

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS LESSON 53 PART 1: “OUR DIVINE PRAYER-PARTNER”

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.*

²⁷ *And 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.*

Since the beginning of **ROMANS 8**, Paul has been revealing the work of the Holy Spirit in assisting the Believer to live to the glory of God... how to live-out the righteousness we have in Christ Jesus. As Believers are “led by the Spirit” they will experience the grace and peace God has planned for their lives, and they will testify to the World that they are “Sons of God.”

The **HOLY SPIRIT** is God’s gift to the Believer. He is our **COMFORTER**, our **HELPER**, our **TEACHER**, our **LEADER**... our **DIVINE COACH**. But that’s not ALL.

IN THE SAME MANNER ... THE (HOLY) SPIRIT

8:26a) **Likewise** *the Spirit...*

When I see these words my first reaction is to ask: “*In the same manner as what?*” or “*Like what?*” What is the Holy Spirit doing, here, in the same manner as He was doing elsewhere?

The reference goes back to ROM 8:14-17:

- **14)** *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.* ¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”* ¹⁶ *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,* ¹⁷ *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

“In the same manner” that the Holy Spirit “**helps us LIVE**” according to the will and purpose of God... The Holy Spirit “HELPS” us in THIS weakness.

Just as we cannot live a life pleasing o God without the Holy Spirit’s assistance... neither can we “overcome” THIS weakness with His HELP. WHAT weakness? We will come to that.

THERE IS HELP AND THERE IS HELP

8:26b) “the Spirit **helps** us...”

In JOHN 14 & 16, Jesus told the Disciples that He would send, “another Helper (Comforter).” We showed in our study that this word is much better translated as “Encourager or Coach.”

- The “**Paracletes**” is *one who comes to our side to call us to victory, strength, wisdom, or knowledge.*
➤ He is like a “**Coach**” who stands at your side to teach, direct, inform, encourage, and challenge.
➤ Jesus said He would not just be “**WITH us**” but would be “**IN us**” ... ALWAYS!

That’s the Help we need to live for Him!

BUT here, we find another word for “*helps /helper*”... one which is so specific to THIS application.

- The word is “**Sunantilambano**” – to “*take hold with you against (so as to carry) the weight*” / one who helps us when we are working against the weight of the problem.
- It is a picture of 2 persons carrying a heavy weight (*a log*) – they carry “facing one another”
- The “sun-” prefix means that when the “primary” is carrying, the other “helps” ... IF the “primary” doesn’t carry, neither will the other “help”
- In other words, this is NOT turning this over to someone else... the Holy Spirit.
- HE will help us... but He will NOT do it for us...

OUR WEAKNESS

8:26c) “*the Spirit helps us in our weakness...we do not know how to pray as is necessary...(as we ought, or as is required)*”

WHAT is the “weakness” that the Holy Spirit HELPS?

- **Weakness** – **Astheneia** – *the resulting condition of disease or sickness: weakness / fatigue*
- **We do not know** - “**Oide**” – *full perception / understanding vs learning – to have a complete understanding of a thing... beyond the apparent or reasonable*

Knowledge, especially in Paul’s Letters, is an enormously important topic.

To Paul, “*learning (Gnosis)*” led to “*Understanding (Oide)*” – the more the Believers “*knew*” specifically, the more they would “*understand*” the greater work or plan of God and their place

How often did Paul write: “*Know this... / Knowing... / Do you not know... / I would that you be not ignorant / etc.*”

One of the greatest dilemmas of the believer is in **being able to know how to pray perfectly**. Our problem—*the flesh*—tends to get in the way.

We don’t hear God perfectly; don’t make perfect choices; don’t arrive at the perfect conclusions.

Our flesh tends to color everything we desire with the weaknesses of our sin nature

ROMANS LESSON 53 PART 2: “OUR DIVINE PRAYER-PARTNER”

- *...For we do not know [THE] what we should pray for [as is the necessity /as we ought to know / as is required]*
 - “*...[THE] what*” - This is a specific construction in the Greek language indicating precise knowledge, not just general insight.
 - “*...as is necessary [to know]*” - Here we find out what the **weakness** is—our **lack** of **specific knowledge / a clear understanding** about “*what is really necessary to pray*”

HERE is where we often go wrong... INSTEAD of drawing upon the “plan” ALREADY set in place by God...

We begin to establish “rules / steps / patterns / rituals / traditions... in order to assure that our “praying” is RIGHT

GOD HAS A MORE PERFECT SOLUTION... (As Always) ‘...but the *Spirit Himself* ... **makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered [articulated]**.

- *The Spirit Himself ...* - This is how the (Holy) Spirit accomplishes His work—HE brings us the specific wisdom to pray effectively *[taking hold together with us against the weight of our lack of knowledge]*
- *...Makes Intercession – huperentunchano* to meet in conference or council regarding the need of someone else, and TOTALLY for *their benefit*. The form of the Greek verb used here also indicates that while the Holy Spirit is the one doing this praying, WE are the recipients of all his work.
 - AS we are praying... HE is praying... (IF we don't pray... HE doesn't pray)
 - WE pray for the need AS WE KNOW IT...
 - HE prays **FOR US** to have the knowledge to PRAY PRECISELY what is needed...
- [His praying is] ...with *Groanings* which cannot be uttered - *“deep sighing’s that are beyond spoken words.”* This phrase does not refer primarily to the prayers of the believer, *but to those being offered by the Holy Spirit on behalf OF and FOR the benefit* of the believers.
- The “groanings” of the Holy Spirit are NOT the same as “Praying in the Spirit [in Tongues]” –
- **1 COR 14:14-15** For if I pray in a tongue, *my spirit prays* but my mind is unfruitful.
- ¹⁵ What am I to do? *I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind* also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

These prayers are to “help” us *find the wisdom* to pray “...as is necessary...”.

- While “*The Spirit intercedes for us...*” we receive the *insights to pray effectively*. This wisdom comes to the believer by:
 - *Praying with the Spirit AND with the Understanding;*
 - *Meditating in God’s Word;*
 - *Personal communion with God;*
 - *Praise and Worship.*

THE PURPOSE OF “PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT”

JUDE 20–23

²⁰ And you beloved, *building up* (2) your selves [upon] the foundation of your Most Holy Faith, [that is, by] *praying* (1) in the Holy Spirit...

1) *Praying* 2) *Building-up*

²¹ *keep* (3) yourselves in the love of God, *looking* (4) for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

3) *Keep yourselves* 4) *Looking*

What Will Be The Results?

²² And on *some* have *compassion*, *making a distinction* [“making-up their doubting”];

²³ but *others* *save with fear*, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.