

## THE HOLY SPIRIT'S HELP IN PRAYER

Romans 8:26-27

**(Rom 8:26-27)**, "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. {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."



- S** I began preparing this message a few weeks ago. The further I got into my study, the more I realized I wanted to spend more time preparing this message than one week would allow. The reason I wanted to spend more time was that God was speaking to my heart. Sometimes God has the preacher prepare a message for someone else. Sometimes God has the preacher prepare a message for the preacher. Hopefully others will be blessed because we all have common needs.
- S** In the course of this message I will highlight **NINE KEY WORDS** from our text. Understanding those nine key words will help **unlock** the truths found in this passage.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> KEY WORD – "SAINTS"

**(V. 27)**, "... He maketh intercession for the **SAINTS** . . . "

- S** "**SAINTS**" **ARE** believers in Jesus Christ. If you have received Jesus as your personal Savior, then **YOU ARE A SAINT**.
- S** THE WORD "SAINT" **CONJURES UP** various **IMAGES** in the minds of different people. Some people **CRINGE** when they hear the word "saint" because in their mind's eye they **envision** a person who never sins and who spends every waking moment in prayer. **THAT IS NOT** the picture the Bible paints of the saint. When you read the Book of **1 Corinthians** and consider all the problems that church had, you realize that N.T. Saints were not perfect. In spite of their problems, Paul still called them "Saints" (1 Cor 1:2).

**S** **SAINTS ARE NOT PERFECT** people, they are **FORGIVEN** people. Saints are folks who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. **THAT MEANS IF YOU** have received Jesus as personal Savior, then **YOU ARE A "SAINT."**

**S** **SOMEONE MIGHT BE THINKING**, "Well, I have placed my faith in Jesus Christ and I am a Christian, but **I DON'T FEEL LIKE A SAINT."** The fact is, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then you are a "saint" whether you feel like it or not. **ONE GREAT WAY TO GROW** as a Christian is to find out what God says you are in Christ and live accordingly.

**S** THE WORD "**SAINTS**" makes this passage **A CONDITIONAL PROMISE** of God. **SOME OF GOD'S PROMISES ARE UNCONDITIONAL**, while **OTHER PROMISES OF GOD ARE CONDITIONAL**. In order for a conditional promise of God to be experienced, the conditions have to be met.

**S** THE **CONDITION** in our text is that the person is a "**SAINT.**" **(V. 27)**, "... He maketh intercession for the **SAINTS** . . . "

This promise is addressed to those who have placed their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. The promise is not addressed to an unbeliever.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> KEY WORD – "SAINTS"

### 2<sup>ND</sup> KEY WORD – "SPIRIT"

THE WORD **SPIRIT** OCCURS **THREE TIMES** IN OUR TEXT: **(V. 26-27)**, "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. {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."

**S** Each occurrence of the word "SPIRIT" IS **CAPITALIZED**, thus indicating it is A REFERENCE TO THE **HOLY SPIRIT**.

**S** A person that is **UNFAMILIAR** with the Bible might wonder **WHO** the Holy Spirit is. The Holy Spirit is God. **GOD IS ONE GOD** (Deut 6:4). That **ONE GOD** has revealed **HIMSELF AS BEARING THREE RELATIONSHIPS TO MAN**. The word we use to describe that reality is **"TRINITY."** **ALTHOUGH** the word **"TRINITY"** **DOES NOT OCCUR** in Scripture, the three Persons of the Trinity are **clearly revealed** in the Scripture.

THE TRINITY WAS EVIDENT **AT JESUS' BAPTISM:**

**(Mat 3:16-17)**, "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the **SPIRIT** of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: {17} And lo **A VOICE** from heaven, saying, This is my beloved **SON**, in whom I am well pleased."

JESUS SAID IN **THE GREAT COMMISSION:**

**(Mat 28:19)**, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the **FATHER** and of the **SON** and of the **HOLY SPIRIT.**" (NKJV)

**S** **THE FOCUS OF OUR TEXT IS UPON THE "SPIRIT,"** rather than upon the **Father**, or the **Son**.

**S** **SCRIPTURE TEACHES THAT WHEN** a person accepts Christ as personal Lord and Savior, that **THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKES UP RESIDENCE** in their life.

