

ROMANS 8:26-27

HELP IN OUR WEAKNESS

Big Idea: Because believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we are never alone: He helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us according to the will of God.

CHRISTIANS ARE WEAK, BUT WE HAVE THE HELPER (*Romans 8:26a*)

- How does the Spirit help us in our weakness? (e.g. John 16:5-15; Romans 8:15-16)
- What kinds of "weakness" do you most often experience in your prayer life: fatigue, confusion, doubt, discouragement, or something else?
- How does knowing that God expects weakness (rather than being disappointed by it) change the way you approach prayer?

OUR PRAYERS ARE OFTEN INADEQUATE, BUT THE SPIRIT INTERCEDES PERFECTLY (*Romans 8:26b*)

- What does it mean that the Spirit intercedes for us, and how is the Trinity involved in our prayer life: that we pray to the Father, through the Son, by the Spirit? (e.g. Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:22-25)
- Can you recall a season when you didn't know what to pray, or didn't even have the words to pray, and sensed the Spirit interceding for you? What did you learn?
- Why is it comforting to know that prayer does not depend on our eloquence, clarity, or emotional strength?

GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS, AND THE SPIRIT INTERCEDES ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL (*Romans 8:27*)

- What does it mean that God searches hearts? (e.g. Psalm 139:1, 23-24; 1 Samuel 16:7)
- If the Father knows the hearts of men, how much more does He know the mind of the Spirit, since they are One? How does this bring comfort and peace?
- Why is praying according to the will of God essential in our prayer lives?