

Two Essential and Encouraging Truths for Every Christian

Romans 8:26-30 NLT

- *for those who love God. Vs. 28*
 - It's one thing to intellectually believe in the existence of God. Even demons do that. It's another thing altogether to trust in the atoning sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ for forgiven and eternal life. Such trust results in love. That is what it means to be a Christian.

I. God assists us with His Spirit. Vs. 26-27

A. Who continually aids us in our perpetual state of helplessness.

Who helps us [in] our weakness. Vs. 26a

- The term "in" is not present in Greek, so it means our continued state of weakness.
- We are totally dependent upon the Holy Spirit to live in victory over the power of sin. That is why the Holy Spirit is necessary. He frees us (2), controls us (9), lives in us (9), leads us (14), assures us (16).
- Are you weak? Do you see yourself as completely and continually dependent upon the Holy Spirit to live the life you and God want for yourself?

B. Who communicates to God on our behalf...

The Spirit prays for us

1. About this things that confuse us.

We don't know what God wants us to pray for...

- Remember the context here is suffering. Vs. 18. Nothing confuses like suffering.
- Sometimes it's not suffering it's just a fork in the road. We're not sure which road to take. Relationships, job, etc.
- Are you comforted knowing the Spirit is praying to God about things that confuse you?

2. With understanding and clarity.

a. Because the Holy Spirit and God are omniscient.

- They understand one another without words. Words aren't even necessary.
- *But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.*
- Like a married couple who can read each other's minds without saying a word to anyone else.

- Are you eased by knowing this wordless conversation is taking place?
- b. Because God knows our hearts.
- *And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying.*
 - He hears every unspoken prayer. Every fear, regret, anxiety, sadness, pain, longing, etc.
- c. Because he aligns our longings to his will
- *Who pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. Vs. 27b*
 - This might be one of the hardest things for us to do right. We know God's priorities but not the when, when, how they are expressed.

II. God assures us with His Sovereignty. Vs. 28-30

A. Because he shapes every circumstance in our life. Vs. 28 *and we know that God causes everything to work together*

1. for our ultimate favor.
 - *A for the good of those who love God.*
 - The ultimate good for those who love God is to experience more of him, to be with Him. This defined the term "good." Good is being closer to or with those you love.
 - Do you see how God shapes all events and relationships in your life to this end?
2. and his intended outcome.
 - *and are called according to his purpose for them.*
 - God will fulfill his purpose for our life regardless of the circumstances. We can be assured of that regardless of the outcome.
 - Romans 14:7-8
 - Do you know God will fulfill his purpose for your life?

B. Because he has secured every stage of our life. Vs. 29-30

1. He knew us before we were born.
 - *For God knew his people in advance*
 - He didn't just know of us, he knew us personally. We are not unplanned, a mistake or a surprise.

2. He selected us to be like his Son, a great multitude who would live eternally with Him.
 - *he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*
 - We were selected in eternity past to spend eternity future with God the Father.

3. He called us to experience salvation.
 - *he called them to come to him*
 - He arranged all the events and circumstances in our lives that would cause us to trust in the substitutional death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior.

4. He justified us.
 - *he gave them right standing with himself.*
 - He declared the righteousness of his Son would be transferred to us and our unrighteousness transferred to Him.

5. He glorified us.
 - *gave them his glory*
 - Still a future event, but so certain its spoken in the past tense. Our destiny is sealed. Our future is secure. This has great bearing on how what we do with our lives. It defines our level of involvement in God's plans to make himself know throughout the world.
 - Because our past is forgiven, our mission is worth and our future is secure, we have nothing to lose and everything to risk.
 - Does this describe you?

So let's...

1. Admit our weakness and welcome the help of the Holy Spirit.
2. Be comforted by knowing of his prayers on our behalf.
3. Trust God to determine the outcome of my present situation for my good and his glory.
4. Rest in the security of my salvation from beginning to end.