

**The Holy Spirit Intercedes for Us**  
**Romans 8:26-27**  
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**Big Idea:** In our weakness the Holy Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God.

**1. The Spirit helps us in our weakness (v. 26a).**

**a. Just as we are helped in our suffering by the hope of glory, so the Spirit helps us in our weakness.**

**Romans 8:23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

**> The ministry of the Holy Spirit (8:1-27)**

- He enables us to fulfill the law (vv. 2-8)
- He helps us crucify our flesh (vv. 9-13)
- He assures us of our adoption (vv. 14-17)
- He guarantees us our final inheritance (vv.18-23)
- He helps us in our weakness (vv. 26-27)

**b. In our weakness God does not forsake us but ministers to us by His Spirit.**

**John 14:16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

- What is the benefit of acknowledging that we are weak?

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**2. The Spirit intercedes for us when we do not know what to pray (v. 26bc).**

**a. Prayer is an admission of weakness.**

**Ps. 18:6** In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

**b. Our weakness is ignorance (v. 26b).**

**c. The Spirit overcomes our weakness by interceding for us (v. 26c).**

- How does the Holy Spirit intercede on our behalf?

Paul is saying that when we cannot find words in which to express our prayer and can only make groaning sounds, the Spirit takes those sounds and makes them into effective intercession.

The Holy Spirit takes these groanings and presents them before God in an articulate form. Even though believers cannot specify their requests to God adequately since they do not know his will sufficiently, the Holy Spirit translates these groanings and conforms them to God's will.

– Thomas Schreiner

### 3. The Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God (v. 27).

#### a. God searches our hearts (v. 27a).

**Jeremiah 17:10** "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

#### b. The Spirit's petitions perfectly match the will of God (v. 27b).

#### c. The Trinity nurtures our spiritual growth.

Prayer involves the trinity. We have access to the Father through the Son and by the Spirit.

The Father listens, the Son mediates, and the Spirit intercedes.

We are to pray to the Father in the name of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:34** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

