

GOD FOR US: A Study in Romans 8

The Helper - Romans 8:26-28

August 13, 2017

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. - **Romans 8:26**

I. TOO DEEP FOR WORDS (vs. 26)

- As future hope sustains us, so the Holy Spirit also sustains us (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; Heb. 13:6).
- Paul has clearly shown us our human weakness. We weaken God's law by our sin; we are dead because of sin; we suffer; we groan inwardly; we do not know what to pray (Rom. 8:3, 10, 18, 23, 26).
- The Spirit is our helper (Rom. 8:2-8, 9-13, 14-17, 18-23, 26-27).
- As creation groans, and we groan, so the Spirit groans within us (Rom. 8:22, 23, 26).

II. THE OMNISCIENT GOD (vs. 27)

- God knows all things, including our heart's desire, even when we do not know it (Luke 6:8; John 2:25; 6:64; 16:19; Acts 5:4).
- When we pray in the Spirit, God's answer is always yes, because it is always in accordance with his will (Mark 11:24; Eph. 6:18).
- The Spirit intercedes for the saints, not for everyone (John 4:22-23; 14:15-16).

III. ALL FOR GOOD, BUT NOT FOR ALL (vs. 28)

- In context, "all things" here includes our suffering and our groaning (1 Pet. 1:6-7; 3:17; 4:19).
- Everything works toward the good for those who love God. This implies that the Spirit is at work in them; that they are in the will of God, and that they are called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:26-28).
- "Love" is an important word here. It eclipses "believe" (Mark 12:30; John 14:15).
- There is a necessary limitation here: things work for good for those who are called by God's purpose.

KNOW: There is never a reason for us not to pray. Even when we do not know what should be prayed for. The Spirit is at work in our prayers, and in our lack of ability to pray. God knows us, he searches our hearts, and he works for good in all he does in and through us.

DO: Pray, and let God use all things for his glory and your good.

Recommended Reading:

Convinced of God's Love, Tony Guinn (LifePoint Library #231.6 GUI)

Prayer, Tim Keller (LifePoint Library #248.32 KEL)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Romans 8:26-28

1. What does Paul tell us that the Spirit does on our behalf?
2. Why does the Spirit do this?
3. Have you experienced feeling too weak to pray? Does it encourage you to know that the Spirit intercedes for you at such times?
4. How does the truth of Romans 8:28 encourage you?
5. What does it mean to "love" God? How is that demonstrated in your life? Can it improve?
6. What are your takeaways from Sunday's message?