

Romans 8:26-28

The Spirit's Help

1. 8:26 – The Spirit's Help

- a. *"Likewise"* – helping us to patiently wait for that which we hope for – Gal 5:5
- b. *"Spirit helpeth ..."* – Hope does not remove present infirmity, neither does the Spirit
- c. In suffering prayer is natural, but usually to remove it, not get through it - Phil 4:6-7
- d. *"we know not"* – us being ignorant in prayer; *"as we ought"* – us being informed
- e. Romans 8 is not about you doing more work but trusting the Spirit's work
- f. The Spirit works for what we need, when we don't know what we need – Gal 5:2, 22-23
- g. We pray for what we need, but the need may differ in God's will - 1Ti 2:3-4, Phi 1:19

2. 8:26 – Not Knowing What to Pray For

- a. First mention of prayer since Paul's personal prayers in Romans 1:8-12
- b. Our problem in prayer is Gal 5:16-18, we ask under the law after the flesh
- c. God is not our butler, servant, vending machine, genie in a lamp, or covenanted to do
- d. Ask and receive prayers belong to new covenant Spirit filled Israel –Mat 7:7,10:19,21:22
- e. God is able to answer prayers above all we ask after the Spirit's work in us –Eph 3:13-20

3. 8:26-27 – The Spirit's Intercession

- a. He helps our infirmities (to give what we need) and ignorance (to know what we ought) with intercession (to get between us and our flesh, fear, and flawed understanding)
- b. *"maketh intercession"* – The Spirit itself does work for us, when we cannot utter
- c. *"with groanings"* – not the Spirit's sounds, but ours as in Rom 8:23, 25, 2 Cor 5:2,4
- d. *"cannot be uttered"* – means this is not tongues or prayer language
- e. How do you intercede for someone else? You consider what they need and God's will.
- f. *"he that searcheth the hearts knows..."* – God knows what you don't utter or ask.
- g. The Spirit helps your body by dwelling in it and interceding with what you need.
- h. *"according to the will of God"* – This is how the Spirit intercedes and God intervenes.
- i. God knows the mind of the Spirit, you can know His mind and the will, too - 1Cor 2:9-13

4. 8:28 – For Good

- a. A verse rightly used to comfort people, but often twisted to mean something else
- b. 8:26 – We know not ... 8:27 – God knows ... 8:28 – We know... (we can learn)
- c. What we know about how things work Paul already taught – 5:5, 9, 11, 8:11, 17-19
- d. *"all things"* – Every state whether now/then, suffering/glory (just as Phi 1:20, 4:11-13)
- e. *"work together for good"* – The good is found in Eph 1:11, 3:21 acc. to his will.
 - i. 'God is good all the time' – yes, but his good purpose is the focus here.
 - ii. God used evil intents for his good purpose, but this not 'every bad has a reason'
 - iii. The good is what God glories in (hope), not what you might glory in now (sight).
- f. A good hope Rom 5:2, a good walk Eph 5:16-17, a good witness 2 Cor 4:10, 6:9-11, 12
"to them..." – Disillusionment signals a problem 1) loving God, 2) knowing his purpose.
- g. *"that love God"* – Requires knowing his will and wanting it fulfilled more than your own.
- h. *"who are the called"* – Not identified by wealth, health, success, or Calvin – 1Co 1:26-29
- i. *"according to his purpose"* – By grace through faith living in hope with patience in Christ