

Romans Chapter 8
New American Standard Bible®

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Romans Chapter 8: 26-39

Our Victory in Christ

²⁶In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

²⁹For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written,

**"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."**

³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In earlier verses, Paul has written that nature is groaning for the redemption.

²²For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

He writes that we are groaning for the hope that is within us.

²³And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Now, he writes that the very Spirit Himself is groaning in intercession for US.

²⁶In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

“We do not know how to pray as we should...” That is our weakness. It always has been. We need to understand when we read this that Paul is not saying that when we do not know what or how to pray that we should stop praying. Prayer should and must be a part of our life – never ending – always happening. What God wants is a never ending communication from those he loves and the constant intercession for us by His son, seeking out God’s will for us.

Should we not pray because we do not know how to pray? Should we rely on Christ interceding for us?

“You have not because you ask not,” (James 4:2)

Evidently not...

Why do we not pray as we should?

- We are immature, selfish, self centered, angry, petty, etc..
- We lack knowledge (we know something is wrong, but we don’t know what is wrong).
- We are nearsighted in our vision – failing to see past our needs and wants
- We lack wisdom or discernment
- At times God simply has not fully revealed His will to us (did we ask Him to reveal it?) or we were looking the other way when He did.

Back to Verse 26-27

There is a beautiful picture that Paul paints here. It is a view of Christ himself standing before the throne of God, interceding for us (You and me). He is so committed to us that his intercession for us falls to the level of “groanings too deep for words.” Simply put, there are no words suitable for the one who represents us before the Father, and so Christ stands there and groans for us, in ways that the Father (In his love for us) understands.

Paul says that Christ searches the heart and that he knows what the mind of the spirit is and because of that, his intercession for us has a specific goal. For what does Christ intercede?

”the will of God.”

What is God’s will for us? Perhaps it is that:

- We become his children.
- We become righteous in his sight.
- We honor Christ

- We love one another as Christ loved us
- Grow up to be more like Christ
- Seek out and do His will.

What is the Spirit Asking For?

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

The spirit asks for all things to work together for our good. And for God's will to be accomplished. Whatever happens, God will use it to accomplish His will – for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. There are some conditions for things to work for our good:

1 – We must love God

Jesus was to be and is to be the firstborn of many sons, who love the Father. Jesus said this himself:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your mind and all your soul and all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment," (Matt 22:37-38).

We are God's creation and exist to offer him love (to be pleasing to Him). For all of this, God knew us before we were and predestined us. As jumbled as life seems to be, everything happens for a reason and the reason is to fulfill God's plan for us.

2 – We must be about His purpose

What is God's purpose?

²⁹For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Simply put, we are called to God's purpose. Before we ever were, God knew us and predestined us to accomplish His will.

- 1- To conform us to the image of His Son. He wants us to be like Jesus.
- 2- That Jesus be only the first of many brothers (and sisters)
- 3- That we (God's creation) will be called, justified and glorified.
- 4- That we love Him

There are five steps in God's plan, stretching from eternity to eternity. Paul shares them here.

1 – God foreknew us – before we were. He knew us very well – what we would be, Where we would be (here – now) and what we would do. Each time we fail Him, is an event God already knew. Each time we act in accordance with His Holy will is also an event He already knew.

2 – God predestined us – Before we were, God has already selected the goal toward which he is going to move every one of us who believes in Christ. That goal is conformity to the character of Christ. Everything that happens to us focuses on that one supreme purpose. God's primary purpose for us is not that we be happy – it is that we be Holy – like Jesus was and is. God predestined everyone who calls on Christ to become Holy like Christ is Holy.

3 – God Called us – Up to this point, all that God has accomplished was within His Holy will. At this point, we become involved. His Holy Spirit calls each of us and we answer that call or we don't. Those whom He foreknew and predestined - He calls. That is the free will God has given to us as a part of his creation. We are free creations, free to answer His call in whatever way we choose. This calling is the work of the Holy Spirit. Regardless of who we are and where we are, the Holy Spirit begins working in our lives to call us to God.

Jesus said, **"All that my Father has given me shall come unto me. Not one shall be lost,"** (John 6:65).

