

“Spirit Directed Prayer”

Romans 8:26-28

Kjv

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. 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. 28) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Introduction:

1. Chorus of the Song: “The Family of God”

I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God, washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood, Joint-heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod. I’m part of the family, the family of God.

- a. Anybody here glad to be part of God’s family?
- b. Anyone thankful for being washed in the fountain, cleansed by the blood of Jesus?
- c. How about it? Are you thankful to be a joint-heir with Christ?
- d. Have you considered the benefits that go along with this?

2. Statements about Prayer

- a. It is necessary to pray.
 - i. We are joint-heirs with Jesus.
 - 1) Like having a joint account with someone where it takes two parties to sign a check.
 - 2) Jesus gave us the Power of Attorney. (One signature)
 - ii. Our Intercessory is the other Signature, and when we have done our part it goes to the bank.
 - 1) Matthew 16:19
 - a) Kjv

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- b) Amplified

I will give you the keys (authority) of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth will have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth will have [already] been loosed in heaven.”

2) Matthew 18:18

a) KJV

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

b) AMP

I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth shall have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth shall have [already] been loosed in heaven.

Note: The phrases “shall be bound in heaven” and “shall be loosed in heaven”

- i. These in the Greek refers to it having already been accomplished in heaven,
- ii. Which means that legally God has already bound in heaven, in the spiritual realm those things which are improper and unlawful, and
- iii. God has already loosed in heaven, in the spiritual realm those things that are permitted, or lawful.

3) Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

c) John 20:22

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Note: NIV uses the word “Forgive” in place of “remit”

- i. Have you forgiven the person who has trespassed, sinned against you?
- ii. Forgiving them means you treat them as if they had not sinned

iii. Forgiving them is not condoning what they have done, but releasing them and yourself from the sin so they can walk in forgiveness, so you will not walk with a grudge, where you constantly remind them of the mistake they have made

d) Ephesians 5:18b...

i) KJV...Be filled with the Spirit;

ii) Amp...Be filled...stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit

iii) Filled... means

1] To make full, To fill up, or To fill to the full

2] To cause to abound, or to furnish or supply liberally

3] To make complete...to render perfect

4] To carry through to the end,

5] To accomplish or complete

iv) Thus, when we are full of the Spirit, We abound, We are liberally supplied

Note: We are give this power of attorney, so let us use it to do the work of Jesus on this earth.

b. Therefore, when we Pray

i. We are re-presenting Jesus who has already done the work. We are just signing our part of the check, and God does the work.

Note: For us to sign our part of the check,

a. We have to be eligible,

b. We have to be in agreement with God

c. We have to be in agreement with God's will

d. We have to be in agreement with God's way

ii. We are creating meetings where people are reconciled to God, and

iii. We are stepping between Satan and those for whom we are interceding.

Note 1st John 3:8b

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

- i. The works of satan were destroyed so we could be righteous as Jesus is Righteous
- ii. The works of satan were destroyed so we would not have to live in sin
- iii. Destroy is from the Greek word “luo” and it means
 - 1) To loose any person (or thing) tied or fastened
 - 2) To loose one who is bound, i.e. to unbind, release from bonds, set free
 - 3) To undo, dissolve the works of satan
 - 4) To undo and dissolve the rule of satan which had us bound
 - 5) To annul and subvert the work of satan
 - 6) To do away with and deprive satan’s authority
 - 7) To overthrow and do away with satan’s hold on mankind, on you

Note: Let us understand that the works of Satan have been destroyed. Now let us use our “power of attorney” to release those who are still living under the influence of darkness.

- iv. We are supporting others, and carrying their burdens “away” from them. We are putting our feet on the head of our defeated enemy signifying that the authority has been given to us by Jesus, and now we are enforcing that authority “by taking what has been given to us.” We take it by prayer and faith stating the promises of God.

Note: There are times we lay siege, and when we do, let us not quit until the walls/strongholds come tumbling down, because Victory Belongs To Us.

