

SERMON NOTES

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In The Grip of God's Grace

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

Romans 8:26-27 - "Groaning for Glory (Pt. 3)"

Romans 8:26-27, *"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."*

In our study of Romans 8:18-27, we have seen two groanings:

1. Creation groans (vs. 22)
2. Christians groan (vs. 23)

Today, we come to the third groaning – it's the groaning of the Holy Spirit (vs. 26).

As God's Children we have a *New Hope* for the future (vs. 24-25), but we also have a *New Help* for the present. A blessed hope and a sufficient help!

While we are waiting we have an inward sustaining.

Do you have a future hope and a present help?

This new help comes from the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

We have already seen that the Holy Spirit:

1. enables us to fulfill the Law (vs. 4)
2. subdues our fallen nature (vs. 13)
3. assures us of our sonship (vs. 16)
4. is a guarantee of our future glory (vs. 23)

But now the Holy Spirit helps us in praying according to the will of God.

True Prayer is impossible without the Holy Spirit; he is the one that causes us to cry 'Abba Father' (vs. 15)

Two things which perplex Christians are dealt with in this text:

1. Prayer
2. God's will

Praise God for the new help we have...

1. The Holy Spirit Helps Us (vs. 26a)

"Likewise (or in the same way) the Spirit (also) helps us..."

John 14:16, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter (or helper), that he may abide with you for ever;"

As our hope sustains us, so does the Holy Spirit,

2. We Need His Help (vs. 26n)

Why do we need His help?

1. Our infirmities or our weakness

It's important that we see our need of the Spirit's help.

Jesus said in,

John 15:5, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

2 Corinthians 12:9, "...my strength is made perfect in weakness...."

What is the weakness Paul is thinking about here?

It's not:

a. sin – but it is a problem

Psalms 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:"

b. a physical weakness – that is often a problem in prayer

- The Disciples sleeping in the Garden of Gethsemane.

It's our ignorance or lack of understanding in prayer

(vs. 26)" ... we know not what we should pray for..."

We pray selfishly, ignorantly

Old Testament Illustration – Elijah

1 Kings 19:4, *"But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers."*

New Testament – Paul's thorn in the flesh

2 Corinthians 12:7-10, *"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."*

Three ways to pray:

1. escape
2. endure
3. enlist

3. How does the Holy Spirit Help Us? (vs. 26c)

(vs. 26 – N.I.V.) – *"The Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."*

An intercessor is a person who pleads the case of another. Jesus is interceding for us in Heaven, and the Holy Spirit is interceding for us in our hearts! He helps to shoulder our burden by pleading our case with God the Father when we don't know how to pray.

Illustration – two people carrying a log at both ends

Illustration - Acts 7:34, *"...I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come..."*

Illustration – Jesus praying for Peter

How the Spirit intercedes for us?

He groans – they are wordless but they are not meaningless!

This is not tongues (notice – ‘wordless’)

But rather, the Holy Spirit identifies with our groans, with our pain, and the problems we face and so groans or prays for us.

The Holy Spirit takes hold of our burdens with us, helping us to carry our load. And as long as we have His assistance we need not fall, for He supplies us with divine power.

So – yield to Him!

4. The Holy Spirit’s groaning intercession is always in accordance with God’s will (vs. 27)

The greatest purpose in prayer is doing God’s will (found in His Word)

What about things that aren’t in the Bible?

The Holy Spirit will help us.

God’s will is always to good.

Notice verse 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.”*

Do you love God?

Do you want His will?