

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 8:26-27 The Spirit Helps Us Pray

In our weakness the Holy Spirit helps us pray.

1) Our weakness in prayer

- a) v. 26a “our weakness”
- b) v. 26b “we do not know what to pray for as we ought”
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Some ignorance in prayer is due to creaturely finitude, calling for humility.
 - ii) Some ignorance in prayer is due to culpable folly, calling for repentance/mortification.
 - iii) Some ignorance in prayer is due to callow faith, calling for instruction.

2) The Spirit’s help

- a) v. 26a “helps”—“The Holy Spirit lays hold of our weakness along with us and carries the burden facing us, as if two men were carrying a log, one at each end.” (A. T. Robertson) Though the Spirit is more like a father “sharing” the load with his four year old son.
- b) v. 26b “intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words”
 - i) The Spirit prays for us.
 - ii) The Spirit is zealous for our sanctification/glorification.
 - iii) The Spirit’s groanings are unexpressed in words.
- c) v. 27a “He who searches hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, that the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God”
 - i) God the Father searches our hearts.
 - ii) God the Father knows the zealous intercessions of the Spirit.
 - iii) God hears/answers prayers as sanctified by the Spirit to accomplish His will in and through the saints.
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Pray with confidence in the Spirit’s zealous intercession.
 - ii) Pray with confidence in the Spirit’s sanctification of your prayers.
 - iii) Pray with confidence in the Father’s sovereign use of your prayers.

Doxology: Blessed be the LORD! for He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. (Psalm 28:6)