

“The Spirit Helps in Our Weakness”
Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit’s help in prayer

1. The Reality of Our Weakness in Prayer

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weakness.

(1) A Basic, Fundamental Weakness *For we do not know what we should pray for
as we ought”*

- All believers have this weakness!
- We do not know what to pray; in prayer we are ignorant.

(2) A Weakness Rooted in our Fallenness

-1- vv. 20-25 – a commentary on Genesis 3 the curse

- A massive “futility factor” affects the whole of the creation
- Brokenness cuts through everything that we do

-2- This brokenness from sin shows itself in our prayers

- a deeply rooted confusion; an ignorance
- our minds and hearts still very much affected by the “original lie”
- very flawed in discerning what is “good” in terms of how our lives should be arranged

2. The Remedy to Our Weakness in Prayer

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weakness...

(1) The Spirit Himself intercedes for us *the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us
with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*

-1- We are groaning (cf. 23); the Spirit Himself groans!

- In the midst of our groaning in prayer, the Spirit is at work!
- He does not remove our weakness; rather He transcends it.

-2- In view: What the Spirit does in us, not what we do.

- His ministry is more than adequate to answer our massive need
- This is an efficacious, successful ministry!

(2) The Spirit intercedes according to the Will of God (27)

- The Spirit knows perfectly what to pray for! *“He makes intercession for the saints
according to the will of God”*

- God “knows” – appreciates, recognizes – what is the mind of the Spirit.

(3) The Spirit’s intercession is *in tandem with* the intercession of Christ

Further Application