

Holy Ghost – Small Group Notes – 10.23.22 (Tyler Smith)

Recently, I was mowing the lawn in my back yard. My neighbor (who is a Christian) waved me over to her. As I approached, her eyes were filling with tears. She looked at me and said, “I just love the Holy Spirit. Do you know that he is a person”? I instantly felt overwhelmed with the presence of the Holy Spirit. My neighbor didn’t mean that the Holy Spirit was a human being. There are many in the church who have tried to humanize the Lord. Rather, my neighbor was saying that the Holy Ghost is:

- Personal
- Present
- Relational
- Powerful
- For us
- A True Friend

This encounter with my neighbor was really a catalyst for this sermon. I sense that we, as a church, and individually, need to be reminded of the goodness of the Holy Ghost and how he is always ministering to us.

This brought me to Romans 8. Much of the theme of Romans 8 is the apostle Paul expressing the wonderful treasure of Life in the Spirit while we still live in our flawed fleshly bodies.

Our main text is Romans 8:26-28:

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose

Who is the Holy Spirit (also referred to as the Holy Ghost)?

Many people are confused when it comes to the person of the Holy Spirit. Christianity is the only religion in the world that holds the belief that there is one true God, and in the One true God, there are three persons:

- God the Father
- God the Son
- God The Holy Spirit

You may have heard this explained as the Trinity or the Triune Godhead. A simple way to think of this (one that I heard about as a child) is to compare the Godhead to water. Water has three forms. In normal temperatures it’s a liquid, in cold temperatures it’s ice, and in extreme heat it’s

steam. Similarly, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are all one and are all God.

The church at large has embraced this truth because the Bible is full of scriptures that teach this, including Romans 8. It has been my observation that the Church widely accepts God the Father, and God the Son, but when it comes to God the Holy Spirit, well we seem to shy away from this part of the Godhead. THIS IS PART OF THE DEVILS SCHEMES AGAINST THE CHURCH.

The enemy knows that if he can get the church confused and negligent concerning the Holy Spirit, then we will be powerless to live the life we are called to live as believers.

The devil wants us to be closed to sound Godly spiritualism, and yet open to demonic spiritualism...

The world, is so very open to spiritualism. If you haven't noticed, we are here in the season of Halloween. It amazes me how open the world (and unfortunately, even Christians) are to demonic spiritualism.

- People dress their kids as ghosts and demonic figures
- Candy and toys are all themed around spirits and the devil
- TV-Shows, Movies, Music, Yard Decorations, and Parties are all consumed with evil...

ITS EVERYWHERE, THE WORLD DOESN'T SHY AWAY FROM SPIRITUAL THINGS!

Unfortunately, many of us, yes us "Christians", care and know more about what we are going to put on for our Halloween parties with our friends or what we are going to put on our kids for trick-or-treating, than putting on the Holy Spirit!

Many people hear one talk about the Holy Ghost in the church and instantly you are labeled as:

- Over Spiritual
- Out of touch with reality
- Spooky Spiritual

The reason for this is that we are not in the Word of God. The Bible gives us the truth about who the Spirit of God is and how He ministers to the Church. Romans 8 is one of those places that are riddled with explanations of who the Holy Ghost is.

Many of us have said "I love you God" or "I love you Jesus". This type of terminology is in many of our songs that we sing. My prayer today is that we would walk away saying, "I LOVE YOU HOLY SPIRIT"

Before we get to our main text, here are some amazing reasons why we should love the ministry of the Holy Ghost (all from our main Chapter that we are discussing – Romans 8):

- Romans 8:2 says: *the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death*

- HE HAS SET YOU FREE FROM SIN AND DEATH. HE IS WORKING IN YOU TO GET RID OF YOUR SIN AND YOUR DEAD FRUITS OF THE ENEMY. THANK YOU, HOLY SPIRIT. I LOVE YOU HOLY GHOST!
- Verse 4 says: *the spirit helps us fulfill the just requirement of the law*
 - Lord I can't do this Christian walk on my own, I can't keep this law. BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN HELP ME. THE HOLY GHOST GIVES SUPERNATURAL POWER TO LIVE HOLY FOR HIM. I LOVE YOU HOLY GHOST
- Verse 6 says: *the spirit gives us life and peace.*
 - When you are tormented with fear, when anxiety suffocates you, the HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US PEACE AND LIFE IN THE MIDST OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCE. I LOVE YOU HOLY GHOST
- Verse 11 says: *God is going to raise your mortal body from the dead by the spirit who dwells in you*
 - If you are a believer and are hoping for the resurrection one day when you will get a glorified body, thank the HOLY GHOST BECAUSE HE IS GOING TO BE THE ONE TO DO THAT! I LOVE YOU HOLY GHOST
- Verse 13 says: *By the spirit we put to death the deeds of the Body!*
 - ARE YOU GROWING IN YOUR SANCTIFICATION? MEANING, ARE YOU OVERCOMING ANY PAST SINS... ARE YOU BEING SHAPED MORE AND MORE INTO THE IMAGE OF GOD THE SON? THEN THANK THE HOLY SPIRIT BECAUSE HE IS THE ONE EQUIPPING YOU EVERY DAY TO GET THERE! I LOVE YOU HOLY GHOST!
- Verse 14 says: *All the children of God are led by the Spirit of God!*
 - Do you need leading and direction in your life. The Holy Spirit gives it. THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT. I LOVE YOU HOLY GHOST!
- Verses 15 through 16 says: *The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the Children of God.*
 - Have you ever wondered, am I saved. I know this is something that my kids have asked me when I am tucking them in bed at night. Did you know the Holy Spirit supernaturally gives us this assurance? I LOVE YOU HOLY GHOST!