We have a part in this – We accept God, or run from him until he secures us or having exercised every option He has, we fail Him completely. The final decision still remains our decision.

4 – God Justifies us - justification is God's gift of worth. Those who are justified become valuable in his sight. They are forgiven, cleansed, and given the position before him of being loved, accepted, wanted, and endeared. This is justification -- being given the gift of worth without any cause on our part at all. By the cross, God was freed to give the gift of righteousness through Christ Jesus, His son. Through the death of Christ and our asking him into our lives as Lord, we are made just (righteous) before God.

5 – God Glorifies us - Glorification is what Paul calls "the revelation of the sons of God," (Romans 8:19). It is the exciting day which the whole creation is anticipating waiting for and watching for. It is that day when God suddenly pulls back the curtains to reveal what he has accomplished with us. Suddenly, the sons of God will stand out in glory of what He has made us through Christ and sanctification (making us holy through Christ). As we see Christ clearly, we seek to be more like him, we move closer to sanctification and glorification. At this time, all of us are a work in progress, moving from justification to glorification through sanctification.

This leads to Paul's next statement,

^{31a}What then shall we say to these things?

What can we say? – "Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

Paul ends Chapter 8 with three questions:

1 – from Verse 31b-32

^{31b}If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

God has a plan for us. When we are a part of His plan, there is no failure. Everything has a purpose and God will use the things that happen to accomplish His purpose.

Regarding the one who has already given us the best, the greatest, the dearest, the most precious thing he has, and who did so while we were sinners -- while we were enemies, while we were helpless -- will he not also give us some of the small things that we need?

Question #2 from verse 33-34

³³Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

God had justified us. We have been made righteous in His sight. With this fact, who can bring a charge (unrighteousness) against us? Could Christ? (Perhaps) but he is the one who died for us and was raised from the dead and who now stands at the right hand of God interceding for us.

Could the one who condemns be Satan himself? Likely so. The enemy will accuse us, but God has already made the final decision when He sent his son. Christ died for us and was raised from the dead, and intercedes for us.

I have been fond of saying that for each charge that Satan makes, Jesus will simply say, "I died for that."

And so Satan condemns us and the only problem with that is if we listen to him. God obviously doesn't. He has already justified us, "through Christ we are made righteous."

Dr. A. W. Tozer, that grand old prophet of Chicago, states it like this:

The teaching of the New Testament is that now, at this very moment, there is a Man in heaven appearing in the presence of God for us. He is as certainly a man as was Adam or Moses or Paul; he is a man glorified, but his glorification did not de-humanize him. Today he is a real man, of the race of mankind, bearing our lineaments and dimensions, a visible and audible man, whom any other man would recognize instantly as one of us. But more than this, he is the heir of all things, Lord of all lords, head of the church, firstborn of the new creation. He is the way to God, the life of the believer, the hope of Israel, and the high priest of every true worshiper. He holds the keys of death and hell, and stands as advocate and surety for everyone who believes on him in truth. Salvation comes not by accepting the finished work, or deciding for Christ; it comes by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, the whole, living, victorious Lord who, as God and man, fought our fight and won it, accepted our debt as his own and paid it, took our sins and died under them, and rose again to set us free. This is the true Christ; nothing less will do.

Finally, Paul asks Question #3 from verse 35-36

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written,

**"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."**

³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Who or what?

Is there any force, power or condition that can come between us and Jesus? Paul answers the question that many people ask. "Is there any way I can lose my salvation?" Who can remove us from Christ, once we fully come to him?

Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (we are as sheep being led to slaughter)

Paul's answer is:

³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

This is why Jesus came. This is what he did.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither:

- Death nor life are the two biological conditions we face here on earth.
- Angels or principalities are the two things in heaven.
- Things present or things to come – the two only two measures of existence we have any control over (the past is gone – forgotten)
- Powers – anyone or anything that has the means to make anything happen.
- Height or depth – as far up or down as we can go
- Nor any other created thing – did I leave anything out? Well this covers it

will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul makes certain he leaves nothing off his list.

Nothing

NOTHING

NOTHING

Will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.