**C** **(1 Cor 6:19)**, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost **WHICH IS IN YOU**, /// which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

**C** **(John 14:17)**, "Even **the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for **HE DWELLETH WITH YOU**, and **SHALL BE IN YOU.**"

**S** When the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the life of a believer, He accomplishes many things.

## **#1. HE GIVES ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

**(Rom 8:16)**, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"

**(Eph 1:14)**, "who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

## **#2. HE EQUIPS WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**(1 Cor 12:4)**, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."

## **#3. HE GIVES DIRECTION FOR LIFE**

**(Acts 13:2)**, "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

## **#4. HE GIVES POWER FOR CHRISTIAN WITNESS**

**(Acts 1:8)**, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

## **#5. HE ENABLES CHRISTIAN CHARACTER**

**(Gal 5:22-23)**, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, {23} Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

## **#6. HE OFFERS COMFORT TO THE BELIEVER**

**(John 16:7)**, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

The Greek word for "comforter" is **"PARAKLETOS"** (par-ak'-lay-tos). It is translated as **"COMFORTER"** (KJV). It comes from a compound Greek word: **"Para"** meaning **"beside"** (parallel), and **"Kaleo"** meaning **"to call."** The Holy Spirit is the One who is called to walk beside God's children and to comfort them. The word is translated a variety of ways in Scripture:

**C** "comforter" (KJV)

**C** "helper" (NAS)

**C** "advocate" (NEB)

**C** "counselor" (NIV)

The **HOLY SPIRIT** does all those previously mentioned things for those who are "saints." **HE IS OUR ENCOURAGER.**

## **#7. HE PRAYS FOR THE BELIEVER**

3<sup>RD</sup> KEY WORD – “**PRAY**”

**(V. 26)**, "... We know not what we should **PRAY** for as we ought: . . . "

- S We generally think of prayer in **terms of** our praying to God. Our text is **UNIQUE** in that it tells us that **GOD PRAYS FOR US**.
- S ONE OF THE **GREATEST WAYS** THE HOLY SPIRIT has of **encouraging** and **comforting** the believer is to **PRAY FOR US**.
- S In this message, we will attempt to answer **THREE QUESTIONS** regarding the Holy Spirit praying for us.
  - I. **WHY DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAY FOR US?**
  - II. **WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAY FOR US?**
  - III. **HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAY FOR US?**

**I. WHY DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAY FOR US?**

S **TWO REASONS WHY** the Holy Spirit prays for us:

**#1. HE PRAYS FOR US BECAUSE OF OUR IGNORANCE**

**(V. 26)**, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for **WE KNOW NOT** what we should pray for as we ought: . . . "

4<sup>th</sup> KEY WORD – “**KNOW**” (“**WE KNOW NOT**”)

- S Sometimes we **just don't know** what to pray. We are simply **ignorant of knowing** what to say. Our ability to use the proper words is beyond us.
- S **MANY OF THE GREAT SAINTS** of the Bible didn't know what to pray for in certain circumstances, either.
  - (1) **HEZEKIAH** was one of the godly kings of Israel. **HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO PRAY**. As godly as Hezekiah was, consider his confession of ignorance when it came to knowing what to pray. **(Isa 38:14-15)**, "Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me. {15} **WHAT**

**SHALL I SAY?** he hath both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul."

- (2) **MOSES** was the meekest man on earth in his day (Numb 12:3). God did mighty things through the life of Moses. In spite of Moses' unique relationship with God, He prayed the wrong thing on one occasion.

**(Deu 3:25)**, "I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon."

Moses asked God for something totally contrary to God's will for his life. Apparently, Moses **DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO PRAY**. If he knew, then he simply prayed wrong. Whichever the case, God told him "no." God had to help Moses know what to pray.

- (3) **PAUL DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO PRAY**.

Paul asked God three times to remove the "**THORN**" from his life. God said "no" to Paul, too.

**(2 Cor 12:7)**, "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me **A THORN** in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."

**(2 Cor 12:8-9)**, "For this thing **I BESOUGHT THE LORD THRICE**, that it might depart from me. {9} And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness . . . "

God had to tell Paul, "No." God had to help Paul know how to pray.

- S **KNOWING WHAT TO PRAY** in every area of life is **not always so clear**. Our own ignorance of God's will oftentimes plays a part. Which option to pray is sometimes uncertain. Without the help of the Holy Spirit, it would be impossible.

