

Victorious – Power for Today

10/19/25

Romans 8:26-30

Sunday AM

I read a story about a man walking along a desert road in west TX who saw an Indian man lying in the middle of the road w/ his ear pressed to the ground. As he got close to him, he heard the Indian quietly talking in broken English – mumbling – “Truck. Chevy truck. Large tires. Man driving. German Shepherd in front seat. TX license plate B1GT3X.” Astounded, the man said to Indian, “That’s unbelievable. You mean you can tell all of that just by listening to the ground?” He replied, “No, truck ran over me 30 min. ago.”

Life can be like this sometimes – can’t it? It can run over you before you even know what happened. And in those moments, you bow your head, fold your hands, and no words come to mind. Nothing happens. The silence feels heavy. The pain too deep. The grief too real. Have you ever been there?

- When the phone rings at midnight w/ bad news...
- When the diagnosis wasn’t what you’d hoped...
- When the marriage feels fragile...
- When your kids struggle and you feel helpless...
- When the future seems foggy and faith feels faint...

You want to pray, but all that comes out is a sigh. You’re too weary to find the right words, too broken to string together a sentence. Too lost to look for hope.

LBH – there are moments in life when the weight of the world sits squarely on our shoulders – when our words fail, and all we can do is groan. We bow our heads to pray but our minds go blank, our hearts ache, and heaven feels silent.

DYK that it’s in those wordless moments that God reveals His most tender truths – that even when we can’t pray, the H.S. is interceding praying for us.

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 thru wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, b/c the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance w/ the will of God. 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. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among the brethren. And those he predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified. Romans 8:26-30

This is one of the many jobs of the H.S. To meet us at the point of our need to intercede on our behalf – to carry us to the Father. To be there so that we don’t grow weary or lose heart. To speak for us to God when we have no words or can’t find the words to pray.

I The Spirit **INTERCEDES** on Our Behalf

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 thru wordless groans.

This may come as a shocker to some of us, but we don’t always know what’s best for us. In fact, quite often, when we pray, we don’t know what to pray.

- We pray for escape; God is planning endurance
- We pray for comfort; God is producing character
- We pray for healing – God is shaping holiness
- We pray for our will w/ no concern for God's will

This isn't an issue of not knowing *how* to pray but rather that there are times when the need is deeper than our hearts/minds can form the words.

The word **helps** in v. 26 comes from a Greek word that means – *to take hold of something w/ someone else*. The picture is of someone trying to lift a load too heavy to carry alone and requires help – and Paul says, the H.S. steps under the weight were experiencing w/ us to help us – He helps us carry the load.

Picture (2) men trying to lift a heavy log w/ one man at each end. That's what the H.S. does when life's weight is crushing us. He doesn't carry our burdens *for* us – He carries them *with* us. He meets us in our weakness – not after we've found our strength.

IOW – when we can't find or form the words, the H.S. carries us straight to the Father. When all we can do is groan, the H.S. translates our groans into intercession.

He places the power of His Godhead beneath our pressure to help our infirmity. Octavius Winslow

You see, our weakness isn't the point of our failure – it's the point of His fellowship.

When Camden was 4/5, I took him to the playground where he fell and scrapped his knee. Of course, I ran over to him – and thru tears, not able to speak, he pointed to his knee. In that moment, I didn't need his words, I understood the situation and knew what he needed. So, I scooped him up, went to DQ and bought him a treat as a bribe for him to say nothing to Meg.

This is what the H.S. does for us (except the bribing hiding from Meg part). When all we can do is groan, sigh, or cry – He takes our ache and turns it into prayer.

II The Spirit **PRAYS** According to God's Will

He who searches the hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, b/c the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. v. 27

To **intercede** – means the H.S. pleads on our behalf – He's constantly standing in the gap b/w us and God, always interceding for us – always and in all ways.

So – even when we pray selfishly, shortsightedly, or in confusion – the H.S. is *already editing and translating our request* before it reaches God's throne.

Meaning – the H.S. serves to align our heart w/ God's purposes, shaping our desires to match His divine design. So, He doesn't just carry our needs to heaven – He carries heaven's will back to our hearts.

SEE – the H.S. *steps in b/w our confusion and God's will* and says, "Father, here's what they mean. Here's what they need." And Paul says He does it "w/ groanings too deep for words."

This means our prayers – even the broken ones – are never wasted. When we pray the wrong thing, the Spirit rewrites them before they reach heaven. He corrects our requests so that they align w/ God's *best*, and not just our *wants*. ***This is why at times God's answer doesn't match our expectation or wishes.***

It also means the H.S. The H.S. never prays outside God's will – and He never stops praying for us.

