

ROMANS: PART 46
JULY 28, 1996

The Intercession of The Spirit
Romans 8:26-27

Context of Romans 8 which describes the Christian's *Life In The Spirit*

1. A new freedom. Exempt from condemnation. Justification. Rom 8:1-4.
2. A new life. Exempt from old obligations. Sanctification. Rom 8:5-14.
3. A new family. Exempt from old slavery. Adoption. Rom 5:14-17.
4. Experiencing present suffering. Anticipating future glory. Glorification. Rom 8:18-25.
5. Experiencing present weakness. Receiving the Spirit's help. Intercession. 8:26-27.
6. Experiencing present difficulty. Encouraged by God's Purpose. Sovereign Grace. 8:28ff
7. Conclusion: 5 unanswerable questions. Nothing can separate us from God's Love. 8:31ff

The Groaning And Help Of God's Spirit. Romans 8:26-27.

1. **What He does: He helps us as a “burden bearer”**
 - ◆ συναντιλαμβανομαι To *take hold of* with someone else.
 - ◆ Lk 10:40. The idea is someone who comes alongside of you to render help.
2. **How He helps: He intercedes for us with groans that cannot be expressed in words.**
 - ◆ The Spirit offers prayerless prayers for us.
 - ◆ The Spirit prays *for us* while residing within us -- He *knows* us.
 - ◆ The Spirit always offers *the very best* prayers for us. Lk 22:32
 - ◆ The Spirit is always *heard* by the Father who searches our hearts.
 - ◆ This is not tongues or a special prayer-language:
 - The Spirit prays “for” us -- not through us
 - The Spirit prays for all of us -- not some of us (not all speak in tongues. I Cor 12:30})
 - “Tongues” is not mentioned in this verse, “groaning” is.
 - The creation groans, Christians groan, the Spirit groans. Definitely not tongues
3. **Why He must help us: We do not know how to pray as we should.**
 - ◆ We can be ignorant of our true circumstances. E.G. Job (Job 1:8; 7:20b-21)
 - ◆ We can want imperfect things. E.G. Elijah (I Ki 19:4)
 - ◆ We can even want evil things. James 4:3.

A Few Thoughts On The Way We Pray

1. You should pray. Rom 12:12; Phil 1:4; I Thess 5:17; I Tim 2:8.
2. You should not expect prayer to be easy. Acts 6:4; Mt 26:38/Mk 14:37/Lk 22:45-46; Eph 6:18-19; Col 4:2.
3. You should not expect to change God's mind. Num 23:19; I Sam 15:29,35. Cf. Jonah 3:9-10.
4. You should expect that prayer changes things. Mt 7:7-8; James 4:2; James 5:16b.
5. You should look for progress in the way that you pray. Acts 2:42; Col 4:2; II Jn 1:8.