

***“The Spirit Also”***  
***Romans 8:26-28***

**Introduction:**

1. **IE:** One Of The Reasons The Holidays Of Thanksgiving & Christmas Are So Special To Us - Not Just As Christians  
- But As Americans:
  - Is Because Of All The Memories & Traditions That Are Wrapped Up Into Them!
    - One Of Those National Traditions - For Thanksgiving - Has Been:
      - The Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade - That Has Taken Place Nearly Every Year Since 1924!
  - Even With The Coronavirus This Year, They Had A Modified Parade!
2. When I Was Just A Teenager:
  - I Had The Opportunity To Attend The Parade:
    - And Stand With Thousands Of Others:
      - Along The Cold, And Wind-Swept Streets Of Mid-Town Manhattan, In New York City!
  - But - Even Though It Was Bone-Chilling Cold:
    - It Was A Lot Of Fun - And:
      - Quite Memorable!
    - Especially When - As A Strong Gust Of Wind Swept Through The Canyon Of Buildings:
      - Right In Front Of Us, One Of The Large, Helium-Filled Stars Was Blown Away From Its Handlers:
        - As They Tried To Grip The Ropes That Tethered It To The Ground!
          - But - The Wind Was No Match For Them - As The Balloon Was Carried Up, Up & Away!
3. You See - There Weren’t Enough:
  - Ropes & Handlers:
    - To Secure That Balloon:
      - In The Strong Winds Of New York City:
        - That Day!
    - Well - In A Similar Way:
      - When It Comes To The Winds & Storms:
        - That Come Through Our Lives:
          - Even As Christians:
            - If You Rely On Your Own Strength & Ability:
              - You Too Will Be Blown Away!
    - And That Is Why - Back In Romans 8:
      - God Has Been Showing Us:
        - That We Can & Must Rely Upon:
          - The Power & Work Of The Holy Spirit:
            - Who Indwells His People:
              - To Secure Us Through Those Storms!
    - So - Please Turn Back In Your Bibles With Me This Morning:
      - To Romans 8 - Where We’ve Been Reading About:
        - How What The “Sufferings Of This Present Time”:
          - Affect Us!
            - That Is - They Cause Us:
              - To Groan For The Glory:
                - That Is In Store For Us In The Future!
4. In Fact - If You Look Back At:
  - 8:22 - We See That:
    - “The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now!”
      - And Then, In:
  - 8:23 - We Discover That:
    - “Not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body!”
      - So - Not Only Does:
        - The Creation Of God:
          - Groan & Sigh For:

- Relief & Restoration!

- So Do:

- The Children Of God:

- As We Look To & Believe In The Promises Given To Us:  
- Through The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!

- But - Even Those Ropes Of Hope:

- Are Not Enough:

- To Keep Us From Being:

- "Tossed To And Fro, And Carried About With Every Wind" - Like A Balloon In A Windstorm!

- Because - Then - Starting In:

- 8:26 - We Learn That:

- The Comforter Of God Himself:

- The Holy Spirit:

- Groans For Us & Helps Us:

- By Tethering Us Firmly:

- To The Lord!

- And So - If You Are A Child Of God's Today:

- You Can Take Comfort In:

- These Special Verses This Morning!

- 8:26-28 - "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. / 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. / And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose!"

5. In These Verses:

- There Are 3 Things That Every Christian:

- Can Take Comfort In!

\* First - You Can Take Comfort In:

1. ***The Continual Help Of God!***

- The Continual Help Of God:

- Which We Find In 8:26 - Where We Are Told:

- 8:26 - "Likewise The Spirit Also Helpeth Our Infirmities!"

- God Has Given To All Of His People:

- The Holy Spirit To "Help" And To Support Us:

- In And Through Our Many Weaknesses!

- So - The Holy Spirit Is Like A Strong Guy-Wire That Would Have Kept That Balloon From Blowing Away In The Wind!

- But - To "Help" Someone:

- Implies That They Are Also:

- Putting Forth Some Effort!

- Like Those Poor People Who Where Holding Onto The Ropes Of The Balloon With All Their Might!

- And - So It Is With:

- The Help Of The Holy Spirit!

- He Is Not There:

- Just For Those Christians:

- Who Require Help!

- B/C All Do!

- He Is There For:

- For Those Christians:

- Who Desire Help!

- And - If You Are Truly A Child Of God:

- This Spirit Of Dependence:

- On The Lord & On His Spirit:

- Will Be One Of The Marks:

- That You Belong To Him!

