

Romans 8:26-27

I. V.26-27 – Likewise the Spirit...

A. Roles of the Holy Spirit (v.26-27):

- 1) Helps (Gr. = to help another carry a heavy load) in our **weaknesses**.
 - a) *One of our greatest weaknesses is that we often don't know how/what we should pray!*
- 2) Intercedes (Gr. present tense = to keep on interceding) in our **ignorance**.
- 3) Intercedes (Gr. = to approach and/or appeal to someone) according to God's **will**.

B. What's the significance of the Holy Spirit interceding for us?

- 1) If He helps in our weaknesses, that means His strength supersedes our _____.
- 2) If He intercedes in our ignorance that means His knowledge supersedes our lack of _____.
- 3) If He intercedes according to God's will, that means His wisdom supersedes our own _____.
 - a) *The Holy Spirit intercedes for us with the strength we can't _____; the knowledge we don't _____ & with the will (the best path) we don't always _____.*
 - b) *He prays for us to be led into alignment with & knowledge of the will of God.*
 - c) *We don't always know/understand the will of God or how we should pray, but the Holy Spirit is making intercession for us in order to obtain both.*

C. Why would Paul encourage us with the reminder/affirmation of our eternal destiny prior to speaking about the intercessory role of the Holy Spirit?

1) This world/this life can beat us down; our eternal hope is shaded by our present suffering; **even to the point we don't know how to pray!**

a) Why do we struggle in praying for what we should?

i) Doubt: we don't truly believe we'll receive what we ask – James 1:6-8.

ii) Pride – James 4:2

iii) Selfishness & ignorance – James 4:3; 1 John 5:14-15; John 15:7; Ps. 145:18-19

b) *How do these 3 things tie in with praying during difficulty?*

i) We doubt God will hear us/that He cares.

ii) We get angry when bad things arise.

iii) We don't ask for God's will to be accomplished, but for our own: relief from the difficulty; balancing the scales; etc.