

Romans 8:26-30

A New Confidence

Image Church // Romans 8 // Week 5

Intro:

Image family... Grab your Bibles, and turn to **Romans 8!**

Hey, real quick, as you're turning there: I want you to grab your phones... Plug for Cobb County DFACS... **QR Code on the Screen**

There's a special group of people that I want to recognize this morning, and that's our moms! Can we celebrate them!!

I want to wish all of our moms a **Happy Mother's Day!** Today is a day where we celebrate the role that you've been given, it is a special role, and it's not one that you've earned, but it's a role that's been given to you to steward for the glory of God...

And we want to honor you this morning, we want you to feel seen and valued... Your job is not easy, and it's one that never ends... It's a job that you can often get lost in, where you can feel overwhelmed...

- I know It can be tiring, but I don't want you to lose sight of the fact that every day you're sowing into little lives, helping craft them into who they're going to be...

Today I want you to feel the blessing of your calling, but I also want you to be reminded of what your calling entails...

- Your calling to show and shape your kid's hearts around the love of Christ to your kids...
- And remember, you're replaceable everywhere else, but you're not replaceable as a mom!
- And know that we stand with you, partnering together to see your kids come to know and love Jesus!

I also want to recognize another type of mother here today, and that's those that have stepped in as caregivers through foster care, or those that have stepped in as spiritual mothers in the lives of others... You play a huge role for the kingdom in your intentionality and your love!

And lastly, I want to say this, I know for some of you, Mother's Day is very hard because of death, or infertility, or maybe you were hurt by your mom... I want to spend some time praying for you as well...

- This is why it's so important to understand the church as a family...

PRAY...

Alright, if you're new with us, we're in **week 5** in our series through **Romans 8**... Where we're answering the question, *what are the implications of the finished work of Jesus on my life?*

- *And How does something that happened in the past impact me today?*

And Paul's had us on this journey...

Romans 7- He starts with the problem...

Romans 8:1, *there is no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus...*

- ***Why?!?*** *Because Jesus was condemned our place so that we could be set free from condemnation...*
- Jesus would go to the cross in our place, dying the death that was meant for us, and then He would raise from the dead, completing everything necessary to save us...
 - ***His perfect life in our place, His sacrificial death in our place...***
 - And His resurrection gives way to our resurrection... Both in this life, as we are brought to new life in-and-through Him **and** the life we will experience forever with Him...

And the way that we receive the work of Christ Paul shows us is through the **Holy Spirit**... And here's what we've seen that the Holy Spirit does...

- New life...
- New power...
- New Identity...
- New hope in the face of suffering...

And we saw that **all** suffering, great or small, comes as a result of the brokenness that sin has caused...

- And yet there's an incredible **hope** that one day Jesus is going to return and make all things new... And **the glory that will be revealed** when we see Jesus face to face...
- And in the meantime, in the midst of the brokenness that we experience and in the midst of the suffering that we face, we wait with hope for that day...
- *That the groans of suffering don't drive us from God, but that it drives us to God in hope!*

*But here's the question coming out of that, if we're honest... **Is that all we got right now?!?** Do we just hope?

- What about everything that's going on in our lives right now? Does God care, or has He just left us on our own to deal with it as we wait?!?

We've seen a lot of implications that come from the Spirit, but what we haven't seen is anything pertaining to our present circumstances...

Most all of us are walking through something in our lives that's difficult in some capacity... Something that's tethered to suffering...

- Could be with your kids, could be personally, emotionally, spiritually... It could be relational, could be health-related, could be job-related, or lack thereof, it could be circumstantially things are a mess, could be financially, you're struggling...

And as we face things like these, the question is, **OK, God, you've given me the end destination, but what about the journey of everyday life in the meantime??**

- I get there is hope for later, that's awesome, but what about right now??

Let's pick up in verse 26... Remember, the context here is surrounding the present sufferings that we face...

Romans 8:26-30

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness,

Paul starts here with **In the same way**... **IOW**: in the same way that you have hope, you also have the **aid of the Spirit**...

