

The Spirit Intercedes for Us

“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. 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” (Romans 8:26-27).

Our Problem

- *“The Spirit helps us in our weakness” (26a):*
 - Someone who helps carry the heavy load of another.
 - Our weaknesses are many: physically, mentally, emotionally, and especially spiritually.
- *“We do not know what to pray for” (26b):*
 - Do we ask for healing or preparation for what lies ahead?
 - Do we ask for boldness or patience?
 - Do we rush a relationship or wait for it to develop?
 - Do we ask for prosperity or for contentment?
- We do not know what the future holds.
- We do not know what is best for us, but the Spirit does!

God's Solution

- *“The Spirit Himself intercedes for us” (26c):*
 - One who intercedes speaks on behalf of another.
 - The Spirit goes to the Father and interprets our prayers.
- *“With groanings too deep for words” (26d):*
 - Groans represent needs that words cannot express.
 - This is wordless language we cannot comprehend.
- *“He who searches hearts knows the mind of the Spirit” (27a).*
- *“The Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God” (27b).*
 - He knows God and His eternal truth, as well as our needs.
 - He will pray for us, but only according to the will of God.



Principles for Prayer

- God gives us the *gift* of prayer and He *wants* us to pray, fully, freely, and faithfully.
- The Spirit does not remove our *need* for prayer; rather, He *helps* us as we pray.
- We must understand the purpose of prayer, both *praise* and *petition*.
- We must always pray according to *the Lord's will*, that His will be done and not our own.

Heavenly Father,

Into Your hands

I place my worries, cares, and troubles.

Into Your wisdom,

I place my path, my direction, and my goal.

Into Your love

I place my life and my soul.