

## **Romans 8:26-28 – Who will help weak Christians?**

TSK, Gaebelein, Steele, GreekLexicon, Rienecker, Handfuls, Trapp, Vincent, Robertson, Poole, PNT, Barnes, Abbot, Family, Geneva, Calvin, Henry Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: **Christians are adopted** through the work of Jesus. **Christians are assured** they are the Lord's and that he would keep them for eternity.

**But Christians struggle with personal sins and they struggle with those who hate them.**

So **Christians need help!**

See today Apostle Paul **teaching Christians to depend on the Holy Spirit for help when they are weak.**

Our headings are:

**Assistance of the Holy Spirit**

**Acceptance of the Holy Spirit's work by the Father**

**Assurance these things bring to God's Children**

Our goals are: **That you will be thankful for and depend on the Holy Spirit to help you so you can do the things you should.**

### **Assistance of the Holy Spirit**

26 Likewise **the Spirit also helps** in our **weaknesses**. For **we do not know what we should pray** for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself **makes intercession** for us with **groanings which cannot be uttered.**

#### **1. The Holy Spirit helps Christians in their weaknesses (plural) – all kinds.**

Jesus said **the Holy Spirit will make Christians bold and give them the right words to speak at the right time.**

The Holy Spirit **helps Christians to be patient** with sickness, frustration, unemployment, and loneliness. You need his help in your marriage...in raising children...in managing friendships...in dealing your daily disciplines.

**The picture in V26 is of a nurse taking care of young kids.**

**Zechariah 12:10** "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem **the Spirit of grace and supplication;** then **they will look on Me whom they pierced.** Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"**

**2. One of the weaknesses Christians have is knowing for what they must pray, so the Holy Spirit helps them.**

Some translations say “we don’t know how to pray,” but others “we don’t know what to pray for.” We don’t exactly know how to translate this.

**It seems to be the “what”: the content of our prayer.**

**Men don’t always know what to pray for...or they ask foolishly.** Remember the foolish sons of Zebedee?

Mark 10:37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." 38 But Jesus said to them, "**You do not know what you ask.** Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

Jonah 4:3 "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

**So the Holy Spirit gives Christ’s children the wisdom to ask wisely-to ask within the will of God – in order to grow.**

Jude 1:19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. 20 But you, beloved, **building yourselves up on your most holy faith**, praying in the Holy Spirit,.

**3. The Holy Spirit helps Christians by praying directly to the Father for them.**

He even prays with groanings that cannot be uttered. What? If you’ve ever been in a hospital and have seen someone in a cast from head to toe with many broken bones and no morphine, then you understand what physical groaning is. **Spiritual groaning can be much worse.**

**But what are intercessions?** This is deep, longing and pleading for the needs of others.

**So when the Holy Spirit “intercedes with groanings which cannot be uttered” it means he does not use words.**

Hannah prayed God would take away her shame of childlessness. She interceded without words.

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. You will have many troubles, but you are never alone in your troubles.** You may not have a wife, a husband, a friend, **or a pastor to help**, but you always – absolutely always – **have God's Holy Spirit** to help you in the way you need help...in sickness...in prayer...in temptations...

John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever..."

**b. There is no trouble too big that the Holy Spirit can't help you to get through.**

Calvin wrote: You have God's celestial power...in the Holy Spirit!

What can't he do? Are you weak? Don't worry! He's got this! You have no grounds for giving up.

**c. The more you let God's Spirit take over your life, the more he will help you to pray and the more he will pray for you!**

Letting the Spirit fill your life will also increase your testimony to the world.

#### **Acceptance of the Spirit's work by the Father**

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.**

**1. God the Father, who knows all things, listens to the groanings of his Holy Spirit for Christians or when he prays for you.**

**God even sees what is inside men.** He is never fooled. Men are fooled by their own condition and they fool others.

**But God looks at the heart of man.**

That's what God told Samuel when Samuel wanted to anoint David's older brothers as king.

