

ROMANS 8:26-39

****We continue to see how the Holy Spirit helps us in our circumstances of life. The Holy Spirit sustains us in our weaknesses and intercedes on our behalf to the Father, especially in our prayer life.**

Romans 8:26 - 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.

1. The Holy Spirit groans for us, just as we groan in this world. He strengthens us in our weakness, including our spiritual feebleness - the sin that dwells in us, our weak and sick bodies, and our trials.
2. Here in verse 26, we see our lack of knowing how to pray in particular situations. We get stumped in what is right for us to pray for.

**Especially in times of sufferings or about someone we love, we do not know how to pray or what we should pray for.*

3. The Spirit comes alongside to help assist us in our weakness and intercedes for us concerning how deeply God is involved in our lives.
1. The Father knows what is in the heart of the believer and also in the mind of the Spirit. As the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:27 - 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*.

intercedes on our behalf, our prayers are then conformed according to the will of God.

**We may not know what to pray for, but the Father knows our hearts. We may fumble with our words, but the Holy Spirit helps us to adjust our prayers and be in agreement with the Father's will.*

Philippians 4:6-7 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Php. 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus

2. We may not understand it all. But if we pray God's way, we will have peace that supersedes our understanding.
1. Sometimes when we are suffering heartbreak, a tragedy, disappointment and frustration, we wonder what

Romans 8:28 - 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.

good can come out of it. (We will see the answer to this in verse 29.)

- a. These sufferings work together for good. It does not say they are good, but God makes them beneficial and profitable. God will cause those things to produce good in your life by God's will.
 - b. We are not going to get good from every detail of our life. Suffering and tribulation are bad to us, but it works together with God's purpose - which is completed one day at the Rapture.
2. These things only work good for those who love God - the believers. The natural man (the lost person), in the flesh, has no love relationship with God because he is dead in sin.

1 John 4:7-8 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Romans 8:29 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1. This verse provides the answer to how God is going to accomplish what He has promised us. God knows beforehand who will and who won't be saved.
2. God, being all-knowing, knew us even before creation. He knew who would become believers and who would be enmity with Him.

*The word "predestinate" is the Greek word for "foreordained", meaning "predetermined". God has determined beforehand that all those saved are to become more Christ-like.

3. God's purpose is for all of His sons (believers) to resemble His Divine Son.

*We will be rewarded not only for living for Him now, but when we are raptured up and resurrected into our glorified bodies, we will be like Him even more than ever.

Romans 8:30 - Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

1. In verses 28-30, plus the remaining verses in this chapter 8, we can see the believer's eternal security that we have in Christ.

*Predestinated cannot be altered, for it includes the present moment of time as well as the vast reaches of eternity past and future.
2. God has determined for those He foreknew to be predestined. This means He mapped out, in advance, the believer's area which allows them to be conformed to Christ. Predestination is for the believer and never to the lost person. The saved can only conform with Christ.
3. All are called of God, but only a few respond.

*All who respond are justified and given a righteous standing before God, whereby they are clothed with the righteousness of God through the merits of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

4. Here are the key definitions to 5 words used in these verses:

① Foreknowledge - Before the world ever existed, God knew me and God knew I belong to Him.

② Predestination - In eternity past, God marked out a wonderful future for me, that I should be like His Son.

③ Calling - God brought me to Himself in a miraculous way, out of my darkness into His marvelous light.

④ Justification - God declared me to be perfectly righteous in His Son Jesus Christ. This is based upon His finished work on the cross.

⑤ Glorification - God will complete my salvation in the mind and plan of God. It is as good as done!

5. What God starts, He promises to finish.

Hebrews 12:2 - Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Romans 8:31 - What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

1. Here to the end of Chapter 8, Paul gives the believer the attributes of God. Paul is telling us that nothing we will experience in life will separate us from the love of God.

*It is not about whether we fail or sin, or our feelings. But, it is about His love for us.

