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**Monday, September 18, 2023 ▫ Read Romans 8:26–27**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Who helps us (v26)? Because of what reality about us? In what lack of knowledge are we particularly weak? Who prays for us? What sorts of prayers? How does v27 describe God? What does it say that He knows? For whom, particularly, does the Spirit make intercession? According to what?*

**How does the Spirit help, when our perseverance is weak?** Romans 8:26–27 looks forward to the midweek sermon. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Spirit of God, Who has the mind of God, teaches us to pray for glory with certainty, even as He perfectly prays the same.**

**The help of the Spirit.** We ought to be “eager” and “persevering” (v25) in our hoping, and therefore our praying. But we are not what we ought to be. We do not strain as we ought to for that glory for which we were saved, and to which we are certain to attain. So the Spirit helps us in our infirmities. We don't know how to pray for what we ought. So the Spirit helps us to pray. He helps us be eternally minded, heavenly minded, even as we pray for things in our time and place. If we did not have the Spirit to help us in prayer, we could only pray from our flesh. But we do have His help, praise God!

**The intercession of the Spirit.** In v23 we heard that “we ourselves groan.” Now in v26 we read that “the Spirit Himself makes intercession.” That is to say: not only is He responsible for whatever good and true praying comes out of us, but He also prays in our behalf. God prays for us! Christ prays for us as our Mediator (cf. v34). And God the Spirit prays for us according to His own divine will. So, we have both our own praying that He conforms to God's will, and His praying that is itself an expression of God's will.

**The groaning of the Spirit.** What does the Spirit pray for us? That all of God's will would ultimately be accomplished. That for which the creation groans (cf. v22), and that for which we who have the firstfruits of the Spirit groan (cf. v23), would be fulfilled. The hope in which God subjected the creation (cf. v20), the hope in which God saved us (cf. v24), is the hope for which God the Spirit prays for us. God the Spirit groans for us not in human words but with the very desire and intention of God Himself! So, as God searches our Spirit-prompted hearts, He observes the mind of His own Spirit and approves it.

**From where does any good praying that you do come? Who else is praying for you? What for?**

*Sample prayer: Father, thank You for giving us Your Spirit to help us pray according to Your own priorities. Grant that by His help, we would pray more and more like Christ, through whom we ask it, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP98 “O Sing a New Song to the LORD” or TPH469 “Who Are These Like Stars Appearing”**

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Roman's chapter 8.

Chapter 8, verse 26, to 27. These are God's words. 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. 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. So far, the reading of god's. Inspired and inherent word. We heard last week. From verses 23 through 25. That we who have the first first fruits of the spirit.

We are ourselves grown. Within ourselves. We desire. What god desires. We lay hold of the hope in which we were saved. That not only would we be forgiven. But then we would be sanctified and not only would we be made holy and therefore glorious. Like jesus in our souls.

But in the last day, we will be raised again from the dead. And we will be glorious like jesus. Also in our bodies And so in this hope we were saved. And even though, We still have. Um, remaining flesh in us and the remaining flesh in us. As worldly priorities.

That we would be comfortable. Now that people would serve us now And our flesh even wants to sin. But, The new man. Who is in christ, who is in the spirit is helped by the spirit to have god's priorities. That all of those upon whom god set his love.

Would be brought to faith in jesus christ. And that they would be holy. Lord, jesus would return. That he would be glorified forever. In the midst of his glorious. People. And so, how is it? That we have come to pray like this. The answer is the spirit helps us.

Just like we cannot repent and believe. Without the help of god's holy spirit. We can do nothing good. Without the help of god's holy spirit. And so desiring and praying for the right things. Is something good. Something that happens only by the help. Of god's holy spirit and that's verse 26 is explanation.

For how it is that we come to desire, that god's name would be halot and that his kingdom would come, his will would be done. Likewise the spirit also helps us in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for. As we ought. So, apart from the holy spirit, we do not know what to pray.

And we don't know how to pray for it, even when we pray for it. We are very helpless, aren't we? Not even able to pray rightly. Except for the help of god's. Holy spirit. So praise god. But as we humble, Recognizing that apart from. God's giving us God's helping us by his spirit.

We can't even pray correctly. Uh, but let us also be thankful. That god has given to such weak. Um, Creatures as we are. The help of his almighty Holy spirit. Well, not only does the holy spirit help us. But he also prays for us, We definitely do some praying.

By the help of the holy spirit. We can see that. Inverse 23, the Pronoun is used to double it for us. Even we ourselves, grown within ourselves. But the spirit adds his own praying to our praying. The spirit himself. Makes intercession. For us. With groanings, which cannot be uttered.

