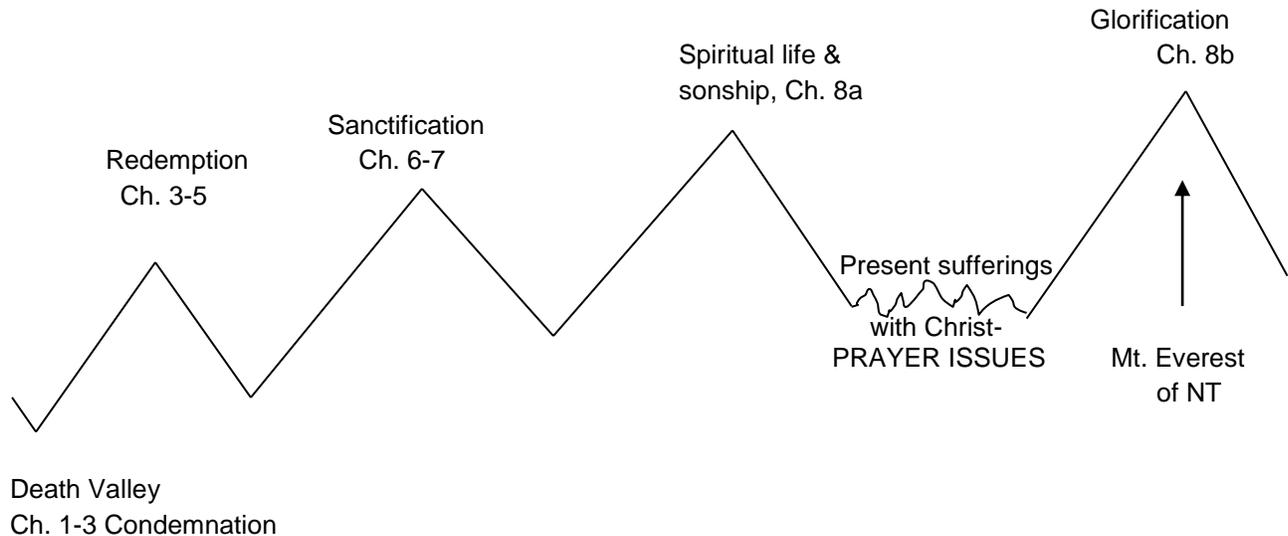


### Our Problem in Prayer: The Holy Spirit's Help (Intercession)

Study Focus: Romans 8:26-28

Context: Romans 8:16-30 – 3 Sources of Hope

#### TRUTH IN ROMANS: LIKE A SERIES OF ASCENDING PEAKS



#### I. Source #1: THE HOPE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) OF OUR GLORIFICATION (Future EXPECTATION) 8:16-25

Doctrinal Principles:

- v. 18** Suffering precedes glorious heirship; this is an essential element of Christian worldview.
- v. 19-20** All creation is in an abortive state. Why? How? Results?
- v. 21** Creation in all of its aspects will be redeemed from the effects of sin.
- v. 22** All creation \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ in unison (“together”)

*groans* = συστεναζω / *sustenazo* = *to sigh, aspire, groan* in view of a problem or correction of a problem.

**II. Source #2: THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Present Intercession) 8:26-27**

**A. v.26a Our Problem** (expressed two ways)

1. *infirmity* or \_\_\_\_\_ (with the definite article): same word in Heb. 4:15.

*likewise, the Spirit also helps our infirmity: likewise to what?*

ασθενεια / astheneia =

NOTE: THAT WHICH FURNISHES A HANDLE FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GRASP IS OUR WEAKNESS, THE VERY THING THAT WE THINK WILL DEFEAT US!

2. **Precise** \_\_\_\_\_

Literal translation: *for the what we should pray for just as we ought, we do not know*

Our problem under suffering compounded by our natural weakness makes precise prayer difficult (that is, prayer that accurately corresponds with the real need). The exact “what” for which to pray so that it actually meets the real need baffles us.

**A. v.26a-b The Holy Spirit’s \_\_\_\_\_ Help**

*the H.S. helps... = takes hold of, lends a helping hand* (as in Luke 10:40).

*the Spirit Himself makes intercession on our behalf with wordless aspirations...*

*intercession* (intensified form) = *to plead the cause, to meet with to help*

QUESTION: WHO’S CAUSE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT PLEADING?

**B. V.27 Explanation of the H.S.’s intercession**

*and He [\_\_\_\_\_ ] that searches the hearts [of believers] knows the mind of the Spirit, that [not because] according to God, He [the \_\_\_\_\_ ] intercedes on behalf of the saints.*

THE IDEA IS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GROANINGS AND ASPIRATIONS CAN ONLY BE CONSISTENT WITH GOD'S MIND, GOD'S PLAN, GOD'S PURPOSES FOR EACH OF US AS BELIEVERS.

**III. Source #3: THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN (Present & Future)  
8:28-30**

For the better translation of Romans 8:28, NASV.

**Doctrinal Application**

1. Suffering is real. You will feel it, but it is subservient to God's plan. Lean on Rom. 8:26, 27.
2. Our job in prayer is to \_\_\_\_\_ our felt need out of our frame of reference: the H.S. will intercede and bring Divine viewpoint to bear on the matter. (Principle: prayer is educatory).
3. Implied is the fact that both our felt need & our real need promote the work of God in our lives because the H.S. continually makes intercession in this direction: **OUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN PRAYER IS A CATALYST TO THIS SPECIAL MINISTRY OF THE H.S.** (Principle: prayer is a Divinely designed system of communication).
4. Our human condition of \_\_\_\_\_ (which we fear will cause failure) furnishes the handle for the H.S. to take hold of to help us; our lack of knowledge under suffering gives Him vent for ministry as we pray. Compare *weakness, infirmity* in both Rom. 8:26 & Heb. 4:14.
5. Our finiteness with its frustrations and expressions in prayer is part of the Holy Spirit's teaching us Divine viewpoint (real need) as well as His meeting that need. He is interpreting God's will to us under stress through prayer! (Prayer is not an exercise in overcoming God's reluctance, rather an exercise of entering more fully into His will.)
6. IN VIEW OF THIS UNDERSTANDING OF ROMANS 8:26, 27, READ v. 28 IN THE NASV.