

Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit Assures the Believers of Future Glory, Part 3 (Comforter)

Sermon Text: Romans 8:26-27

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a clearer understanding of the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 aspects of the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit on behalf of true Christians.

Introduction: As a result of all that God has done, Christians can wait with “passionate patience” and with strength and fortitude for the “hope” to manifest itself. The attitude and aptitude of endurance is the ability to bear up under intense pressure.

- I. The emphasis of the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit. V.26**
- II. The efficiency of the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit. V.26a**
- III. The effectiveness of the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit. V.27**

I. The emphasis of the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit. V.26

The Holy Spirit comes alongside as our (comforter/helper) in groaning for God’s ultimate day of restoration or His eternal reign of righteousness.

The Holy Spirit helps and comforts the believer, because of our remaining humanness and fallenness, which make us still susceptible to sin and doubt, He helps us with weaknesses, this is not a reference to any specific weakness. Therefore, even after justification, sanctification, on the pathway to glorification we still have spiritual and physical weaknesses. Living totally moral lives, speaking the truth in love, witnessing about the Gospel, or doing anything that God desires for us to do, is only possible by the power and person of the Holy Spirit working in and through the Christian in spite of human limitation.

Philippians 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

The Holy Spirit provides the Christian with all we need to be faithful, preserved, protected, and secured.

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

II. The efficiency of the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit. V.26a

A. The work of the Holy Spirit is necessary due to human weakness. V.26b

Christians do not know how to pray as we ought or what to pray for. Due to the Christian’s imperfect perspectives, finite minds, human frailties, and spiritual limitations, we are not even aware that spiritual needs exist, much less know how best they should be met.

Even the most obedient, faithful, and sincere cannot possibly know God’s desired purposes concerning all of his own needs or the needs of others for whom they pray.

(2 Cor 12:3-9)

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. **32** "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren."

In 2 Corinthians, Paul’s prayer request did not correspond to the Lord’s will for Him. But what we must realize is that our spiritual security rests in the Lord’s faithfulness rather than in our up and down commitment.

B. The intercessory work of the **Holy Spirit**. V.26b

The Holy Spirit provides divine help and comfort, this is not only personal but directly appropriate for God's will for the Christian. The Spirit not only provides security, but is our security.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

What Paul has in mind is the Christian's inability to consistently discern clearly God's will in many of life's circumstances and situations, in comparison with the Holy Spirit's ability to always consistently discern clearly God's will in every one of life's circumstances and situations. The Holy Spirit unites with the Christian in our desire to be freed from our corrupted earthly bodies and to put on incorruptibility, and live with God forever in our glorified heavenly bodies. If for an instant Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit were to stop or cease their enduring intercession for us, we would, in that instant, fall back into our sinful state of condemnation and separation from God.

C. The intercessory **prayer** of the Holy Spirit. V.26c

Contrary to the interpretation of most charismatics, the groanings of the Spirit are not the speaking in unknown tongues and ecstatic gibberish that have no intellect, spiritual, or rational human or angelic intent. Jesus Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit are acting as constant advocates and intercessors, before God the Father on the Christian's behalf.

1. Jesus work

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. **26** For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

John 10:28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

John 17:2 "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. **3** "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

2. Protection from false teachers

Matthew 24:24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

There are several reasons why this section is not a reference to tongues.

- a. everyone does not have the gift of tongues.
- b. everyone does groan.
- c. tongues are clearly **verbalized** throughout Scripture.
- d. this intercession of groaning is inward.

They are not words that can be uttered publicly or privately, but groans that have absolute content and intent, basically these are divine appeals by the Holy Spirit on behalf of the Christian for spiritual longings, in accordance with the will of God.

"The groanings represent what might be referred to as 'intertrinitarian communications,' divine articulations by the Holy Spirit to the Father." [John MacArthur New Testament Commentary on Romans p. 467]

1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

III. The effectiveness of the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit. V.27

A. The strength of the Holy Spirit intercessory work. V.27a

The (He) here refers to God the Father, who searches the hearts of men and knows the hearts of men. Examples:

1) Selection of Kings

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD does not see* as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

2) Temple preparation

1 Kings 8:39 "then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men),

1 Chronicles 28:9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

3) Choosing leadership

Acts 1:24 And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen

Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

Since the Father knows the heart and minds of men, how much more does He know the mind of the Spirit. The Father understands exactly what the Spirit is thinking and saying as the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. God the Father knows what the Spirit intends, and the Spirit knows the will of the Father, therefore the Christian can bank on the perfect harmony between the two, because it is in accordance with God's will that the Spirit intercedes for the saints.

B. The objects of the Holy Spirit's intercessory work. V.27b

1) The saints

2) The will of God

Conclusion: There is One in heaven, the Son Jesus Christ, who acts as our High Priest, Mediator, and Intercessor, who "intercedes on our behalf" defending us from all legitimate charges that might be brought against us, guaranteeing salvation in the day of judgment (8:34). But there is also, Paul shares in these verses an inward intercessor "in the heart or inward man," the Holy Spirit, Who effectively prays to the Father on our behalf, through all the difficulties and uncertainties of our journey from Grace to Glorification.