- That Is Why - 8:15:
  - “We Cry, Abba, Father!”
- That Is What Horatio Palmer Was Getting At:
  - When He Wrote The Chorus For His Hymn:
    - “Yield Not To Temptation!”
    - Ask The Savior To Help You,  
Comfort, Strengthen And Keep You  
He Is Willing To Aid You,  
He Will Carry You Through!
- And That Is Why - From The Next Part Of 8:26:
  - We See:
- The Need For The Spirit’s Help!
  - It Is Because Of Our “Infirmities!”
    - Which Is A Word Used To Describe:
      - Our General Weaknesses!
        - Physical, Mental, Emotional, And Especially Spiritual!
        - The Holy Spirit Is There To Help You With Them All!
  - But - There Is A Specific Weakness:
    - That Is Mentioned In This Verse:
      - And That Is Regarding Prayer!
        - 8:16b - “For We Know Not What We Should Pray For As We Ought!”
  - Now - In Each Of These Three Verses:
    - That We Will Look At This Morning:
      - You Will Find The Same Word:
        - “Know!”
          - So - Keep An Eye Out For It!
  - Here - There Is Something That:
    - Even Christians - “Know Not!”
      - And That Is:
        - Our Own Limitations:
          - In Prayer!
  - Now - This Does Not Mean:
    - That God Has Not Given Us:
      - Reasons To Pray & Examples Of Prayer:
        - Which We **Do** Have & We **Do** Know! (Lord’s Prayer)
    - But - Because Of Our Fallen Human Nature:
      - We Still Struggle Knowing:
        - What Specifically To Pray For!
        - How Extensively To Pray!
        - And Even - When - At Times - To Pray!
    - An Example Of This Is In The Prayer Life:
      - Of The Apostle Paul!
        - 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - When He Prayed Three Times For The Lord To  
Remove His “Thorn In The Flesh!”
  - But - We Don’t Need Paul’s Example:
    - To Remind Us Of Our Own Weakness:
      - In Prayer - Do We?
        - “We Know Not What / How / Even When We Should Pray As We Ought!”
    - Now - We Are Not Told This:
      - To Provide Us An Excuse:
        - **Not** To Pray!
      - But Rather - To Give Us:
        - Encouragement **To** Pray!
    - After All - As We Are Told:
      - In Hebrews 4:16 - “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may  
obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!”
        - But - Not Only Do We Find:
          - Grace To Help:

- *By* Prayer!
- I Believe We Also Find:
  - Grace To Help:
    - *In* Prayer!
- Because - What Do We Find:
  - In The Rest Of 8:26? We Find:
- The Nature Of The Spirit's Help!
  - "But the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered!"
    - Back In Zechariah 12:10:
      - The Holy Spirit Is Described As:
        - "The Spirit Of Grace And Supplication!"
          - That Is - He Is The Spirit Of Prayer!
  - And - The Help He Offers:
    - To You & To Me:
      - Is To Pray With Us & To Pray For Us:
        - In Spite Of Our Weakness:
          - Even In Prayer!
  - "The Spirit Himself Maketh Intercession For Us!"
    - This Means That:
      - He Goes To The Father:
        - In His Own Prayers:
          - With Your Deepest Needs On His Heart!
    - And In This Way - We Find:
  - A Sympathetic Partner:
    - In Prayer!
      - When The Children Of God Pray:
        - The Comforter Of God Prays!
          - And He Does So:
            - "With Groanings!"
    - So - As Creation Groans!
      - As We Groan!
        - So Does The Holy Spirit:
          - Groan - With Us!
      - So - The Holy Spirit Himself:
        - Feels What You Feel!
          - Like Jesus - He Too:
            - Is "Touched With The Feeling Of Our Infirmities!" (Hebrews 4:15)
        - He Too Looks For & Longs For:
          - The Day When His Own Work:
            - In Us - Will Be Fulfilled & Complete!
        - Remember This When You Pray!
          - Even When You Struggle To Pray!
            - You Have A Sympathetic Partner!
              - But - You Also Have:
        - A Silent Partner:
          - In Prayer!
            - He "Maketh Intercession For Us With Groanings Which Cannot Be Uttered!"
              - So - This Ministry Of The Holy Spirit Is:
                - A Matter Of Faith For God's People!
          - Though He Prays For You:
            - Without Words:
              - Even For Your Needs:
                - That Are Too Deep For Words!
          - He Continues To:
            - "Make Intercession For You!"
              - And So - You Also Have In The Holy Spirit:
          - A Sufficient Partner:
            - In Prayer!

