

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Romans 8 | Week 7: When Words Fail

ROMANS 8:26-27

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

WEAKNESS

...the frailty of our perspective, as a result of our sinful nature and limited knowledge...

SOLUTION?

- Read More
- Pray More
- Learn special revelation
- Rely on the Spirit to help**

WHY don't we know?

- Shortsighted (Psalm 131:1).
- Sin (James 4:3).
- Stupidity (Matthew 20:22).

God: omnipotent, omniscient, & omnipresent; we're omniNOT!

PSALM 131:1

"O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me."

Now in verses 26-27 of Romans 8, so far we've covered that there's NO condemnation in Christ or room for neutrality; the benefits of living in the Spirit and as God's adopted children; how we enjoy some benefits now, but will also suffer here and reap some of them later; and, with the inevitability of suffering, Paul anchored us in hope.

Now we tackle one of the more confusing passages in this beautiful chapter, but study can bring understanding and opportunity for fresh applications. Once understood, this passage brings great comfort!

What must we see in this passage?

"Likewise..."

What is Paul comparing? He's asking, *"Did I convince you of hope? Ok, if you're good, then you should be convinced of this too!"*

1. **Groaning**: everyone is groaning (us, earth, and the Spirit).
2. Just as we're anchored in His hope for our suffering, we must also be anchored in His help for our prayer life. We need two things: **hope & help**. God gives us BOTH!
 - If we just have hope, we can look forward to the future but get lost in the moment.
 - If we just have help, we can be confident of our next step but have no great end achievement.

"The Spirit helps us."

What is the nature of this helping? *To come alongside one who is already trying*. The Spirit of God is here to HELP each of us pray. Wow!

1. **Why? When it comes to our prayer life, we have a weakness.**
 - This weakness doesn't go away. Paul includes himself too, so don't be prideful (thinking our spiritual life is better than his).
2. **"us"**: as in [Romans 8:1](#), Paul is referring to believers here.

What in particular is He helping?

"We do not know what we ought to pray for as we ought..."

Not knowing better *how* or *when* to pray, but knowing *what* to pray for specifically. If we weren't living under the burden of sin, we'd know better what to pray for.

Who do we want to trust? Him or ourselves? This is of great comfort! We don't have to *get it right*, the Spirit *gets it right* for us.

JAMES 4:3

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

MATTHEW 20:22

Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able."

THE WILL OF GOD

- Men would be saved.
- We understand His Word.
- We bear fruit of the Spirit.

IMPACT

- We can pray for specific things
- We can *desire* things (assuming not sinful)
- We must surrender all to His will. *If praying *His will* was Christ's request, then it should be ours too!

DISCUSS

1. When have you experienced a "Romans 8:26" moment? Did you struggle to know what to pray for? How did things end up working out? Or, are you in one of those moments right now? What are you facing?
2. Why is it dangerous to feel strong and believe we see the whole picture? Given that we are "omniNOT", how can we be content with the ambiguity God has allowed in our lives?

What does the Spirit do? *"He intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words..."*

Facts:

- It is the Spirit groaning
- This is not tongues
 - For all (tongues is not: [1 Corinthians 12:30](#))
 - Unutterable
 - This does not negate a *prayer language*, this just isn't that.
- *"For us..."* / not *'with us'*
 - Think about that: the HOLY SPIRIT IS PRAYING FOR YOU!

How might this happen?

The Translator:

Your Prayer: *"God, I'd really like to marry THIS person."*

Translator: *"God, he'd like to get married to the right person at the right time to build a family and honor You in marriage. Help him be patient and not be an idiot in the meantime."*

The Extender...

Your Prayer: *"God, HELP ME."*

Extender: *"God, HELP ME ...remain faithful amid the trial and preserve my faith and integrity; get through this season; not lose my cool; have the wisdom to make the right decision."*

The Silencer...

Your Prayer: *...Some selfish nonsense...*

Silencer: *"Let's pretend you didn't hear that, Lord..."*

The Return to Sender:

Your Prayer: *"God, destroy that person and all their evil." "God, give me this thing that I desire."*

Return to Sender: *"Why don't you let the Gospel break into your heart a little bit and we'll try again."*

Our prayers often reveal our hearts.

Why does this work?

Because of how well God knows us. He gave the Holy Spirit to help. We can trust Him!

- He looks at our hearts ([1 Samuel 16:7](#))
- He searches and understands them too ([1 Chronicles 28:9](#))
- He sees past our tendency to justify ourselves when we certainly don't deserve it ([Luke 16:15](#)).
- It informs how we preach and speak ([1 Thessalonians 2:4](#)). We don't need to worry about everyone, God is in control and He knows what He is doing.