And here's what the Spirit does... **The Spirit helps you in your weakness**... **Context of this**: As you encounter suffering/brokenness.

Example: Think about it like this... My kids, esp. My daughter is always asking for help... ALWAYS... 80-85% of the time, I help her...

- But then there are the times when she's in distress... Can hear it in her voice... **Daddy!!!** And you better believe that come hell or high water, I'm coming for her, I'm there to help!
- If that's true for me a jacked-up sinful dad, how much more is that true for a perfect and loving God!!

And what Paul's showing us is that the way that God helps us in our weakness, in our suffering, in our distress, is through the Holy Spirit!

Here's the thing that you need to see... That in the midst of your weakness, as you walk through the brokenness, **you are not alone!**

- We often view God as this far-off distant being, esp. When things are hard...
 - Reality Paul shows us is that it's the opposite...
 - God is close and near...
 - This is what Jesus purchased for you through His blood!

What this means is that **God hasn't left you to your broken circumstances, He's with you in the midst of them...**

- You ever just feel alone?? ... In those moments, remember this... Lean in...
- **Psalm 34:18** *God is near to the brokenhearted...*

And not only is He **with** you, but He also provides aid to you...

You say *ok awesome, but what does that look like??*

Here it is...

because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.

we do not know what to pray for as we should...

You ever been there?!? You ever been in a place where you don't know what to pray?? Things have gone down, and you're like, now what God??

- Or your in such pain, such hurt that you have no words to say to God- have you ever been there?!?
- Or maybe even in a place where you don't want to pray?!?

Listen, when you come to this place, when you come up against broken circumstances, or when you come up against suffering, and you're in a place where you don't know what to pray... **The Spirit intercedes for you...** *The Spirit prays for you...*

How incredible is that... *You're like, I got nothing, and the Spirit is like, I got you!*

Don't miss the intentional care and compassion of God here...

- God's not mad at you when you get to this point... He's not disappointed in you...
- **He knows that this is going to be a reality...**
- Because He knows the depths of the brokenness that we face.

In the midst of our distress, you're not alone... The Spirit of God that's in you is praying for you!

What does the Spirit pray for us in the midst of our suffering, in the midst of our pain, in the midst of the brokenness that we're facing?!?

This is where it gets pretty cool in my opinion... Verse 27:

27 And he who searches our hearts [that's the Father] knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

IOW: The Father knows the Spirit, and He knows that the Spirit intends for us... And what Spirit intends for us, what the Spirit prays for us **is always in accordance with the will of God!**

See the beauty of the Trinity and the Triune God here... The work of **Jesus** gives us access to the **Spirit**, and through the Spirit, we receive the work of Christ so that we're in right standing before the **Father...**

- The Spirit is who keeps us tethered to God...
 - **One of the ways that the Spirit does this is by praying the will of God over us!**

*And guess what? *The Spirit always gets what He asks for!*

What this means is that you can know that in the midst of your suffering, in the midst of the brokenness that you face in this world, in those times that you don't know what to pray, when you don't know what God's doing or what His will is in all of it...

- **That God is very much at work-** the Spirit is praying in accordance to God's will, and God is responding and working to accomplish that perfect will for your life...

That the perfect sovereign hand of God is over your life even when you can't see it and even when you don't understand...

Which, **BTW**, should give us incredible **confidence** in this life!

Because here's the deal, **life's not just a crap shoot**... You're not left unto your own, you're not alone, God's not distant, He's present and involved in every detail...

Watch what Paul says next... Here's what this means for you in the midst of the broken circumstances that you face...

Verse 28:

28 We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

I know that a lot of you have this on a coffee mug or crochet on a pillow...

- So often taken out of context...

Let me start with what this doesn't mean... It doesn't mean that you're always going to see the silver lining in everything...

Now, let me be clear, are times when you can and do see the implications of this verse in your life?? ... **Yes!**

- But this isn't always the case...
- And this verse doesn't promise that...
- People read into this verse and then get mad when they don't see the outcome...

