

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Wednesday Sermon

Date: February 17, 2021

Text: Romans 8:26-30

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-30

Subject: Spirit prays; All things for good; Foreknown & glorified

In verses 14 through 25 of this eighth chapter, we studied these things:

1. We saw that those led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.
2. We have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
3. The Spirit in us bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God – by love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.
4. If children, which we are who believe, then heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ if so be that we suffer with him.
5. Our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
6. The earnest expectation of the creation waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.
7. The creation itself shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption imposed on them because of Adam's sin and shall be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God.
8. Both creation and we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit groan and travail in pain together until now – waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.
9. Brethren, we are saved by hope, therefore, we wait in hope for the adoption – for the redemption of our bodies when we shall be manifested as the sons of God before all creation.

Now, we come to verses 26 through 30 of this 8th chapter of Romans.

Romans 8:26 (KJV) *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.*

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: -- The Spirit of God which dwells in us, teaches us, comforts us, and leads us into all truth. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of adoption to us, who witnesses to our spirits, that we are the children of God, whom we have received as the earnest of our inheritance. Besides all He has done for us already, He, "also helpeth our infirmities". While we are groaning within ourselves, both for ourselves and for others, and are waiting patiently for what the adoption (the redemption of our bodies and the manifestation of the sons of God). All the people of God definitely have our infirmities in this life. We are not weak and infirm in the same sense as unsaved persons are. How is that? Unsaved persons have no spiritual strength; they are ignorant of their weakness; they do not (and cannot) go to Christ for strength, nor can they derive any from him. Unsaved persons can never perform anything that is spiritually good.

But considering again our infirmities – Our infirmities are not all the same. Some are weaker in faith, knowledge, and experience, than others. Some have a weak conscience which needs to be taught from scripture. Some are more easily drawn aside through corruption and temptation than others. Not only do many of us have bodily afflictions, persecutions of men, and temptations of Satan, but we all have internal corruptions and weakness to oppose us as go about to try and perform our duties to God and man. Praise God, we are not left to sink under these infirmities, but are

helped mightily by the Spirit, that is, helped by the Holy Spirit by which we were sealed after we believed. He is ever with us, helping us, teaching us, comforting us, and praying for us.

For we know not what we should pray for as we ought: --

This is a striking statement! We (you and I, and all saints) know not what we should pray for as we ought.

(1.) We do not know what would be really best for us.

(2.) We do not know what God is willing to grant to us, mainly because of our ignorance of the scriptures and their proper application to us.

(3.) We are greatly ignorant of the character of God, His purpose and plan for all people and all things.

(4.) We are often in real, deep perplexity. We are encompassed with trials, exposed to temptations, weakened by disease, and subject to great calamities. In these circumstances, if we are left alone, we would neither be able to bear our trials, nor know what to ask at the hand of God to relieve us in them.

All this is true of us, BUT...

But the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

– This is so wonderful and amazing! The word “intercession” speaks of prayer. Intercession is defined as: “The act of interceding or pleading on behalf (rarely against) another; entreaty, solicitation, prayer for another.” OED. How we need prayer in the midst of the groans, the sorrows and sufferings with which we are surrounded and which is our lot as long as we are in this mortal body. And prayer to God is our refuge, the expression of our dependence upon God and our utmost

confidence in Him. But while we have been graciously taught the manner in which to pray, we often do not know "what we should pray for as we ought." Then the Spirit Himself maketh intercession with groanings that cannot be uttered. Prayer is usually and nearly every time the witness of our infirmities and weaknesses. Our burdened heart may find itself too full to even speak a word; too much perplexed order our thoughts. But it is blessed true that we can pray without uttering a sound. It is the Spirit, as the helper of our infirmities, who makes these desires known to the God. Groaning in sympathy with the tried and longing heart, the Holy Spirit makes His intercession for the Saints according to the will of God." Thus the mind of the Spirit in us is known of God-- and heard by Him. And then we must remember that besides this intercession of the Spirit there is the intercession of Christ at the right hand of God (Verse 34). The believer is therefore hedged about and made secure and if he walks in the Spirit, constant peace and joy will be His daily portion.

Romans 8:27 (KJV) *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 he that searcheth the hearts – God, yea, and God alone can search our hearts.

