

"The Holy Spirit and the Born-Again Believer"

Romans 8:14-27

Introduction- The indwelling Holy Spirit is God's gift to born-again believers for our progress in Christ. The Holy Spirit ministers to the born-again believer in the midst of our doubts, suffering, and anxious longing for the complete experience and fullness of our adoption as sons and daughters of God. The Holy Spirit helps us pray when words fail us.

I. The Adoption to the Status of Sons and Daughters of God is Testified to Our Spirit by the Holy Spirit Romans 8:14-17

- A. "...for", 'gar', explanation of why you will live if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body Romans 8:13
- B. "being led", 'ago', "to continuously guide/direct the movement of a person" Acts 8:29; 16;6,7; Romans 8:5-9; Galatians 5:16-18
- C. "...led by the Spirit", sonship is evidenced by the presence of the leading of the Holy Spirit as a way of life Galatians 5:18; I John 3:1
- D. "the sons of God", adult sons, sealed by the Holy Spirit Eph. 4:30

II. The Agony of Suffering Does Not Compare to the Benefits of Being Made Sons and Daughters of God Romans 8:18

- A. "For", 'gar', explanatory
- B. "consider", 'logizomai', "reasoning, calculate, a reliable conclusion"
- C. "sufferings", 'pathema', "pain experienced that must be endured"
- D. "present time", 'kairos', "the now season, with a new age coming"
 - 1. For those who are in Christ, regenerated and justified by grace, present suffering will give way to a time of no suffering 2 Cor. 4:17,18
 - 2. Suffering produces the eternal weight of glory 2 Cor. 4:17; Matt. 19:29
- E. "not worthy to be compared", is God minimizing our suffering?
- F. "...the glory that is to be revealed to us"
 - 1. "glory", 'doxa', "all that God is in His being, His nature, His character, His power and His acts Psalm 19:1
 - 2. God glory "revealed", 'apokalupto', "reveal a thing previously hidden"
 - a. The showing of God's radiance and splendor Acts 22:11; 2 Th. 1:9; I Cor. 15:40-43; Luke 14:10; John 12:43
 - b. The showing of God's majesty Rom. 9:23; Acts 7:55; Rom. 1:23

III. The Anxious Longing of the Creation for God to Do Away with Sin Rom. 8:19-22

- A. "the anxious longing of the creation", 'apokaradokia', "stretch forth the head", an alert watchman who peers into the darkness for danger Phil. 1:20
- B. "...the creation eagerly waits" Hebrews 9:28
 - 1. "creation", 'ktisis', "the totality of all that God has made is personified as eagerly anticipating the great day in which God will do away with sin
 - 2. eagerly waits", 'apekdechomai', "expect with great anticipation" I Cor. 1:7

C. "...for the revealing of the sons of God"

1. "revealing", 'apokalupsis', "remove that which conceals" Rev. 16:25
2. Sonship is a present possession of the believer, but fully realized and "revealed" at the Second Coming of Jesus I John 3:2; 2 Cor. 5:10; Gal. 5:18

D. "of the glory of the children of God", future glory in Christ 2 Thess. 2:14

E. Creation subjected to "futility", 'mataiotes', "emptiness, purposelessness"

1. All people suffer because Adam sinned, but we all sinned in Adam
2. Adam's sin resulted in creation's subjection to futility Isaiah 24:5,6
3. Creation will be set free from corruption
 - a. "set free", 'eleutheroo', "be freed from domination of corruption"
 - b. "corruption", 'phthora', "ruin by decay, deterioration" Rom. 5:12

F. Creation "groans", 'sustenazo', "creation personified sighs over the fall"

G. "the pain of childbirth", 'sunodino', "feel the pains of a woman in labor"

IV. The Adoption as Sons and Daughters of God (having the first fruits of the Holy Spirit) Causes Us to Eagerly Wait for the Redemption of our Body Romans 8:23-25

A. "not only this", that is, not only does creation groan, we groan

B. The "first fruits", 'aparche', "first portion of harvest, pledge of final delivery", joined with Christ in His resurrection, sealed by the Holy Spirit

C. We "groan", 'stenazo', eagerly wait for full adoption I Thess. 4:13-18

1. The blessing of God refining us to increase our hope of Heaven
2. The evils of this world should not distract us from Gospel work

D. The believer in Christ maintains hope in what we do not yet see

E. Hope in Christ and His promises brings perseverance 2 Cor. 4:17,18

V. The Assistance of the Holy Spirit Who Helps our Weakness to Pray in our Groanings over Struggles, Sin, and Suffering Romans 8:26,27

A. In the context of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer, the Holy Spirit helps us to know what to ask God for in our prayers

B. The Holy Spirit "intercedes" by putting into words what we cannot

C. The Holy Spirit is the communication link between our heart and the heart of God

D. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us to pray according to the will of God

1. The error of praying presumptively with no regard to the will of God
2. The continuing assurance of hope

Questions:

1. Does the hope of glory help make suffering less painful? 2 Cor. 4:17,18
2. How has suffering strengthened you as a believer? Phil. 1:12
3. How does Job help us endure suffering? Job 1:8-2:10
4. How can the believer make the anticipation of the glory of God that is to be fully revealed at His coming be so powerful so that it minimizes the effect of suffering?
5. Does the Holy Spirit inform the believer of His intercessory work in prayer?
6. What would bring a person to not know how to pray, needing help from the Holy Spirit?