- v. So, let us pray and build boundaries around those we love, around our church, around our town, around our country, around sinners in general. Let us pray a “karios” prayer which is a “defined” time to pray as we feel the prompting of the Spirit of God.
- vi. We are agreeing with God for God things to happen

I. Today’s subject is “Spirit-Directed Prayer.”

A. Text: Romans 8:26-28

1. Versions

a. Kjv

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. (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. 28) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

b. Niv

26) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27) And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. 28) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

2. Comments

- a. This text and these different translations show that “The Holy Spirit” prays for us using “words” that cannot be expressed in “our language.” (v26)
- b. His prayers for us are understood by the Father. (v27)
- c. Furthermore, the Spirit is praying for us believers in harmony with God’s will. (v27)
- d. We know that God is going to work everything out for our Good according to His purpose for us. (v28)
- e. Notice the conjunction “And.” “And” means something is added. Therefore, v27 is added to v26, and v28 is added to v27 which adds it to v26.
- f. It goes like this: The Holy Spirit prays through us in languages that we do not understand, But the Father understands because
 - i. He knows our hearts,
 - ii. He knows the mind of the Spirit, and
 - iii. The Spirit prays in harmony with God’s will for us,
 - iv. Therefore, all things will work to our good according to God’s purpose in us.

Note: Let the Spirit pray through you,

- i. For He is praying for your needs according to the will of the Father
- ii. For He is praying for the needs of others in accordance with the Father’s will

iii. For He knows how to pray when we do not know how to pray, because He knows the Father's will

iv.. Therefore, let Him pray.

B. The Holy Spirit is our "Helper:"

Note: The greatest single key to successful intercession is learning to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to be all He was sent to be in us.

1. He is called our "Helper" in John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

a. The word "Comforter" is from the Greek word "Parakletos."

i. It means: One called alongside to aid, help, or support."

ii. The Amplified uses seven words to try and convey the meaning of Parakletos, and the Amplified reads like this:

"Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthenener, Standby), the Holy Spirit."

b. Today, we are going to focus on the Holy Spirit being our "Helper" and "Intercessor."

2. I want us to note again that the "and" in verse 28 ties it to verses 26 and 27.

a. Verse 28 becomes dependent on verses 26 and 27.

b. We should note that all things "do not" work together for good in the lives of Christians unless certain conditions are met.

Note: In a previous message, we mentioned that the Promises and Blessings of God are tied to conditions.

i. Salvation is not by works, but by grace, but

ii. The promises and blessings will only come if we meet the conditions that God has set forth in His word.

c. Let us note that

i. That all things can work together for our good, and

ii. It is God's will for all things to work together for our good, but

iii. This is not automatic.

1) Because we have a part to play.

2) Because verses 26 and 27 are to be implemented, so verse 28 can be fulfilled.

Note: Please understand that the intercession of the Holy Spirit is not always in an “unknown language,” or as we say it in “tongues.” There are times I pray in the Spirit and the Spirit intercedes in English, and there are times that the Spirit intercedes in tongues.

i. Whatever the Spirit desires to do is what I want done.

ii. I am learning to cooperate with Him and live in Him.

iii. Therefore, when I talk about praying in the Spirit it can refer to either or both “praying in tongues” and/or “praying in my own language” which is English.

C. Romans 8:26-28 tells us that the Holy Spirit wants to help us in our weakness.

1. Versions

a. KJV...Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities:...

b. NIV...In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

2. The word “infirmities” comes from a Greek word “astheneia” and it means

a. Without Strength

b. Without Ability

3. The concept communicated by this word is “An inability to produce results.”

a. Have you ever felt that “inability to produce results” in your prayer life?

b. Have you ever run up against a mountain that you could not move?

i. I did a few years ago. Or

ii. Was it a few days ago? Or

iii. Was it a few hours ago? a few minutes ago? Or

iv. It is a fact that we do not have the ability to produce desired results on our own.

v. Therefore, we need the “Helper,” the Holy Spirit.

Note: Use that definition in the Scripture.

- i. Kjv...The Spirit helpeth our inability to produce results.
 - ii. Niv...The Spirit helps us in our inability to produce results.
4. One of the reasons that we have this “inability to produce results” is because “there are times that we do not know how to pray.”
- a. Versions
 - i. Kjv...For we know not what we should pray for as we ought (should):
 - ii. Niv...We do not know what we ought to pray for,
 - b. “Ought” or “should” is from the Gr. word “Dei”
 - i. “Dei” Means
 - 1) That which is necessary in the nature of a case
 - 2) That which is right in the nature of a case
 - 3) That which is proper in the nature of a case
 - 4) Or, what one must do
 - 5) That which is legally binding for someone

Note: Use the definition in the Scripture.

