

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS LESSON 54 PART 1: “THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY”

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.*

The Holy Spirit Intercedes FOR us ... NOT “*in our place*” but with US as the very object of HIS prayer.

Our weakness, “*knowing how to pray as is necessary*” is the focus of the Holy Spirit's Intercession. When WE pray...HE Prays for us. His help is realized in giving us the words to pray effectively. In this manner, our prayers are “fine-tuned” into praying according to the WILL of God. And when we pray according to His will, “*He hears us, and we know we have the petition we requested from Him*” (1 John 5:14-15).

To “*jump ahead*” in our lessons, look at one of the most familiar and beloved verses in the New Testament.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together [sunergeo] for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

“Things” don’t “work themselves together”... some ONE “*WORKS them together...*” (synergizes them).

- WHO is this ONE that has the “power” to cause them to work together? GOD!
- And HOW is God working them together? By Helping US pray according to HIS will.
- And WHY is GOD doing this? Because WE love Him, and we are called according to HIS purpose (His pleasure).
- And WHAT is the ultimate goal of GOD working all these things together? Well... that takes us all the way to the end of ROMANS 8.

MY EXPANDED PARAPHRASE OF ROMANS 8:26:

In a manner similar to the way the Holy Spirit assists us to “live-out” the Life of God that is within us, HE takes ahold of the burden we have in NOT being able to pray with the wisdom and insight that are necessary in order to have our prayers be in line with God’s will.

So, as WE pray for the burden that is upon our hearts, the HOLY SPIRIT prays for US. His conversation with God is so intense and so deep that we do not even hear His words... but it IS happening. And it happens EVERY time we pray.

He meets with GOD totally on our behalf to determine the words that are in accordance with God’s will, and then, as we are listening, HE gives the proper words TO us. IN this manner WE are then able to pray fully in accordance with God’s will.

THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR US

8:26a) **Likewise** the Spirit helps our weakness... we don't know how to pray as is necessary..."

8:26c) "The Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words..."

8:27b) "The Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

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 54 PART 2: "THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY"

GOD HAS A MORE PERFECT SOLUTION... (As Always)

- ...**Makes Intercession** – **hyperentunchano** 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]**" – see below

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"

"Praying in the Spirit" has a special place in the purpose of God for the Believer. [Also referred to as: Praying in Tongues; Praying in Other Tongues; Praying in Unknown Tongues; or just as Tongues.]

- **Praying in (with) the Spirit** is a special ability that is given to the Believer who has been "**Baptized in the Holy Spirit**".

- When we are **“Saved”** by faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit WITHIN us. This brings recreation of the human spirit (New Birth), union with the Father and the Son, Baptism INTO the Body of Christ, and the reality of the presence of the **“Helper”** that Jesus taught about in **JOHN 14 & 16**. This is the Holy Spirit flowing INTO them. **This is the Spirit WITHIN.**
- When a Believer is **“Baptized in the Holy Spirit”** (filled with the Spirit), it is the Holy Spirit coming UPON them. [Acts 1:8]
This brings **“power”** to the Believer to BE a Witness. This power is manifest through them in **Gifts of the Spirit; Power for Service; Power to Minister to others**. It is the Holy Spirit flowing OUT of them. **This is the Holy Spirit UPON.**
- In the New Testament, when Believers received the **“Baptism of the Holy Spirit”** it was accompanied by **“speaking in Tongues”**. [**ACTS 2:4; 11 ; ACTS 10:44-48 ; ACTS 19:5-6**]
- In context, their **“Tongues”** were magnifying God; glorifying God; praising God; and prophesying about God.
- These **“Tongues”** are further identified as **“the tongues of Angels”** [1 COR 13:1]
- They are also identified as either directed to Man... Or to God... [1 COR 14].
- When directed to Man the MUST be interpreted so that the Church can be edified.
 - THIS is also called **“The Manifestation (Gift) of Tongues.”** It is accompanied by the “Manifestation of the Interpretation of Tongues.” [1 COR 12:7-11]
 - It is “God speaking to Man through a Believer in order to Exhort, Edify, or Encourage. [1 COR 14:3]
 - THIS use of **“Tongues”** is to be regulated within the Congregation.
- When directed to God they are NOT interpreted for Man is NOT being addressed... GOD is.
- When **“Praying in Tongues”** it is GOD being addressed. No Interpretation is necessary (*it is no different that when one would pray in their native tongue in the midst of foreigners*).
- When we **“pray in tongues”** we are speaking **“mysteries to God”** – NO ONE understands... NO ONE needs to. BUT God does understand.
- When we **pray in tongues**, WE are the one being EDIFIED. [1 COR 14:4]
- When we **“pray in tongues”** our **“human spirit”** prays... NOT our mind.
- The pattern IS: **Pray with the SPIRIT...** THEN **Pray with the UNDERSTANDING.**
- THIS is the way the Holy Spirit HELPS us pray **“according to the Will of God.”**
- My Handout on **1 CORINTHIANS 14** is color coded to indicate the different instructions for **Tongues Directed To Man From God** (↓); and **Tongues Directed To God From Man** (↑).

[Pastor Geoff Pybas: HomeChurch Podcast July 31, 2022 “For the Common Good: Edification”]

➤ 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.*

➤ 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.*