- C When **threatened**, do we **retreat**, or do we **charge**?
- C When **hurting**, do we seek **healing**, or do we **endure**?
- C Does **the missionary** on the foreign field **remain** in a hostile setting and leave his family at risk, or does he **leave**?

**S** Two Christians might be in identical situations and God's will for one is different from God's will for another. In fact, God's will for the same person might be different at different intervals of the crisis. God might want his child to **stand** in the face of danger on one occasion and **retreat** under the same circumstances on another occasion.

**S** We sometimes do not know how to pray. We **need not despair** when we do not know **WHAT** to pray, because the Holy Spirit helps us. We may **not know** what to pray in certain circumstances, but **the Holy Spirit does**. He makes up for our lack of knowledge. All God's children need God's help when it comes to praying the right prayer.

#1. HE PRAYS FOR US BECAUSE OF **OUR IGNORANCE**

## **#2. HE PRAYS FOR US BECAUSE OF OUR INFIRMITIES**

**(V. 26)**, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our **INFIRMITIES**: . . ."

5<sup>th</sup> KEY WORD – "**INFIRMITIES**" ("WEAKNESSES")

**S** One of humanity's **most distinguishing characteristics** is **not** our STRENGTH, but our WEAKNESS.

**S** Sometimes we are **SO WEAK** that we cannot pray at all. Not only are we incapable of knowing "what" to pray, we just simply cannot pray. The **PSALMIST** serves as an example.

**(Psa 77:4)**, "Thou holdest mine eyes waking: **I am so troubled that I cannot speak.**"

**S** **HERB KONKLE** spent seven months being fed liquids through a tube in his stomach. His stomach would not function for seven months. He tells of a time early on in that experience when he could not muster enough strength to pray. He said he didn't know if it was due to the medicine, or what, but he just could not pray.

**S** **When** we are **transparent**, we will admit there are times when we feel like the psalmist. Not only do we not know "what to pray," **we just simply cannot pray**. There are times of **disability, weakness, misery, whatever**, that we are **so consumed** by **frailty** that we **cannot muster** enough strength to pray at all.

**S** Our **inability** does **not surprise** God. Just read the Bible and you will discover that the **GREAT SAINTS** of Scripture were weak, too.

(1) **ELIJAH** ran from Jezebel because of his weakness. He pulled up under the juniper tree and **wanted to DIE** because of his weakness (1 Kings 19:4). The Holy Spirit prays for us in times like that.

(2) **JOB** was called by God the greatest man in the east. God said there were no others like him. Not many chapters later, Job wanted to die. Job was miserable. The Holy Spirit prays for us when we are unable to pray ourselves.

(3) **Everyone AGONIZES** in **weakness** at times.

**S** The weakness of the "saints" does not shock God. Your weakness does not shock God any more than Elijah's weakness shocked God. What is surprising is that we think we are strong.

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THE SCRIPTURE REVEALS **WHY** OUR "WEAKNESS" DOES NOT SURPRISE GOD.

**(Rom 8:20)**, "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason **OF HIM** who hath subjected the same in hope,"

The "**HIM**" is speaking of God Himself. When Adam sinned, God subjected the creation to **futility** and **frustration**. That action was not voluntary on the part of creation. The creation had **no choice**. God simply **decreed it** and it was so.

**THE EVIDENCE** of that futility is experienced at every turn in life. Every time you turn around, something else breaks down. Every year seems to add some new evidence of frailty. An elderly deacon once told me that when you get old each new year adds a new pain you didn't have the year before.

**WHY WOULD GOD** intentionally subject creation to futility? One simple word reveals the answer. He did it with "**hope.**" God knew that apart from His help, humanity would trust in itself, rather than trust in God, and would die in sin. God clearly showed the futility in trusting in anything, or anyone, other than God Himself.

**S** Don't let your weakness **cause you to lose heart**. The Holy Spirit **prays for you**. **He knows** your weakness. The reason we have not already crumbled beneath the load is the Holy Spirit is praying for us.