- Because Of What We Will Find:
  - In The Next Verse!
- And So - Christian:
  - This Is The Reality Of Your Comfort:
    - Even Through:
      - The “Sufferings Of The Present Time!”
      - “The Spirit Helpeth Our Infirmities!”
  - And - This Truth:
    - Ought To Motivate You To Pray:
      - Even More - And:
        - Even Though:
          - Your Prayers Remain Ever So Weak Still!
  - Because - The More You Pray:
    - Even “Weak” Prayers - The More:
      - The Holy Spirit:
        - Can Aid You & Appeal For You:
          - In Prayer!
  - Take Comfort In:
    - The Continual Help Of God!
      - And Then - Take Comfort In:

## 2. ***The Continual Hearing Of God!***

- The Continual Hearing Of God:
  - Which We Find In:
    - 8:27 - “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!”
  - You See:
    - When The Holy Spirit Prays:
      - With You & For You - It Is Guaranteed That:
        - God The Father:
          - Hears & Answers:
            - Those Prayers!
    - You May Not Be Able To Hear:
      - Those “Groanings Which Cannot Be Uttered!”
        - But God Can!
          - Because - Just Look At What He “Knows!”
          - Second Time We Find This Word!
      - What Does God Know?
  - God Knows Hearts!
    - And - He Knows Them:
      - Infinitely!
    - He Is Described Here As:
      - “He That Searcheth The Hearts!”
        - So - Even Before:
          - The Holy Spirit Offers His Prayers For You:
            - Your Heavenly Father Already Knows The Deepest Needs Of Your Heart!
    - He Knows:
      - “The True You!”
        - Not The You:
          - That You Think You Know!
        - Not The You:
          - That Others Think You Are!
        - But - The:
          - True You! Your Heart!
  - Remember 1 Samuel 16:7:
    - “For The LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart!”

- So - No Matter Even:
  - How Weak You Are - As His Child! Even In Your:
    - Prayer, Faith, & Efforts For Him!
- God Still Knows Your Heart!
  - The “True You!”
    - He Even - Psalm 103:14 - “Knoweth Our Frame; He Remembereth That We Are Dust!”
- God Knows Your Heart!
  - But - What Else Does He Know:
    - According To 8:27?
- God Knows Himself!
  - 8:27 - “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit!”
    - God Knows Himself:
      - Intimately!
- Here We Have:
  - Two Members Of The Trinity:
    - In Communion & Communication:
      - With Each Other:
        - About You!
    - The “Mind” Of The Spirit:
      - About You:
        - Is Brought To God The Father:
          - For You!
      - All That The Spirit:
        - Understands:
          - About You!
      - All That The Spirit:
        - Groans:
          - For You!
      - All That The Spirit:
        - Intends:
          - For You!
    - Is Heard & Known By:
      - Your Father In Heaven!
        - And That Is Because:
- God [Also] Knows Harmoniously!
  - 8:27c - “Because he maketh intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God!”
- If You Are A Believer In Jesus Christ:
  - This Is The Reason For Your Comfort!
    - It Is Because:
      - There Is Great Harmony:
        - Within The Trinity Of God:
          - To Minister To & Meet Your Deepest Needs & Weaknesses!
  - In Fact - This Harmony:
    - Not Only Includes:
      - God The Father:
        - Who Is The One “That Searcheth Hearts!”
    - As Well As:
      - God The Holy Spirit:
        - Who Keeps On “Making Intercession For The Saints!”
    - But - It Also Includes:
      - Jesus - God The Son:
        - Who Also “Maketh Intercession For Us!”
      - 8:34 - “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!”
  - So - In The Words Of Paul:
    - In 8:31 - “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”
      - God Is For You, Christian!

- So - Take Comfort In:
  - The Continual Hearing Of God:
    - About You And All Your Weaknesses / Infirmities!
    - And Then - Take Comfort In:

