us as we labor in prayer on the path to glory

verse 27

1. *Question:* Why in verse 27 does Paul speak of God searching hearts? How does it relate to what Paul is talking about in this passage?
2. “the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”
 - Effectual prayer
 - Like Christ did for Peter
 - **Luke 22:32** “but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail....”

Christ is now interceding for believers as well, but with differences:

1. Christ's intercession concerns His finished atonement for us, whereas the Spirit's intercession concerns our sanctification and perfecting
2. Christ's intercession is in heaven (Heb 7:25-26; 9:24), whereas the Spirit's intercession is within believers

Question: How should this passage affect our prayer life?