- When we're sleeping – He's working
- When we're silent – He's speaking
- When we wander – He's whispering
- When we're weak – He's strengthening
- When we're overwhelmed – He's translating by reminding the Father that this one belongs to You

Don't Miss – v. 26 says the Spirit is our advocate **w/in** our hearts and v. 34 says Jesus is our advocate **before** the Father and – and together, they ensure that our faith will not fail, our salvation will not slip, and God's will is there to be experienced and lived.

Spurgeon once compared this kind of prayer to a boy trying to shoot an arrow. Unable to pull the bow, the His father comes up from behind, places his hands over the boy's hands, and together they draw the bow – and together they released the arrow. Yet when the arrow flies, it's not the skill of the son, but the strength and skill of the father that sends the arrow to the target.

This the H.S. – guiding, empowering, and aiming our weak prayers until they hit the bullseye of God's will.

God Works **ALL** Things for His Glory | Our Good

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love God, who are called according to His purpose. v. 28

OK – let me state the obvious. This is one of the most misinterpreted verses in the Bible. I've heard it taught:

- Everything that happens is good – wrong!
- God guarantees my comfort/success – nope
- God promises good immediately to all – what
- If something turns out badly, I must've lacked faith

Romans 8:28 as about how God sovereignly weaves every circumstance – the good, bad, and ugly – toward His good redemptive outcome to help His followers to become more like Jesus and to align w/ His will and purpose – it has nothing to do w/ our earthly comfort.

How can we be so sure of this truth? It's b/c the H.S. is praying on our behalf seeking to align our lives w/ the Father's plan – going so far as to assure us that even in the things that cause struggle/hurt – God can harness them for our good and His glory.

Sometimes God allows what He hates to accomplish what He loves. Joni Erickson Tada

Reality is – sometimes our unanswered prayer might be heaven's best answer to us and for us. That is – our detour might be the God's will in disguise.

I'm reminded of Demingo Pacheco. On May 11, 1996, he was rushing to catch a flight out of Miami when his rear tire blew on I-95. For over an hour, he baked in the FL sun changing it, frustrated that he'd miss his plane. Just as he finished, his phone rang – it was his mom. "Where are you?" she asked. "Stuck on the I-95 w/ a flat," he sighed. Her voice trembled: "Turn on your radio and thank God – the plane you were to be on just crashed in the Everglades." That flat tire, and moment of aggravation, had just saved his life. See – Demingo was booked and would've been on ValuJet Flight 592 except for that flat tire.

Normally, to say thank God for a flat tire would sound crazy – and yet, what else would you do if in his shoes. “In all things” doesn’t mean when you’re healthy or wealthy – or rich and famous, or happy or glad. It means being grateful that God is at work to conform you to the image of His Son – know that God’s purpose in all things is for us to be just like Jesus.

The best thing that might ever happen to you in this life is not that you make millions of dollars, or become famous. It’s not to live in a mansion, drive a Bentley, or claim the corner office. The best thing that can ever happen to you in this life is *to become just like Jesus*.

The next time life unexpectedly hits you out of nowhere – or things don’t go as you hope. Remember that in your sigh, heaven hears. When you stumble, the H.S. intercedes. When you stop, the Spirit keeps moving on your behalf for your good and God’s glory

A little boy was sitting at a grand piano before a crowded concert hall. As he started pounding on the keys the simple, clumsy notes of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” The audience grew restless. When suddenly, a master pianist walked onto the stage. He slipped in behind the boy, reached his arms around him, and began to play – filling in the gaps w/ rich harmony. And together, their music became beautiful.

That’s prayer infused by the H.S. We pound out notes to the best of our ability, offering a clumsy tune – until finally, the H.S. steps in, wraps His hands around our prayers, and plays something divine. The Spirit turns our brokenness into beauty, our weakness into worship, and our sighs into songs.

CLOSING APPLICATIONS

1 – **TRUST** the Spirit When Words Fail

Remember that when you’re too weary to pray, the H.S. is interceding for you translating your sighs into heaven’s language.

2 – Allow the H.S. **ALIGN** Your Heart to God’s Will

Invite the Spirit to reshape your desires so that what you want begins to match what God wills for your life.

3 – **REST** in God’s Purpose When Life Hurts

Even when life feels random or unfair, God is working in every detail for your good and His glory.

4 – Keep **SHOWING** Up in Prayer

Don’t quit when prayer feels hard – keep coming; the H.S. will meet your faithfulness w/ His fruitfulness.