### 3. *The Continual Hope Of God!*

- The Continual Hope Of God:
  - Which We Find In The Well-Known Verse:
    - Romans 8:28 - “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose!”
    - Here’s That Third “Know!”
  - Now - There’s Something:
    - **You** Can Know:
      - Because Of:
        - What **God** Knows!
      - And - What Can & Do:
        - All Christians Know?
  - A Special Promise!
    - 8:28a - “And We Know That All Things Work Together For Good!”
    - This Simply Means That:
      - God - In His All-Encompassing Providence:
        - Directs All Things And Uses All Things:
          - For The Ultimate Good:
            - Of His Children!
      - And - When Paul Uses The Phrase:
        - “All Things” In This Verse:
          - I Believe He Uses It:
            - In A Truly Comprehensive Way!
        - Since God Is United:
          - To Help You & To Hear You:
            - Through Your Every Weakness:
              - You Can Now Know That:
        - “All Things!”
          - All Of:
            - The Pleasures In Your Life!
              - The Good Things!
          - All Of:
            - The Problems In Your Life!
              - The Seemingly Bad Things!
          - All Of:
            - The People In Your Life!
              - The Good, Bad, And Even The Ugly!
          - All Of:
            - The Potential In Your Life!
              - Opportunities Given & Taken Away! Doors Opened & Closed!
          - And Even - In Context - All Of:
            - The Pain In Your Life!
              - The “Sufferings Of This Present Time!”
          - Like The Pain Joseph Suffered:
            - Even At The Hands Of His Brothers - When He Was Sold Into Egypt As A Slave!
          - Even Though They Were Personally Responsible For Their Sin:
            - Yet God Was Still At Work - And In His Providence & According To His Sovereign Will:
              - What Did Joseph Believe? And What Could Joseph Say?
          - Genesis 50:20 - “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive!”
          - “All Things!”

- “Are Working Together Good!”
- Even As David Once Wrote:
  - In Psalms 16:6 - “The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage!”
  - This Is What You Can Now Know:
    - Because Of God’s Ongoing Work In Your Life As A Christian!
    - There Is A Special Promise - But It Is Reserved Exclusively For:
- A Special People!
  - 8:28b - “To Them That Love God, To Them Who Are The Called!”
  - There Are Certain Promises & Privileges:
    - For Certain People!
      - **IE**: Bill Of Rights! Americans!
  - And - This Special Promise:
    - God Has Reserved Only For:
      - The Lovers Of God - Who Are:
        - The Called Of God!
- The Lovers Of God:
  - Are Those Who:
    - Genuinely Love The Lord:
      - As His Saints!
  - This Means That There Is:
    - A Warm Feeling:
      - In Your Heart:
        - Of Affection & Admiration:
          - For God!
  - "Whom Having Not Seen, Ye Love!"
    - God The Father!
      - God The Son! And:
        - God The Holy Spirit!
  - But - Who Are Those:
    - Who Love God?
      - They Are Also Described In This Verse As:
- The Called Of God!
  - This Refers To Those Who:
    - Not Only Heard:
      - The General Invitation & Call:
        - To Become A Child Of God’s!
  - But To Those Who:
    - Heeded That Call:
      - And Accepted The Invitation:
        - By God’s Grace Through Faith!
  - This Is How Paul:
    - Addressed The Roman Church:
      - All The Way Back In 1:6-7 - “Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: / To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called [to be] saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ!”
- And - These Two Descriptions:
  - As The Lovers Of God & The Called Of God:
    - Are Closely Intertwined!
  - Those Who Love God:
    - Love Him:
      - As A Response:
        - To His Call! And
  - Those Who Are The Called Of God:
    - Were Called By Him:
      - For The Reason:
        - That They Should Love Him!
  - You Were Not Called:
    - **Because** You Loved God:



- You Were Called:
  - So That You **Would**:
  - Love God!
- And That Is Why:
  - In 1 John 4:19 - The Apostle John:
    - Could Write - “We Love Him, Because He First Loved Us!”
    - And - Why Did He First Love Us & Call Us?
    - Because Of:
- A Special Purpose!
  - Those Who Love God Are:
    - 8:28 - “The Called According To His Purpose!”
    - God Has A Special Purpose:
      - For Calling You & Adopting You Into His Family!
  - We Will See More Of This Next Week:
    - As We Look At The Next Two Verses:
      - 8:29-30!
      - But - I Think God’s Purpose For Calling You Can Be Summarized From:
        - Deuteronomy 8:16!
        - “To Do Thee Good At Thy Latter End!”
- And This - Christian:
  - Is The Very Reason:
    - For Your Comfort!
      - God Has Your Ultimate Good & Glory:
        - In Mind - And:
        - Well In Hand!

**Conclusion:**

1. So - Even As You Groan For:
  - Your Future Glory:
    - Because Of All The Storms & Struggles:
      - You Experience In This Present Time!
      - You Can Take Comfort In:
        - God’s Continual Help!
        - God’s Continual Hearing! And:
        - God’s Continual Hope!
2. Not Only Is God:
  - With You:
    - Through The Personal Presence & Ministry:
      - Of The Holy Spirit!
  - God Is:
    - For You!
      - And Will Accomplish:
        - His Purpose In You!
        - For Your Eternal Good - And:
        - For His Own Glory!

- \* Where Do You Find Your Comfort Today?
- \* Have You Responded To God’s Call - To Believe In Christ & Love Him?
- \* Are You Receiving The Holy Spirits Help In Prayer - By Prayer?

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