And so, just like before, The spirit causes us to call god our father. We are the ones calling god, our father or He? Agrees with us that we are the children of god. So now, when it comes to praying or groaning in prayer, That not only does the spirit help us.

To groan for the right things and prayer. But he also adds as it were his own voice, his own intercession. For us. He prays alongside us. And, Whereas we can pray. Um, That which is right proper to some extent. By the help of the spirit, he intercedes for us.

Perfectly. And so we have the lord jesus. Who intercedes for us? You see that? We're going to see that verse 34. Who is the one who condemns? It is christ, you died and furthermore is also risen. There's even at the right hand of god as he condemning us. No.

Verse 34 says, who also makes intercession for us, And so, not only are we praying but when we pray, We join the lord jesus, who is praying for us and the holy spirit to his praying for us making intercession for us. And so, not only does the the spirit help us.

In our own brain, but he also intercedes for us. And what does he pray for? He prays for the fullness of what god desires and plans to do. Um, This is not talking about. Uh, groans which words cannot express or groans. It cannot be uttered because of how deeply we feel it.

That there is this agony in a man or a longing towards god. That is deeper than we can put into words. Sometimes we have feelings that are deeper than we can put at the words, sometimes we have a longing of soul. That we just can't verbalize. But the reason that this Can't be verbalized, isn't because it comes.

From something deeper in who we are. Is because it comes from something, the depth of, which is who god is. That's what verse 27 is saying. He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the spirit is And so, god knows what we are longing for in our hearts.

Even when we can't speak it and words. But god knows, even God knows even the depth and completeness of what the spirit breaks for. As he prays for us. Because, And the verse 27. He makes intercession for the saints according to, and you can see The by the italics there that Our translators are supplying English words that don't need to be in there.

It's not according to the will of god so much. Well it is but it's more than that. It says he makes intercession for the same. According to god, And so, what is the only way? That one can pray. For all that, he ought to pray. All that god desires, all that god plans, all that god, intends all that god will do.

Who can pray for all of that? The answer is god. Well, who can hear? A prayer that is as big as god. Well, the answer to that is also And so there's this amazing dynamic. Where the groaning or the longing, the desire, the intent of the holy spiritus. He expresses it and interceding for us is as big as God himself.

And god himself, of course, hears. And to proves and responds the answers. He doesn't So, what a wonderful ministry. We have from the holy spirit in prayer. It helps us to pray. Intercedes for us. And his intercession. Is not just the intercession of creature. It is the intercession of god himself.

So god himself intercedes. And god himself hears and answers. And this is what we join. When we pray, Even by his help. Put an encouragement that ought to be to us generally. But then also particularly When we are praying. Suspect that All of you have at one time or another.

Had experience that i have had many many times. Because i come to pray. And i'm not even. Sure, really what i ought to pray for. And start praying and even When by god's help. I get some sense of some of the things that i should be praying for. I'm not sure how to pray for those things or what to ask for about those things.

And to know that. Whatever you do have in that sense is being given by the help of the holy spirit. But especially that the one who is helping you is also praying for you. Perfect accuracy. And infinite fullness. Which i think is a contradiction in terms, but we're talking about god now.

It is a great comfort. Encouragement in prayer. And he has always doing that even when we are not great. Which ought to? Bring us to. Sort of heart over. That prayerless we are. That here we have all of this help. And we have this opportunity. For fellowship. Fellowship with the father on his name, we call fellowship of the sun and the spirit Who also received for us?

And we're missing it. Missing out on it. And so, it ought to drive us to prayer. I mean, the lord. Blessed to us, the knowledge of The spirits ministry for us to us. In prayer. And then, May he bless it to us by giving us the experience. Of the spirit's ministry to us.

As we pray. Especially as he prays. Let's ask. Him to do that. Oh lord, will you pray that you would bless to us? The knowledge and awareness. Of this minister that your spirit has to us in prayer. Even as he prays according to you, o, god. And so, his praying for us.

Is perfect. We pray that by his help. Are praying, might more and more. Correspond to his prayer. That are praying might more and more. Correspond to christ's praying. But our praying might more and more. Correspond to your desire's, father. For the good that you will do. Not only for each of us individually, but for your elect as a whole, Indeed, for the entire creation.

Help us. So god And this wonderful gift that you have given us. I've calling up on your name. We ask for this help, even by calling upon your name. Through jesus christ. Amen.