Jeremiah 17:10 (KJV) *I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

Revelation 2:23 (KJV) *And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*

*And he that searcheth the hearts **knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit**, -- God who searches our hearts and reins knows the mind – this English word “mind” comes from the Greek word “φρονημα phronema *fron'-ay-mah*”. This word is found 4 times in the New Testament and is otherwise translated as “mind 2 times, carnally minded 1 time, and spiritually minded 1 time.” It literally means “what one has in his mind and thoughts.” God knows what the Spirit has in his mind and thoughts.*

***Because he** (the Spirit) **maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God**. – The Holy Spirit within all of us who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ makes intercession for us. Either he moves us to pray or aids us while we are praying. Perhaps we are so overcome that we cannot speak – but are praying nevertheless. Remember Samuel’s mother, Hannah? Hannah was so distraught after her adversary, Peninnah Elkinah’s other wife provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb. (1Sa. 1:6).*

***1 Samuel 1:9-14 (KJV)** So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. **10** And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. **11** And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. **12** And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. **13** Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought*

*she had been drunken. **14** And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.*

Doubtless, we can see that it was the will of God that Hannah have a son – a son for which she prayed, but she was so overcome that her lips moved, but no words came out. We see that her prayer was heard of the LORD. It was His will that Samuel be born to Hannah.

Abraham's servant prayed without words – in his heart, but his prayer was definitely heard and answered.

Genesis 24:42-45 (KJV) *And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go: **43** Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink; **44** And she say to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: let the same be the woman whom the LORD hath appointed out for my master's son. **45** And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.*

What wonderful assurance that we have the petitions that we desire of him – that is, if we ask and ask aright in the Spirit!

1 John 5:14-15 (KJV) *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: **15** And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

James 4:2-4 (KJV) *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. 4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

What an encouragement to pray! Though our prayers be but with sighs and groans unutterable as Hannah's and Abraham's servant was; since the God who knows all things simultaneously understands sees this prayer is according to His will.

Romans 8:28 (KJV) *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.*

And we know – Notice the “and!” It is connected to the preceding verse(s). Brothers and sisters, we can know. The word of God tells us that we know! How can we doubt that we know? Know what?

That all things work together for good to them that love God, -- All things, whether good or bad in themselves; small things and large things – ALL THINGS. No matter how difficult the things are that we must face, they shall all work together for our God because we love God. And why do we love Him? It is because He first loved us!

To them who are the called according to his purpose. -- To whom? Not to every person on earth without exception, but to them who are **the called** according to his purpose. The called are every one of those whom God did foreknow; whom he predestinated to be conformed to the image of his son. These are

the ones He called by His gospel preached by those he sent for that purpose. To these alone, all things work together for good!

Let us now read verses 29 and 30 together. They ought always to be read together to see the full sense. Consider these two verses with me.

Romans 8:29-30 (KJV) *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. 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.*

For whom he did foreknow, -- Notice the "For." This connects it to verse 28. For means "because!" This will tell us more of why all things work together for good to them who love God who are **the called** according to his purpose. Notice the personal plural pronoun "whom." It is not "what" God foreknew, but "whom" God foreknew. The English word "foreknow" comes from the Greek word: "προγινωσκω proginosko prog-in-ocē'-ko". This Greek word is found five times in the NT and is translated as:

Ac 26:5 Which knew <4267> me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

Ro 8:29 For whom he did foreknow <4267>, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Ro 11:2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew <4267>. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

1Pe 1:20 Who verily was foreordained <4267> before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before <4267>, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

As you can see, the Greek word clearly shows that it means know before in the sense of being foreordained.

he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. –

The same ones he foreknew and aforeordained, God also did predestinate (marked out to a destiny). Predestinated to what? To be conformed (moulded to, made like) to the image of his Son (Jesus Christ), that he (Jesus Christ) might be the firstborn (resurrected from the dead first), among many brethren (that is you and I, and a multitude which no man can number from every tongue, people, kindred, and nation).

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. – The same ones he predestinated, he called by the gospel. The same ones he predestinated and called, he also justified (declared righteous).

The same ones he predestinated, called, and justified, he also glorified. Do you see that? Now – right now, we are seated with Christ in the heavenlies waiting for His appearing, then we shall appear with him.

Ephesians 2:5-7 (KJV) *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

Colossians 3:1-4 (KJV) *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*