

"The Doctrine of Glorification"

Romans 8:14-8:39

Part 6

Introduction: We are currently in the midst of a study of Romans 8 and this chapter has proven to be one of the most blessed chapters we have considered so far. The focus of this chapter is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The Holy Spirit is mentioned 19 times in this chapter.

Now the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is the very reason why Paul could make the profound statement which he made in verse 1.

Notice Romans 8:1

Here is the statement and here Paul declares that **"There is NO condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus"**. This statement is so profound that Paul uses the rest of this chapter to explain how this can be true. He takes us on a journey to help us to understand what the Spirit does for us.

1. **He frees us from the law of sin and death.** - Romans 8:2-3
2. **He fulfills the Law IN us.** - Romans 8:4
3. **He changes us from the inside out.** - Romans 8:5-11
4. **He empowers us to have victory over the flesh.** - Romans 8:12-13
5. **He confirms our position in the family of God.** - Romans 8:14-16
6. **He guarantees our Glorification.** - Romans 8:17-25

This then brings us to where we are in our study tonight as we come to another ministry of the Holy Spirit. The ministry we shall look at tonight is one we don't give much thought to, but it is a ministry that is vitally important to us who are believers.

I. The Explanation of Glorification

Part 6

Romans 8:14-27

A. The Intercession of the Holy Spirit.

Now in our study so far, we have seen two "GROANS".

1. **Creation is groaning.**

Notice Romans 8:20-22

Creation groans as it waits for the manifestation of the children of God because when that day comes creation itself will be delivered from the curse which came upon the world as a result of the sin of Adam. We see some of these groanings in the storms and the earthquakes as well as other natural disasters which happen today. The groanings are birth pangs as the earth attempts to bring forth a "spring time" that will not meet with the curse ever again. These groanings/birth pangs will increase in the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:6-8

⁶ *And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

⁷ *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.*

⁸ *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

Verse 8 could also read, "These are the beginning of birth pangs". The creation will finally be delivered at the end of the Tribulation when Jesus returns to the earth, the children of God will be manifest, and the Kingdom will be established.

2. Believers are groaning.

Notice Romans 8:23-25

We also groan within as we wait for the day when we will be free from the presence of sin. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit which means, and He manifests the glory of God in us but much of the time that glory is veiled by the flesh. But there is coming a day when we shall drop these robes of flesh and then the full glory of God will be revealed in us.

1 John 3:2

² *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

1 Corinthians 13:12

¹² *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

It is this HOPE that is the anchor of our soul as we live in this world of darkness. Now we see the third groan.

3. The Holy Spirit groans.

Notice Romans 8:26

Let me first of all make it clear what this verse does NOT refer to. This is not the gift of tongues as many teach. Let me show you four reasons why this is not speaking of the gift of tongues. I will use the words of George Zeller.

1. *It is the Spirit doing the groaning, not the believer.*
2. *If you were to describe tongues in terms of groanings you would have to say that the gift of tongues consists of groanings which can be uttered. Here we have groanings which cannot be uttered by any human tongue.*
3. *The gift of tongues was something that could be heard (though not understood) by men. These groanings are heard only by God the Father.*
4. *The gift of tongues was a grace-gift (Greek term "charisma") given to only some believers, not all (1 Cor.12:29-30). In contrast to this, the intercessory ministry of the Spirit is for all saints.*

I want to just remind you that tongues were a sign to the unbelieving Jews.

1 Corinthians 14:22a

²² Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:

1 Corinthians 1:22

²² For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

Tongues were a sign of coming judgment upon the Jews because they had rejected Jesus Christ. That judgment came in AD 70 when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem. That is when the gift of tongues ceased. So what Paul is describing here in Romans 8:26 has nothing to do with the gift of tongues.

Notice Romans 8:26 again.

When it comes to prayer, we believers are weak. We are weak in the sense that we do not know what to pray for. We know how to pray for Jesus has given to us an outline for prayer. Let me show you some verses:

Luke 11:1

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Then in Matthew we see what Jesus taught them.