We are weak without The Holy Spirit

²⁶ **Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.** For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

It is good for us to know who we are in Christ:

- That we are a new creation.
- That all things have been made new.
- That we have been translated into the kingdom of his son.

With that in mind, we can never forget that we are so utterly weak without the Holy Ghost

- Scripture says that no man can even say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit!
- IN OUR EXCITEMENT OF WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST, WE TEND TO LOSE OUR DEPENDANCE ON HIM. WE THINK WE HAVE IT ALL FIGURED OUT IN OUR OWN PERSON...

This word “weakness” in verse 26 means feebleness because of human nature.

- This same word that is used for weakness here is referring to our human nature. Its talking about the body that we inherited from Adam. Look at how the same writer (Paul) writes this in 1 Corinthians 15:42-43:

*⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in **weakness**; it is raised in power.*

- We have human limitations. Paul also brings this up earlier in this letter to the Romans in Romans 6:19, where he wrote:

¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, **because of your natural limitations...**

WE NEED HELP!

As I was preparing for this sermon, I was sitting in a Panera and this elder gentle man was carrying all these bags as he entered the bakery. He was having trouble getting through the door and this younger gentleman tried to help him. The elder man got angry and yelled at him, “I DON’T NEED HELP!” This happened right when I was reading this scripture here in verse 26 of Romans 8 which again says, *The Spirit helps us in our weakness*

- Sadly, many of us are just like this old man.... We say things like:
 - “I HAVE IT FIGURED OUT”
 - “I CAN STOP DRINKING WHEN EVER I WANT”
 - “I DON’T HAVE A LUST PROBLEM”
 - “I WILL GET RIGHT WITH GOD LATER ON IN LIFE”
 - “I HAVE MONEY, AND A GREAT JOB, A HEALTHY FAMILY, I DON’T NEED HELP”

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP?

Look at what Jesus Says concerning the Holy Spirit in John 14:26

²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

- LOOK AT WHAT JESUS CALLS THE HOLY SPIRIT HERE– **THE HELPER**
- WHAT IS ONE OF THE WAYS HE HELPS– **HE TEACHES**

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAYS FOR YOU

This may sound strange but let’s dive into this a little bit.

*²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. **For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.***

First, of all, there are certainly things that we do know what to pray for. Anything that is in the Word of God...

- I should lay hands on the sick and they shall recover
- I should pray for love and joy and peace and patience, all the fruits of the Spirit
- I should pray for wisdom
- I should pray that I could forgive others
- I should pray to be shaped more into the image of God
- Etc.

With that, when do I not know what to pray for as the scripture says?

May I submit to you, that the word of the Lord here is talking about things dealing with the Will of God for our lives... Before this text, In verses 23 – 25 of Romans 8, we see that creation and believers groan with a longing desire to have a glorified body with Jesus in Heaven. Until this day comes, we hope and must trust in the Holy Ghost to help us in our bodily weakness and in our mental weakness...

This weakness can make it hard to navigate life due to our flesh. With that, Have you ever not known what direction to take in life?

- Should I get my Masters?
- Should I move my whole family to another part of the world to do missions?
- Should I pursue this relationship?
- Should I promote this individual that works for me?
- Should I go to this college or that college?

In that confusion look at this scripture:

*²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.***

So, in such love, God the Spirit talks with God the Father on our behalf, when we don't know how or what to pray, concerning God's Will!

Even Paul dealt with this in his own life. Look at Philippians 1:20-24

*²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. **Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.** ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.*

What does this mean for us Christians?

1. Allow yourself to take all of this pressure off of yourself when you're unsure of how to pray concerning huge life decisions.

- a. I'm not saying we can't know the will of God! Romans 12:2 says *don't conform to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may discern the will of God!*

But, in times when you struggle with where to go, what decision to make, what direction to take in life, Let the Holy Spirit go on your behalf. This is a faith move! And it is so comforting and freeing!

2. Prayer is not a performance. It's trust in the amazing, undefeated performance of the triune God!

We end with Romans 8:28

²⁸ *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose*

- God has a purpose for you, for His Glory. If you are an infant, or 100+ years old. The Holy Ghost wants to HELP you realize this truth in your life...
- Do you Love the Holy Spirit?
- Do you let go and let Him take things for you?
- Is He your power source?

Today is your day to say yes to the Holy Ghost!