

Begin by having everyone read from Romans 8:26-30

### **Romans 8:26-30 (NAS)**

**26***In 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;*

**27***and 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.*

**28***And 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.*

**29***For 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;*

**30***and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

**Beginning question:** Share what Romans 8:28 means to you.

Romans 8:26-30 addresses the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

### **I. Help in times of weakness (verse 26-27)**

A. Romans 8:26-27 *"In 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; 27 and 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."*

1. Verses 26-27 tell us that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses.
2. "In the same way" refers to the other ways in which the Holy Spirit helps us.
3. Ways the Spirit helps us in Romans 8
  - a. Verse 2 – The Holy Spirit sets us free from the law of sin and death.
  - b. Verse 4 – The Holy Spirit helps us fulfill the requirements of the law.
  - c. Verse 6 – The Holy Spirit gives us life and peace.
  - d. Verse 11 – The Holy Spirit will raise us from the dead.
  - e. Verse 13 – The Holy Spirit helps us put to death the deeds of the flesh.
  - f. Verse 14 – The Holy Spirit leads us as sons of God.
  - g. Verse 15-16 – The Holy Spirit bears witness that we are children of God.
  - h. Verse 23 – The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our eternal inheritance.

B. How does the Holy Spirit help us according to verses 26-27?

1. Romans 8:26-27 *"In 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; 27 and 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."*
2. The Holy Spirit prays or intercedes on our behalf.
3. This is an incredible ministry of the Holy Spirit – He prays for us.

- C. Why does the Holy Spirit have to intercede for us?
1. Romans 8:26-27 *“In 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; 27 and 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.”*
    - a. See the phrase: “helps our weakness”.
    - b. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us because we have weaknesses.
  2. We have a natural tendency to pray according to our weaknesses rather than according to God’s will.
- D. When does the Holy Spirit pray for us?
1. Romans 8:26-27 *“In 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; 27 and 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.”*
    - a. Verse 26 says, “...for we do not know how to pray as we should”.
    - b. The Spirit prays for us when we do not know what to pray or how to pray.
  2. This means that even when we don’t feel like praying or want to pray, prayers are being lifted up for us by the Holy Spirit.
- E. Five truths from Romans 8:26-27.
1. We are not always expected to know God’s Will.
  2. We are being understood by God and not just judged by Him.
  3. Our refinement and growth is not limited to what we can understand and articulate.
  4. In our weakness, God is for us and not against us.
  5. Even when we are not praying, the Spirit is praying for us.

**Small Group Time:** Share how one of the five truths of Romans 8:26-27 would bless a believer who is going through a trial.

## II. Hope in times of trouble (Verse 28)

- A. Romans 8:28 *“And 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.”*
1. This is one of the most quoted scriptures from the Bible.
  2. Often times, it is misquoted or partially quoted.
  3. **Illus:** I remember hearing Joan Rivers, a comedian, while hosting the Tonight Show, say to a guest, “All things work together for good...”
    - a. Because of the phraseology, I think she had some sort of religious background.
    - b. She partially quoted Romans 8:28.
    - c. The net result – Everything works out for everybody and that’s just not correct.
  4. It is quoted so often because it is a verse that gives us hope in times of trouble.

- B. This verse begins by saying, “For we know...”
1. This means that the truth of this verse is something we will experience.
  2. As we live our lives, the truth of verse 28 and what follows it, will be made evident.
  3. It will not be just head knowledge, but experiential knowledge.
  4. Romans 8:28 is something we can experientially know is true.
- C. The verse goes on to say that God is active.
1. Romans 8:28 “*And 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.***”
  2. This verse tells us that God is active in our lives.
  3. For God to cause something to happen, means He is actively involved in our lives.
- D. Paul then writes, “all things”
1. Romans 8:28 “*And 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.*”
  2. The phrase “all things” is totally comprehensive with no qualifications.
  3. This verse applies to every circumstance of our lives – there are no exceptions.
  4. When Paul writes, “all things”, he means everything... not just some things or most things or occasional things, but all things.
- E. Now the verse gives a conditional **promise**.
1. Romans 8:28 “*And 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.***”
  2. This is an immense promise.
  3. All things will work together for good.
  4. Something good will come out of every circumstance in our lives no matter how horrible or terrible it may seem at the moment.
  5. This verse is ultimately pointing to verses 29-30, which is the big picture of this verse.
  6. But this verse also applies to daily living.
- F. Remember: Romans 8:28 is a conditional promise.
1. There is a condition to the promise.
  2. Most of the promises in the Bible have some sort of condition attached to it.

**Small Group Time:**

1. Share some examples of conditional promises in the Bible or out of your life.
2. Share a time in your life when you experienced “all things work together for good”.