I. **WHY DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAY FOR US?**

- #1. **IGNORANCE**
- #2. **INFIRMITIES**

## II. WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAY FOR US?

**S** **TWO THINGS** the Holy Spirit prays for us:

### #1. HE PRAYS FOR OUR NEED

**(V. 26)**, "Likewise the Spirit also **HELPETH** our infirmities: . . ."

6<sup>th</sup> KEY WORD – "**HELPS**"

**S** The Greek word for "helps" is very revealing. It is **a picture word** that is **rich** in meaning. First, it is in the **present tense**. That means the Holy Spirit "helps" and "**keeps on helping**." The one who walks beside us, never stops helping.

**C** **(Heb 13:5)**, ". . . I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

**C** **(Phil 1:6)**, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

**C** **(Phil 2:13)**, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

**S** The word "**HELPS**" **depicts** someone coming along side another person to help them carry a heavy load.

**C** Years ago, while **CAMPING** with our kids, they would sometimes take the five-gallon plastic **WATER JUG** to go get water for the camp. If they did not have help, they sometimes struggled to carry that big jug by themselves. It was common for someone else to come along beside them and poke a stick through the handle to help them carry the load. With one person on each end of the stick, the load was made bearable.

**C** **CARRYING LIFE'S BURDENS** can be a bit heavy at times. Perhaps that is why the Bible says, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Pet 5:7). He doesn't just **sit idly by** watching us be crushed beneath some burden. **He knows** that if we were left to our own resources for a single hour we would all be crushed. God knows that **the only way any of us** would ever make it is for Him **to help us** carry the load. And "help" us is exactly what God does. **GOD** helps us carry our load.

**S** Mark it down clear and plain, **GOD HELPS HIS CHILDREN CARRY THEIR LOAD! THE BIBLE** is full of examples.

(1) WHEN **ELIJAH** was weary and discouraged, God sent an angel and gave him **FOOD**.

**C** **(1 Ki 19:5)**, "And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat."

(2) WHEN **PETER** was at the point of denying Jesus, Jesus **PRAYED** for Peter.

**C** **(Luke 22:31-32)**, "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: {32} But **I HAVE PRAYED FOR THEE**, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

(3) WHEN **PAUL** was burdened under the pain of his **THORN**, God gave him **STRENGTH**.

**C** **(2 Cor 12:7-9)**, "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me **a thorn** in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. {8} For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. {9} And he said unto me, **MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE**: for **MY STRENGTH IS** made perfect in weakness. **MOST GLADLY** therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

#1. HE PRAYS FOR OUR NEED

## #2. HE PRAYS FOR GOD'S WILL

**(V. 27)**, "... He maketh intercession for the saints ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD."

7<sup>th</sup> KEY WORD – "WILL"

- S** The Holy Spirit **always** prays the perfect will of God. Because He **always** prays the perfect will of God, His prayers are **ALWAYS ANSWERED**.

**(1 John 5:14-15)**, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will**, he heareth us: {15} And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that **we have the petitions** that we desired of him."

- S** One of the **most often asked questions** that has come to me over the years as a pastor is **WHY** does God not do for me what I have requested of Him in prayer **ONE KEY** to answering that question is found in verse 27. **SOMETIMES** our will does not match the will of God. We pray contrary to the will of God. Our desire doesn't match God's desire. David wrote, "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart"(Psa 37:4). The key to that verse is that our delight is God's delight.
- S** Sometimes God doesn't answer our prayers because we do not pray God's will. Like the saints in the Bible, we have all prayed contrary to God's will before. We might not have known it was contrary to God's will as the time, but with time the evidence became clear.
- S** Aren't you thankful God did not answer some **your childhood prayers?**
- (1)** When **AMY CARMICHAEL** was just a little girl, she asked God to change the color of her eyes from brown to blue. God never answered her prayers. Years later she was so thankful. In the nation where she served, she had to dress and disguise herself as one of the nationals. If she had had blue eyes, she would have been discovered. She was thankful God had not answered her silly childhood prayer.

- (2)** A college student prayed that a certain girl would like him. He even wrote this girl and told her he believed it was God's will that they date and eventually get married. She was not at all impressed. He prayed contrary to God's will.