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

¹⁰ *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

¹¹ *Give us this day our daily bread.*

¹² *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

¹³ *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

Jesus gives to us an outline here to build our prayers upon so, we know how to pray but we do not know what to pray for. This is because we cannot see beyond the moment we are in. So, we pray for situations based upon the events which surround us. Let me show you two illustrations that will help you to better understand what Paul is saying here:

"A Chinese gentleman lived on the border of China and Mongolia. In those days, there was constant conflict and strife along the perimeter. The man had a beautiful horse. One day, she leaped over the corral, raced down the road, crossed the border, and was captured by the Mongolians. His friends came to comfort him. "That's bad news," they said sadly. "What makes you think it's bad news?" asked the Chinese gentleman. "Maybe it's good news." A few days later the mare came bolting into his corral, bringing with it a massive stallion. His friends crowded around. "That's good news!" they cried. "What makes you think it's good news?" he asked. "Maybe it is bad news." Later, his son, while riding the stallion and trying to break it, was thrown off and broke his leg. "That's bad news," cried the friends. "What makes you think it is bad news?" asked the Chinese gentleman. "Maybe it's good news." One week later, war broke out with Mongolia, and a Chinese general came through, drafting all the young men. All later perished, except for the young man who couldn't go because his leg was broken. The man said to his friends, "You see, the things you thought were bad turned out good; and the things you thought were good turned out bad."

Now notice the other illustration:

Illustration from Church History: *Saint Augustine had been a very wicked man in his youth, but later was converted. His godly mother, Monica, had a heavy burden for her son.*

She learned that he was leaving home and going to Italy, so she prayed that God would not let him go there because she feared he would only get into worse and deeper sin. She did not know how to pray as she ought. God did not answer her prayer as she wanted. God allowed Augustine to go to Italy and it was there that he was gloriously converted. God did not answer her special request in order that He might answer her true heart request, the salvation of her son."

These illustrations help us to see that in our weakness we are so influenced by our current surroundings and so we do not know what to pray for, so the Holy Spirit takes our feeble and frail prayer requests and He brings them to our Heavenly Father and He translates them into prayers that are acceptable to God and in agreement with His will.

Notice Romans 8:26 again.

I want to draw your attention to the word "HELPETH". This word is in the present tense which means the Holy Spirit does not just help us when we are struggling but He helps us every time we pray.

Notice Romans 8:27

God, who knows our heart has such a close communion with the Holy Spirit that the Holy Spirit can translate our prayers in a way that they are in full agreement with the will of God. We do not know what we are to pray for because we cannot see the overall picture, but God is omniscient (all knowing) and therefore, God the Spirit, can pray for us knowing what the future holds.

Now someone would look at this and possibly say, "If the Spirit knows how to pray for me, and I do know what to pray for all the time, then why should I even pray, can't we not just let the Spirit do all of our praying?" I would answer this by reminding us that the Bible commands us to pray and our prayers certainly do make a difference.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ *Rejoice evermore.*

¹⁷ *Pray without ceasing.*

¹⁸ *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

1 Timothy 2:1

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

James 5:16

¹⁶ Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.
The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

There is yet something else here that we need to see. The creation groans because it longs to be delivered from the curse, we groan because we long to be delivered from these bodies of sin, but why does the Spirit groan? To answer this, we need to see the mission of the Spirit.

John 15:26

²⁶ But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

The ultimate mission of the Spirit is to manifest Jesus Christ and since He is in us it is His mission to manifest Jesus Christ in our lives. Because we still live in these bodies of sin our prayers are often selfish prayers thus, we do not know what we should pray for. Now since the Spirit is given to manifest Christ in us, He is often grieved because our flesh gets in the way. So, He then takes our prayers and with His groanings He brings them before the Father and translates them into prayers which when answered will glorify Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

We do not always know what we should pray for, but we can be sure when the Holy Spirit takes our prayers to the Father, He will surely be praying for our good and God's glory in our lives. This also gives to us insight as to why our prayers are at times not answered at times. The Holy Spirit knows what we don't know and so He translates our prayers into prayers that are in the will of the Father. We can be sure the Spirit's prayers are answered. This thought will take us right into the next verse when we return next week.

Notice Romans 8:28