

The Holy Spirit in You

Part 3: Prayer Problems

Romans 8:26-28

Introduction:

- Written prayers should be a t_____ for teaching HOW to have a “heart-to-heart” with God
 1. Childhood prayers (meals and bedtime)
 2. The Lord’s prayer (Matt 6:9-13) – prayer topics such as p_____ (*hallowed be Thy name*), advancement of the g_____ (*Thy kingdom come*), c_____ of sin (*forgive us our trespasses*), etc.
- What do we do when we don’t know WHAT to pray?
 1. This is a c_____ problem in tough situations.
 2. The Holy Spirit h_____ us in these times (Rom 8:26)

Suffering Brings Questions (26)

- *The Spirit helps our weakness* (KJV – *infirmities*)
 1. The Greek word translated weakness or infirmities is used 24 times in the New Testament and may mean:
 - a. S_____ - Lk 5:15
 - b. A limitation of understanding - Rom 6:19
 - c. Ad_____ of some kind – 2 Cor 12:10
 - d. Spiritual weakness – Heb 5:2
 - e. P_____ weakness – (participle form in 1Pet 3:7)
 2. Romans 8:26 tells what the weakness is, not k_____ what to pray (definition b).
 - a. The context of this verse is s_____ or unpleasantness of this life (vv. 18,23)
 - b. Suffering adversity brings questions and many times we just don’t know what to pray.
- Have you wondered: *Why cancer? Why are so many things going wrong? Why the strained person relationships? Why the financial struggles?* – What do you pray for? For healing? For God to take the adversity away?

The Spirit Brings Counsel (26,27)

- *Likewise (in the same way) the Spirit helps our weakness*
 1. The underlined word(s) are making a comparison to h_____ in the previous verses.
 2. Just as hope (in the future promise of God) helps us to e_____ the present sufferings, so the Holy Spirit helps our weakness of not knowing what to pray.
- What is this help?
 1. The Greek word is made up of three words: *with + facing against + take*, a picture of someone coming to aid you in taking one end of a heavy object as you take the other end to carry it.
 2. The Holy Spirit does NOT do all the work, but works w_____ us as we face Him with our burden.
 3. All prayers must be according to God’s w_____ to be effective
 - a. The Holy Spirit i_____ for believers
 - 1) To intercede means to stand in another’s place to make a p_____
 - 2) The Holy Spirit is telling God of our ignorance and is waiting for direction in what to do (Jn 16:13) – He can only intercede according to God’s will (v. 27)
 - 3) The Spirit is presenting to God our g_____ that cannot be expressed in words (note the groanings are not the Spirit’s but ours – vv. 23,26)
 - 4) God knows the m_____ of the Spirit (v. 27) and so knows our groanings.
 - b. When you don’t know what to pray:
 - 1) C_____ your ignorance to God
 - 2) A_____ that God knows your agonizing or groanings
 - 3) T_____ that the Holy Spirit will help you to discover God’s will so that you can pray according to His will (Jms 4:2,3; I Jn 5:14,15)
 - Two biblical illustrations of not knowing the right thing to pray

- 1) The apostle Paul and his t_____ in the flesh (2 Cor 12:7-10)
 - a. The thorn in the flesh is defined as a m_____ of Satan (the word Satan means one who opposes)
 - b. Everywhere Paul went to preach the gospel, he was opposed (see 2Cor 11:23-30) and wanted this opposition removed.
 - c. T_____ times Paul agonized in prayer, asking the Lord to remove that opposition
 - d. God eventually told him, *My grace is sufficient for you; for power is perfected in weakness.*
 - e. Paul now knew what to pray – *Lord magnify your power in my sufferings for the gospel.*
- 2) Jesus and the t_____ of the cross (Matt 26:39)
 - a. Jesus already knew w_____ His mission was – to be betrayed, arrested, suffer, die on the cross and rise on the third day (Matt 26:2,34)
 - b. Jesus did not know w_____ He was supposed to give Himself up.
 - 1) He did not feel like going to the cross (he was groaning – *my soul is deeply grieved to the point of death – v. 38*)
 - 2) He asked God to *remove this cup* for now, not to *save Him from the hour* of going to the cross (see Jn 12:27), but He conditioned His prayer – *not as I w_____ but as You will.*
 - c. After three sessions of agonizing in prayer, Jesus received His answer – *It's time* (Matt 26:46).

The Scripture Brings Knowledge (28)

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose.

- When you DON'T KNOW what to pray, r_____ on what you DO KNOW about God & your circumstance (*and we know*)
- Do you love God? Then this verse is for you! (*to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose*)
- God uses a_____ things and works them out for our good (there is never a wasted hurt, tragedy, etc.)
 1. He is not the c_____ of evil
 2. He will not a_____ choices that would thwart His plans (e.g. can man choose to destroy this world? – 2Pet 3:10)
 3. He is working your circumstance out for your good as well as for the good of others who love Him.

Do you now know what God wants you to do when you are not certain of what you should pray concerning your circumstance(s)?