- S** **THE HOLY SPIRIT** always prays for us in accordance with the will of God. As a result, the Holy Spirit's prayer **IS ALWAYS HEARD** and is **ALWAYS ANSWERED**. It is important to understand that sometimes the Holy Spirit's prayer is that the "thorn" remain, rather than the thorn be removed.
- S** Many of our prayers are requests that God would **REVERSE Romans 8:20**
- C** **(Rom 8:20)**, "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,"

Someday, God will remove the curse that exists upon earth. Jesus even taught us to pray toward that end. "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Mat 6:10). But, until it is God's will to reverse the curse, the curse will remain. Until then, I don't care how much you love the Lord, and how godly you are, you will eventually die. It doesn't matter how many times you pray that you escape physical death, you will still die if the Lord carries.

### I. **WHY DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAY FOR US?**

- #1. **IGNORANCE**
- #2. **INFIRMITIES**

### II. **WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAY FOR US?**

- #1. **"HELPS"**
- #2. **"WILL"**

## III. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAY FOR US?

- S** Our text reveals at least **TWO WAYS** the Holy Spirit prays for us:

### #1. HE PRAYS FOR US THROUGH "INTERCESSION"

OCCURS TWICE:

**(V. 26)**,

**(V. 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 . . .”

**(V. 27)**, “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh **INTERCESSION** for the saints . . .”

8<sup>th</sup> KEY WORD – “**INTERCESSION**”

**S** **MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRAYER** are mentioned in the Bible.

- (1) The prayer of **ADORATION / PRAISE**
- (2) The prayer of **CONFESSION**
- (3) The prayer of **THANKSGIVING**
- (4) The prayer of **SUPPLICATION**
- (5) The prayer of **INTERCESSION**

**S** The word “**INTERCEDE**” means to “**mediate between two parties.**” The English word “intercede” comes from two Latin words: one meaning “**between,**” and the other meaning “**to go.**” An intercessor is someone who is a “**go-between.**”

**S** Intercessory prayer takes place when you pray for someone else other than yourself. Jesus served as an intercessor (“**go-between**”) in **LUKE 22**. **PETER** was about to deny that he even knew who Jesus was. Jesus knew what Peter was about to do. Jesus’ response was to intercede for him.

**(Luke 22:31-32)**, “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: {32} But **I HAVE PRAYED FOR THEE**, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

**S** WE GENERALLY THINK OF INTERCESSION IN **TERMS OF** our praying to God in behalf of someone else. Our text is **UNIQUE** in that it tells us that **God, the Holy Spirit, intercedes for us.**

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GOD INTERCEDES FOR US **ON TWO FRONTS:**

**(1) JESUS INTERCEDES FOR US.**

**C** **(Heb 7:25)**, “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

**C** **ROBERT McKEAN**, A SCOTTISH PREACHER  
“If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies.”

**C** Well, Jesus is in heaven praying for us right now. He ever liveth to make intercession.

**(2) THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR US, TOO.** Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is a “**go-between**” on our behalf. What a wonderful thought to realize that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. The fact that both Jesus and the Holy Spirit are praying for us **MEANS THAT GOD IS ALWAYS ON GUARD IN OUR LIFE.**

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CONSIDER AGAIN ROMANS 8:27 BY FOCUSING ON THE WORD “**SEARCH.**”

**(V. 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.”

**S** Who is the “**HE?**” The “He” is God the Father. God the Father searches the hearts of His children. When the Father “**SEARCHES**” the heart His child, the impression is that God’s point of contact is the Holy Spirit, rather than us. He searches the Spirit because the Holy Spirit is the “**go-between.**” Because the Holy Spirit is our “**PARAKLETOS,**” He knows us intimately. Because the Holy Spirit is God, He knows the Father intimately. The Holy Spirit’s presence in our life guarantees that the Father knows our need.

#1. HE PRAYS FOR US THROUGH “**INTERCESSION**”

**#2. HE PRAYS FOR WITH US WITH “GROANINGS”**  
**(V. 26),**

**(V. 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."

9<sup>th</sup> KEY WORD – "**GROANINGS**"

- S **A GROAN IS** an A WORDLESS EXPRESSION
- S ROMANS 8 CONTAINS **THREE DIFFERENT "GROANS"**

### #1. THE GROAN OF CREATION (VV 18-22)

**(Rom 8:22)**, "For we know that the whole creation **GROANETH** and travaileth in pain together until now."

- S The groan of creation is the result of **ADAM'S FALL**. The reason creation "groans" is found in **Romans 8:20**.

