

## THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER (part 2)

Romans 8:26-39

### The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray

**26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.** The child of God has many weaknesses in this life because we still occupy a body corrupted by sin. One of those weaknesses is found in our prayer life. We know not for what to pray. We know the general will of God but we don't know the specific details. The Holy Spirit comes along side of us and helps us, by filling in the blanks to assure that our prayers are presented to God in accordance with God's will.

### The Holy Spirit Keeps us in God's Love for All Eternity

**28 And we know** G1492; *to see*. As Wuest translates *And we know with an absolute knowledge. that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* We may rest assured that no matter how inadequate we feel when we pray that God is working everything together to result in good. This is true because we are His chosen adopted children. We love our Father and He loves us. God called us to be His children and as our Father He will keep us, protect us, and work all the parts of our lives, the good and the bad, together to bring about our eternal good. **29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.** God determined before time to send His Son to die for our sins and to call us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Acts 2:23). In Acts 2:23 we learn from Wuest that according to the rules of Greek grammar, God's foreknowledge is connected with His determinate counsel which helps us understand that foreknowledge is more than God just knowing ahead of time what will happen, but God ahead of time determines what will happen. This *foreknowledge* is really foreordination and is translated as such in 1 Peter 1:20. There is disagreement here. Many want to stick with *foreknow* saying that God knew ahead of time who would believe the gospel and who would not believe. However, the argument of Wuest concerning the meaning of this word through out the New Testament, fits here that God determined ahead of time who would believe in Him. Remember that Romans has already shown us that none seek after God (Romans 3:11). John 3:1-13 teaches us that to be saved we must be born again, and that isn't an act of our will, but an act of the Holy Spirit. So, I believe that the Scripture teaches that God predetermined the ones that the Holy Spirit would move upon to regenerate so that they would be able to understand and believe the gospel. Not only did God foreordain certain ones to salvation, but He also predetermined the outcome of our salvation. The Greek word for *predestinate* G4309, means *to limit (mark out boundaries) in advance (before hand)*. Before we believers were ever born God had already foreordained us to salvation and limited us to become no less than the image of His Son. Thus making Christ the firstborn (the preeminent one) among many adopted brothers and sisters. This process is seen in *1 Peter 1:2 (KJV) Elect (select) according to the foreknowledge (foreordination) of God the Father, through sanctification (literally purification, to set apart) of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.* Here we see the three steps to the salvation of the believer and how the entire Godhead is involved in it. Before time, God the Father selected each of us unto salvation. Just as the God head determined in eternity that the Son of God would become a man and die for our sins, so also did God the Father determined who would be saved. Based upon that selection, in time the Holy Spirit sanctifies that person so they are able to understand, believe, and receive the grace gift of salvation in Christ through the shedding of His blood

offered for our sins as Jesus Christ died on the cross. **30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.** Notice that in this verse all of the things that God has done to bring salvation to His children is in the past tense. Even though in our minds, some of this is yet future, in the mind of God all of this is complete. Remember Jesus said "it is finished" just before he died on the cross (John 19:30). When Jesus died, all of those that would be saved had already been selected by God, and the Holy Spirit was willing and able to bring it to completion. However, the problem of sin had to be dealt with through Jesus' death on the cross. The day that Jesus died, God's plan of salvation was complete. At that moment, in the mind of God, all those selected to salvation were justified, sanctified, and glorified. You and I see this being played out in the process of time. Today I stand before you in Christ. In my mind I know I was selected, and that I have been justified. I am being sanctified, and I will be glorified. However in God's mind it is all complete for me. Even those who have not yet been called, to you and me we don't know who they are so we pray for them and witness to them. It is yet future to our thinking, but to God it is a done deal. Glorification refers to our new body given to us at the resurrection. This new body is the final step in our being conformed into the image of Christ. At present, believers are justified in Christ. His image is seen in us in that the Law has been completely fulfilled in us in Christ by the presence of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:4). God sees us as He sees Christ, sinless. We are being sanctified by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in us as we learn to yield the members of our body to serve righteousness instead of sin. We will one day be completely in the image of Christ when this old body is replaced with the new one that God has prepared for us. **31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?** In light of the fact that God has gone to such great lengths to save us, then who could ever harm us? Of course, no one. God was willing to give up His One and Only Son to ensure our eternal salvation. He had nothing more precious to give us than His Son, so it makes sense that God would give us any and all else that we might need. God wouldn't waste His Son's life to watch us fall by the wayside and all else pales in comparison to the value of His Son. **33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.** Jesus Christ is the final judge of all mankind. The elect of God are saved from the condemnation of Jesus Christ because we are safe in Christ through faith in His work of redemption. Not even Christ can condemn us because in Christ God has justified us and is continually making intercession for us. **35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Because the Holy Spirit is God and dwells inside of God's elect forever there is nothing or no one that can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus. In Christ we are victorious with plenty more victory to spare.