Jeremiah 17: 10 I, the LORD, **search the heart, I test the mind**, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

Acts 1:24 And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, **who know the hearts of all**, show which of these two You have chosen...

**2. God the Father listens to the intercessions the Holy Spirit makes for Christians because he (the Holy Spirit) always asks according to the will of the Father.**

**3. Lessons:**

**a. You have the best advocates in the world!** No client could get better representatives. Jesus prays for you in heaven, and his Holy Spirit makes intercessory prayers on earth! **Both pray to the Father for you.**

**b. You have the best relationship in the world that guarantees the Father will listen to your prayer for help!** He adopted you as his child.

**c. Pray for help in your troubles – you have an advocate, Jesus Christ, in heaven.**

**d. Pray the Holy Spirit will help you to pray and pray the Holy Spirit will pray for you.** You have an advocate on earth!

**Assurance these things bring to God's Children**

28 And we know that **all things work** together **for good** to **those who love God**, to those who are **the called** according to **His purpose**.

**1. When the Holy Spirit prays to the Father on behalf of Christ's children, all things, not some things, work out for the good of his children.**

More, **this implies that God is always working for his children.**

And all things **work out for good!** No situation ever works out for a Christian's bad or his so-so benefit.

Psalm 128:1 Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. 2 When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, **and it shall be well with you.**

Sodium doesn't exist by itself. Chlorine by itself will poison you. But work them together, you have salt!

That's the idea of how all things together for the good of his children. You don't survive haphazardly.

**2. God's best purpose for each believer is illustrated in the life of Egypt's Prime Minister, Joseph the Jew!**

Genesis 50:19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 "But as for you, **you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good**, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

It might not have seemed that way when Joseph was put in a pit, sold as a slave, wrongfully accused by Potiphar's wife, false imprisoned, and forgotten by the butler, but God was working out good for Joseph and the people of God.

**3. All things work for good because those children for whom the Holy Spirit prays love God.**

**4. All things work for good because those children for whom the Holy Spirit prays were called by God for his purpose.**

"The called" refers to the electing call of God. This is the sense in Deuteronomy 7.

Deuteronomy 7: 6 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. 7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 "but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

### **5. Lessons:**

**a. You not only have the best advocates in the world, but they are also personally loved by the Judge!**

**b. Everything in this world – in all of creation, in natural disasters, sickness, prosperity, abandonment – all work together for your good**...poverty, car accidents...motor vehicles troubles...

**c. "Good" doesn't always mean exciting, easy, or entertaining.** "Good" means what is to your profit, usually over the longer term.

**d. Don't complain against God's providence.** That's what Jacob did. Look at Apostle Paul's response!

**e. When you pray with the help of the Holy Spirit, everything will work out well – for your good.**

**f. God is totally sovereign though he uses *human agency*.**

Romans 9:11 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of **God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls**),

2Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, **but according to His own purpose** and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

**g. All things don't work for the good of a non-Christian.**

Don't tell him they do!

Don't lie to him.

Use this as evangelism.

Tell him how he can become a Christian and have a real future!

### **Conclusion:**

Christians need the Holy Spirit to **strengthen them when they are weak, comfort them when they are sad, convict them when they sin, teach them when they are ignorant, protect them when they are attacked, and pray for them when they need it.**

Beloved in the Lord Jesus:

**1. You need help. You are adopted and your name is written in heaven, but you struggle to live up to the family name and do the work God wants you to do.**

You struggle with troubles in marriages, friendships, child-rearing, worship, work, and prayer.

The list is endless.

**2. Pray!** Pray for everything you need to do God's work.

**Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you to pray!**

**Pray for the Holy Spirit to pray for you.**

Your prayers are often selfish and ignorant, but his prayers are not.

Finally: If you don't have God's Holy Spirit in you, you are not God's child and will rot in hell, regretting your refusal of him.

But you have time to make it right today.

You may not have tomorrow.

So, ask God to give you his Holy Spirit.

He will give you life and hope, things that no one can take away.