The Spirit helpeth our inability to produce results, for we know not what we should pray for as (use above definitions)

- ii. Let us notice two places the Greek word “Dei” is used with this definition.
 - 1) Luke 18:1

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

- a). “Ought” is the Greek word “dei”
 - b) It means That It is absolutely necessary---binding upon us that we pray.
- 2) Luke 13:6

And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

a) She had a “spirit of infirmity” that kept her bent over for 18 years.

b) “Ought” she be “loosed.”

i) “Ought” is the Greek word “dei” which means in this sense that

1) She is “a daughter of Abraham.”

2) Therefore, it is her “covenantal right” to be loosed or healed.

b) The definition again is

1) What is right

2) What is proper

3) What is legally binding

4) What is necessary

Note: In her case as a daughter of Abraham,

i. It was right that she be healed.

ii. It was proper that she be healed.

iii. It was necessary that she be healed.

iv. It was legally binding that she be healed.

Note: Jesus felt that it was necessary and binding upon Him that He deliver this “daughter of Abraham” from this infirmity.

5. Therefore the Scripture is telling us in Romans 8:26

a. That we do not always know what needs (ought or should) happen in a given situation

b. We do not always know what is necessary or right.

c. There are times that I find myself wondering,

i. How do I pray for this person or situation, Lord?

ii. What needs to happen in this life, or this situation?

Note: In those times, the Holy Spirit helps my weakness by praying, interceding through me.

- i. Many times, this will be done in tongues especially when we are in front of people, and the issue is a sensitive one.
- ii. There have been times that I have been led by the Holy Spirit to pray for someone, and I had no idea or no way of knowing at that moment what they needed.

Note: This is when the Holy Spirit will help my weakness by praying or interceding through me. Again, Many times He will use tongues as He prays.

6. There are times that mature intercessors, prayers, are prompted by the Lord to pray
 - a. They do not know what they are praying for,
 - b. They do not know for whom they are praying.
 - c. They just feel a burden to pray.
 - d. Here, we see a weakness, an inability to produce results.
 - e. They have no idea what is “necessary, right or proper” in a situation like this
 - f. But the Holy Spirit knows, So they pray, allowing the Holy Spirit to do the praying.
7. When we do not know how, or what, or why
 - a. Let the Holy Spirit help us
 - b. Let the Holy Spirit lead us as we pray, perhaps
 - i. Perhaps revealing things about the situation to us
 - ii. Perhaps bringing Scriptures to our minds so we can pray them in the situation
 - c. The Holy Spirit will help us by empowering our prayers.
 - d. The Holy will help us by Literally Praying through us as we pray in the Spirit.

II. Our praying is “not by accident” or “by chance” but “Spirit Directed.”

A. We have used the Hebrew Word “paga”

1. For “creating a meeting” through intercession.

2. For “laying on” burdens to be carried away through intercession.
3. For “building boundaries” of protection through intercession.
4. In this lesson, let us see another aspect of “paga”
 - a. As to “light upon”
 - b. To “light upon by chance.”

Note: My eyes roamed the room and “they lighted upon Judy.” Was it “by chance” or was it “God ordained.”

B. Genesis 28:10-17

Note verses 10-11

10) And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11) And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

1. Jacob had not planned to spend the night in this place.
 - a. It was by chance.
 - b. The sun set, so Jacob prepared to spend the night.
 - i. He lighted upon a certain place.
 - ii. This place is as good as any.
 - iii. Here is a rock that will make a nice pillow.
 - iv. I will just stay here tonight.
2. Let us take notice that “a place” became “the place”
 - i. This was just “a place” to Jacob, chosen by chance,
 - ii. A place became “the place” because the Lord who is sovereign chose this place for a meeting with Jacob
 - a) Jacob had a dream of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven.
 - b) Angels ascended and descended the ladder.

- c) The Lord stood above the Ladder
 - d) Jacob was at the foot of the ladder.
 - e) God renewed the Abrahamic and Isaacic Covenant with Jacob, and Jacob became the recipient of God's promises and blessings.
 - f) Jacob referred to this place as the "Gate of Heaven," and he named it "Bethel" which means the "House of God."
3. It was here at "Bethel," The House of God, where "a place" became "the place," and a man named Jacob had a "life changing encounter" with God.
- a. The Scripture said that "he Lighted..."
 - i. "Lighted" is the Hebrew word "Paga" which means "light on by chance."
 - ii. Was it "by chance" or was it a "paga" meeting caused by the Holy Spirit that caused Jacob to "light" (paga) in this place.
 - b. Therefore, it seemed "by chance" to Jacob, but It was Holy Spirit Anointing that caused him "to Light" in the House of God for the night.
- C. There are times that, like Jacob, we are not guided by our own reasoning or understanding,
- 1. Our reasoning and understanding is not able to direct us in prayer.
 - a. When we use our reasoning and understanding, we feel weak and anemic in our ability to produce results.
 - b. There are times that it seems that the process is hit and miss as though we have to land or "light upon" the situation correctly "by chance."
 - 2. Understand that the Holy Spirit is bringing about a "paga" (a lighting upon) for us.
 - a. God had His hand on Jacob,
 - b. God had His hand on where Jacob would spend the night which was in God's house
 - c. Therefore, God, through the Holy Spirit, Our Helper, is helping us to Pray in His Will.
 - d. Our prayer life, our seeking deliverance, our seeking help may seem like chance to us, but If the Holy Spirit is in our lives, it is not by chance, but our Helper is at work.
 - 3. By the way, "Paga" also means "bulls-eye."