This verse **doesn't** say when you will see the good that God's working, it just says that God is doing it!

- We live in an immediate gratification world...
- We expect God to operate like that...

Here's another thing that we need to understand about this verse that is so often missed... **The good that God is working to bring about is not always the good that you want, but it's the good that you need...**

So often, people weld this verse to be about getting what they want... The desired outcome...

When I was young, I used to think this...

- It was very confusing...
- I viewed the **good** in this passage based on my definition and not God's, and my definition and His are very different!!

Example: Think about it like this... Full disclosure, at one time, I wanted to be a heart surgeon... It turns out I am, just in a different way, lol!

- Watched ER a lot... The real one...
- Supper graphic
- If I were to show it to my young kids, they would be mortified... Having no idea it was a good thing...

That's a lot like us in this life... We don't have the ability to comprehend the good that God is bringing together in the midst of the suffering and the broken that we face...

- We don't understand how certain things can be for our good when it doesn't seem like it!

I know you've been there, you're like, what the heck are you doing in the midst of all this, God!?!

- And what Paul's showing us is that God is saying: I'm working to bring about your good!!
- This is about confidence in the midst of the broken world that we live in, confidence in the midst of the suffering and the groaning...

Confidence to know that God doesn't waste a hurt... *Somebody needs to hear that this morning...*

- **Your pain isn't pointless...** God has the ability to redeem your pain to make it produce something in you...

Broken world- God didn't have to do anything... God does everything to save us and doesn't stop there, but He says I'm working in the midst of your broken circumstances to bring about something beautiful... **Redeeming brokenness and making it beautiful...**

Example: Greatest example: *Judas...* God worked through sin and brokenness to bring about something beautiful...

I don't know about you, but as someone who's been through pain and suffering, this gives me incredible confidence...

- That my pain isn't pointless, it will be used by God as something purposeful...

You say: well, what does that look like?!?

Verse 29:

29 For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. **30** And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.

Here's the good that God working... In the midst of the broken world that we live in, in the midst of the pain and suffering that we face, in the midst of times when we're confused...

- God is working good, **and that good is conforming us into the Image of Christ...**

***Which means this:** Please hear me on this: *Romans 8:28* is not ultimately about the outcome of your circumstance, it's about conforming us into the Image of Christ...

What does this look like?

- Faith, dependence, trust, surrender, worship= God is #1...
- Faithfulness, devotion to the things of God...
- Confidence in the plan of God...

These are the things that God is doing and shaping in you in the midst of the brokenness of this world and in the midst of the suffering that you're facing...

And don't miss this: the confidence that Paul's pointing us to is grounded in the

God's plan from the beginning: **...those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.**

Here's what this means... God's going to finish what He started...

*We have to have the right perspective here... Go back to the progression Paul has been on...

- Sin... Jesus condemned
- God saved you, justified you, and He's going to glorify you one day...

In the midst of hardships, in the midst of broken circumstances... Can be any kind of broken circumstances... In your weakness, the Spirit is praying for you, praying what you can't pray, asking for what you need most...

- And God is working for your good and His glory...
- You can have confidence in that because God's going to finish what He started!

Conclusion [VAMP]

Call to believe...

- Spirit is in the saints...
- God works for the good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose...
- Those He foreknew, He predestined, those He predestined He called...

There is very clear language pointing to this... The promises that Paul's holding up are only true for those who are in Christ!

- Some of you need to believe for the first time this morning...

Call to respond...

Reflect and Discuss

- God has not left us alone. The Spirit helps us in our weakness. He is with you, and He also provides aid to you. What does it mean when it says that the Spirit helps us in our weakness?
- Read Romans 8:26-27, how does the Spirit intercede for us?
- Read Romans 8:28, how can we understand what it means in its context? What are some ways we misinterpret that verse?
 - What is the good that God is working in us?
 - What is God's purpose for us?
- Read Romans 8:29-30, what is the progression of events that Paul lays out for the believer?