**(Rom 8:20)**, "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,"

### #2. THE GROAN OF THE BELIEVER (VV. 23-25)

**(Rom 8:23)**, "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves **GROAN** within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

CONSIDER **TWO EXAMPLES** IN JESUS' LIFE WHERE HE GROANED:

#### (1) **JESUS GROANED AT LAZARUS' DEATH**

C **(John 11:33)**, "When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he **GROANED** in the spirit, and was troubled,"

C **(John 11:38)**, "Jesus therefore again **GROANING** in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it."

#### (2) **JESUS GROANED AT THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE**

- S **FOUR GREEK WORDS** DESCRIBE JESUS' ANGUISH IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

(1) "**AGONIA**" = "**AGONY**" (Luke 22:44), "Being in an **AGONY** . . ."  
" We get the word "agony" from that Greek word.

(2) "**LUPEO**" = "**GRIEF**" (Mat 26:37), ". . . He . . . began to be **SORROWFUL** . . ." The word describes a parent's emotions when a child dies.

(3) "**PERILUPOS**" = "**BEYOND**" "**GRIEF**" (Matt 26:38), ". . . My soul is **EXCEEDING SORROWFUL**, even unto death . . ."

C **(Luke 22:44)**, "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and **HIS SWEAT** was as it were **GREAT DROPS OF BLOOD** falling down to the ground."

C **JESUS' BATTLE WAS SO DIFFICULT IT TOOK AN ANGEL TO HELP HIM THROUGH IT.**

**(Luke 22:43)**, "And there **APPEARED AN ANGEL** unto him from heaven, strengthening him."

#### (4) "**ADEMONEO**" = "**DEEPLY DISTRESSED**"

(Mat 26:37), ". . . He . . . began to be . . . **VERY HEAVY**." Jesus was **head-to-head** with the powers of darkness and the experience weighed very heavily upon Him.

- S **(Heb 4:15)**, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the **FEELING OF OUR INFIRMITIES**; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

#1. **CREATION GROANS**

#2. **BELIEVERS GROAN**

### #3. THE GROAN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (VV. 25-30).

**(V. 26)**, ". . . But **THE SPIRIT** itself maketh intercession for us with **GROANINGS** which cannot be uttered."

- S The Holy Spirit intercedes for us with "**WORDLESS EXPRESSIONS**."

S **QUESTION - IS THAT GROANING HIS ALONE**, or is it **HIS GROAN** interpreting **OUR GROAN** to the Father? Is His groan the result of helping us carry the load of our own personal groan? Perhaps our personal groaning is an inspired expression of the Holy Spirit as our intercessor.

- S Whichever the case, Scripture is clear that the "saint" is in **SUCH UNION** with the Holy Spirit that we impact **ONE ANOTHER**. The Holy Spirit impacts us, and we impact the Holy Spirit.

**EXAMPLES:**

(1) WE CAN CAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT **GRIEF**. Think of it, we are so close to God, and God is so close to us, that we can literally grieve Him.

**(Eph 4:30)**, "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

(2) WE CAN CAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT **JOY**. The Holy Spirit can cause us to have joy.

**(Gal 5:22)**, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **JOY**, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"

**(Neh 8:10)**, ". . . The joy of the LORD is your strength."

(3) WE CAN CAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO "**GROAN**." The Holy Spirit can cause us to groan. The Holy Spirit **TAKES THE BURDEN** of our weaknesses and translates it into a groan. **SOMETIMES** the only prayer we can muster is **A GROAN**. Don't take that as insignificant. It may be the Holy Spirit interceding in our behalf.

C **(1 Pet 5:7)**, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

C **(Phil 1:6)**, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

C **(Rom 8:18-19, Phillips Translation)**, "In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has in store for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the Sons of God coming into their own."

THE NINE KEY WORDS:

1<sup>ST</sup> - "**SAINTS**"

2<sup>ND</sup> - "**SPIRIT**"

3<sup>RD</sup> - "**PRAY**"

4<sup>TH</sup> - "**KNOW**"

5<sup>TH</sup> - "**WEAKNESSES**"

6<sup>TH</sup> - "**HELPS**"

7<sup>TH</sup> - "**WILL**"

8<sup>TH</sup> - "**INTERCESSIONS**"

9<sup>TH</sup> - "**GROANINGS**"