2. Paul follows up with some questions to prove that there is no doubt about what he has said.

*"If God be for us, who can be against us?" No one! If God is for us, it does not matter who is against us. The strength of any possible adversary is utter weakness compared to the omnipotence of God's power.

3. The foundation of our hope is the grace of God and His gift.

Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Eph. 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Romans 8:32 - He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

1. We must never allow ourselves to forget what Jesus Christ had sacrificed and what He took upon Himself all our sins - so we can have an everlasting life in the heavenlies.

*When a world of lost mankind needed to be saved by a sinless Substitute, our great God of creation did not hold back giving His Son over to a death of shame on our behalf.

Romans 4:25 - Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

2. Now, if God gave His most costly gift (His Son), He would never hold back giving us His purpose for our life. He freely gives us everything necessary for this life's journey.

1. This has the idea that we have been arraigned in the highest court in the universe. But, because we are in Christ, we have been found not guilty.

Romans 8:33 - Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

2. We are acquitted, pardoned, and forgiven of all our sins. We are cleared of every charge against us once and forever.

3. God has already acted on our case and declared us righteous - not on our merits, but upon Christ and who we are in Him now.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Romans 8:34 - Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

1. No person, or Satan, can accuse us with any verdict. The reason is that we are in Christ's position of sinlessness. We are in Christ and Christ is in us - so now there are no flaws or sin found.
2. The Holy Spirit, the Father, and now Jesus Christ are on our side. The Son prays for us with power and authority, being on the Father's right hand, to give us benefits for our good.

Colossians 2:14-15 - Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; Col. 2:15 *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

3. We see in this verse:
 - a. Christ's Death - the final sacrifice for sin.
 - b. Christ's Resurrection - the proven work.
 - c. Christ's Ascension - the place of authority to reign.
 - d. Christ's Intercession - Christ for us in heaven.
1. Even these 7 enemies mentioned in this verse cannot separate us from the love of Christ. It is all about His

Romans 8:35 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

love for us. Our security is dependent upon Christ's work on the cross.

- a. tribulation - these are the afflictions we endure in life.
 - b. distress - to be pressed by life's troubles.
 - c. persecution - those that want to harm you.
 - d. famine - natural disasters we can experience in life.
 - e. nakedness - refers to a poverty we could live in life.
 - f. peril - the dangers and risks present in the world.
 - g. sword - an organized government to assault the Christian.
1. Paul quotes Psalms 44:22 here, where the psalmist expresses sorrows of a godly people who are undergoing sufferings in the land.

Romans 8:36 - As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

*This is our identification with the Lord, not because we are separated from the love of God, but because we are under the love of God.

2. We know in a lost world - we are appointed problems because God has not taken the problems away yet.

Philippians 1:27-30 - Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; Php. 1:28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. Php. 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Php. 1:30 Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

Romans 8:37 - Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

1. We will become conquerors and have victory one day by making all our adversities serve us for good.
2. We can do this because God loves us! Believers become conquerors over tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and of the sword because our citizenship is in heaven.

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Rom. 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Paul comes to the conclusion that these other things we face in life can never separate us from the love of Christ:
 - a. "neither death" - death separates the soul from the body.
 - b. "nor life" - dangers in this world that affect our life.
 - c. "nor angels, nor principalities" - these are the hostile fallen angels.
 - d. "nor powers" - Satan & his evil plan to influence the Christian.
 - e. "nor things present" - whatever the present evil world system throws at us.
 - f. "nor things to come" - whatever arises in the future, we have been saved.
 - g. "nor height" - refers to the vast universe and beyond.
 - h. "nor depth" - even the lowest point in hell will not remove God's love.
 - i. "nor any other creature" - if anything Paul left out that might exist that could attack us, our position of love in Christ makes it impossible to remove us.

In Closing:

*Often people randomly take these final two verses and apply them to all people, regardless if they are saved or unsaved. These verses here in the last part of Chapter 8 are only promised to those "in Christ" and who love God (His saints).

*Unbelievers will be separated from the love of Christ and that separation will be for all eternity!