- a. So, Shut your eyes and “fire.”
- b. When we allow the Holy Spirit to intercede through us,
 - i. The Holy Spirit in His Sovereignty guided Jacob to the right place at the right time
 - ii. And the Holy Spirit in His Sovereignty will cause our prayers to “light upon” (paga)
 - 1) The right person at the right time
 - 2) The right place at the right time
 - 3) To be prayed the right way at the right time.
 - 4) To be at the right time.
 - 5) To bring forth the will of God in situations.

4. When the Holy Spirit brings about a “paga” a “lighting upon” then

- a. Bethels will occur!
- b. Meetings with God will occur!
- c. Heaven’s gates will open!
- d. Destinies will be written!
- e. History will be shaped!

Note: When we begin to expect more miracles, then we will see more miracles. Therefore, we must believe that God is going to heal, save, deliver, meet your financial needs, help in your marriage, and/or relationships, and that as God blesses us, He will bless our church.

Note: What do you really feel and/or believe about God? The Holy Spirit of God is still just as real as He was when He moved upon the face of the waters in the creation, and He wants to Create in us, not only a new life, but a new fellowship where He can Guide, Direct, and Help us in all areas of Our lives, then what seems like “chance” to us will be “God anointed” “God Given” opportunities to intercede for others.

III. The Holy Spirit will direct us precisely.

- A. Times we may seem like a butterfly just flitting from flower to flower and we may wonder
 - 1. Where am I going?

2. What am I doing?
 3. Will I land in the right place, on the right person?
 4. Is this really accomplishing anything?
- B. The butterfly knows where it is going, and the Holy Spirit is directing our prayers exactly.
1. Dutch Sheets tells about a Minister from Cleveland, TN was preaching in Canada.
 - a. 15 minutes into the message, he heard the Holy Spirit speak inwardly to him, “Stop your message and begin to pray in the Spirit.”
 - b. He obeyed
 - i. He told the congregation what had happened and what he was going to do.
 - ii. He paced the platform and begin to pray out loud in the Spirit.
 - iii. 5 minutes. Nothing. 10 minutes and nothing. 15 minutes and nothing.
 - 1) I would have been stressed out by this time.
 - 2) Here we see our “weakness,” or “our inability to produce results.”
 - 3) It may seem like “chance” to some, but The Holy Spirit was directing a meeting.
 - 4) 20 minutes, then a lady screamed in the back of the church and ran to the front.
 - 5) He asked her what was happening.
 - a) My daughter is a missionary in Africa.
 - b) She is so deep in Africa that it takes 21 days by automobile, then a boat, then by animal, then by walking to get to where she is.
 - c) Yesterday, my husband and I received a telegram informing us that she had contacted a fatal disease that would run its course in 3 days, and in 3 days she would probably be dead, and all they can do is send us her body as soon as possible.
 - d) The last time she was home she taught me some of the dialect of the people with whom she was working. You were speaking in that dialect, and you said:

You can rejoice, your daughter is healed. You can rejoice, your daughter is healed. (And she was)

Note: This is Spirit-directed prayer where you light (paga) upon the right place at the right time.

2. Roger in Coffeyville came to my house and asked me to pray for his mother.
 - a. Roger was an alcoholic who was demon possessed
 - b. I tried to witness to him, and he said no, “just pray for my mother.”
 - c. So I prayed, and as I finished praying for his mother, I began in my mind to pray for Roger, and in doing so, I prayed in tongues, in a language unknown to me
 - i. Roger jerked his hands out of mine, and fell backward against my car.
 - ii. He ran away.
 - iii. He came back in about 15 minutes, and asked where I had learned that language.
 - 1) He said I spoke an ancient Celtic language
 - 2) He said that I was saying in this language, Do not be afraid, you can trust in Me.

Note: Paga anointing takes what seems “by chance” and it become God anointed “lighting” upon the right thing at the right time.

Conclusion:

1. The Holy Spirit “takes hold” of something “together” with us “against” our opposition, and thus He is our Helper.
 - a. Let us look at the word “helps” in “helps our weaknesses” in Romans 8:26
 - b. This Greek word for “helps” is sunantilambanomai which is a compound word made up of three words.
 - i. “Sun” which means “together with”
 - ii. “Anti” which means “against” AND
 - iii. “Lambano” which means “to take hold of”
 - iv. Put it all together and it means “to take hold of together with against”
2. The Holy Spirit
 - a. Directs our prayers precisely, causing them to “light upon” the need correctly

- b. "Takes hold of the situation together with us, adding His strength to ours."
- c. In Zechariah 4:6, God informed Zerubbaal by Zechariah that his victory would not be by his might, nor by his power, but by "My Spirit saith the LORD of hosts."
- d. The Holy Spirit wants us to know that our victory today over "whatever" we need victory over will not be by our wisdom, our authority, our strength, our ability, but by the Spirit of God helping our inabilities by "taking hold of the situation with us against" the demonic forces who are opposing us

3. Look again at the wording of Romans 8:26a with the definitions:

- a. KJV

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought

- b. KJV with the defined changes

Likewise the Spirit also "takes hold of together with us" "in our inability to produce results:" for we know not what we should pray for as

- i. To what is right
- ii. To what is proper
- iii. what is necessary, etc

4. Paul in 2nd Corinthians 12:9 talked about His weakness

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.

- a. When we realize our weaknesses, our inability to produce results, we to look to Him for help.
- b. If we will allow the Spirit to pray through us, He will take hold together with us.
- c. We just have to believe that when the Holy Spirit takes hold, something is going to move.

5. Please note in the definitions that "He takes hold with us."

- a. He does not do it for us, but with us.
- b. The Holy Spirit is not just praying through us without our participation, but we are involve with Him by praying in the Spirit, which is actually allowing Him to pray through us.

c. Story of minister praying for his wife who had a cyst from Dutch Sheet's Intercessory Prayer

i. Doctor gave them two months

ii. They did all the normal stuff like

- 1) Laying on of hands
- 2) Anointing with oil,
- 3) Calling for the elders of the church
- 4) Binding and loosing

iii. Finally they realized that it would take perseverance and laying hold by faith

Note: Let me remind you what Paul said in 1 Timothy 6:12...Fight the good fight of faith,...

- 1) So, he laid hold of by faith by beginning to pray an hour a day for a month
- 2) Here is the outline of his prayer
 - a) Father this is why I am approaching you...He made his request
 - b) He referred to the Scriptures on which he was basing his request
 - c) Then he thanked the Father for His word and for Jesus providing healing.
 - d) All of this took 5 or 6 minutes, and the rest of the time was spent "Praying in the Spirit," and he did this for 30 days

iv. God showed him the cyst in his hand and that he was squeezing the life out of it.

- 1) He said that as the Holy Spirit prayed through him, He the Holy Spirit was "lighting on" and "taking hold with him against" the cyst.
- 2) It was the power of the Spirit that made the difference.

v. His wife was healed.

6. We need to always remember that it is the Spirit that makes the difference.

7. Let the Holy Spirit pray through us. Let us pray in the Spirit and quit trying to do it ourselves, but allow the Spirit do it through us and with us, then watch

- a. As a "taking hold of together with us against" happen

- b. As a “Bethel” happen
- c. As a “lighting on” happen
- d. As a “laying on” and “bearing away” happen
- e. As a “meeting” happen
- f. As an “enforcing” happen
- g. As a “representation” happen

Note: Intercession happens, and it can happen through you, and it will happen in this church.

Note: God wants to use you.

- i. You do not have to know Swahili from Greek.
- ii. You simply have to be a believer in Jesus—A Christian who is
 - 1) One of His chosen Representatives—
 - 2) One called and authorized to administer the blessings of the new covenant—
- iii. God The Father desires to release the work of Jesus through your prayers.
- iv. The Holy Spirit wants to help you.
- v. Rise up, and let the Helper to rise up in you, because Together you can shake any situation

Note: It is time that our prayers be “Spirit Directed.”