

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 27, 2023

“Life in the Spirit: Help in Our Weakness”

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, 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)

Verses 26 and 27 describes the most _____, practical, and intimately _____ aspects of the Holy Spirit’s work in the life of a believer.

#1. The Holy Spirit our _____.

help = sun-anti-lam-banomi =
sun =
Anti =
lambano =

It’s a picture of a _____ shared, a helper carrying much of the load for us and with us.

The Holy Spirit puts _____ into our throw. He lends power to our effort. He makes _____ what, because of the liabilities of our remaining sinful natures, would otherwise always fail.

What an incredible _____ this is, that: “...the Spirit helps us in our weakness.”

We feel the _____ of our own weakness everyday. We’re conscious of how exhausting it is, and how our remaining sin seems to undermine even our best efforts.

what a beautiful promise to know that we’re not left to _____—that the Holy Spirit is not only not repelled by us, but draws near to us in all of these weaknesses, and helps us. (P) We shouldn’t underestimate the power of this.

The Holy Spirit knows our _____. He knows our sin. He knows our

ignorance, our wicked habits, our destructive _____, our enabling relationships, and He still _____ in our hearts, so that while we often lie to ourselves about our motives and behaviour, we can never deceive Him. And even though we may _____ Him and quench His work in and through us, He still _____ with us patiently in love to help us in our weaknesses.

Verse 26 is a word of _____ for us when we’re weary of the journey; it’s _____ to propel us a few more steps forward down the road: The Spirit helps in our weakness. That’s the _____ of God.

God will never forsake us, but rather, will _____ the work He began in us. God, through His Holy Spirit will never stop _____ you! He’ll never stop loving you, lending His _____ to your feeble efforts.

Often, all the weakness we’ve been describing comes to an acute expression and focus the minute we sit down and try to _____.

Prayer is central to our progress, _____, and growth in the Christian life, and is an essential _____ in our spiritual warfare with sin.

Every Christian prays, every Christian must pray, and yet if we were honest, we could admit that we all _____ with prayer from time to time.

It’s important to note that Paul doesn’t _____ here. Just because this is a universal struggle for Christians doesn’t mean it’s _____.

Paul is clear here: When it comes to prayer, we all have room to _____.

And even those who know the _____ well and are eloquent in prayer, have to confess that they still run out of words; that they can be overwhelmed by _____ that strip the of their ability to find the right words to say.

#2. The Holy Spirit our _____.
TWO INTERCESSORS AND THREE GROANERS

• there’s the intercessory ministry of the _____ in the theatre of our _____, as described here in verse 26. But then, if we look down to verse 34, we’ll see that there’s another intercessor at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. The Spirit intercedes for us in the theatre of our hearts while _____ intercedes for us at the throne of glory.

This shows us just how _____ God is in helping us pray, in hearing our concerns, in responding to our burdens, and in answering our needs with His _____

_____.

And these two intercessors always _____; their mind is one, their burden the same. There's no conflict between them in the design of their petitions on our behalf. The Spirit's intercessory work in us—_____ us to pray, giving voice to our cries, sanctifying our sin-stained requests—makes our feeble prayers and Christ's mighty prayers _____ where once they would have been utterly opposed.

The Spirit takes our wholly inadequate requests and so _____ them that they're heard in heaven as the exact _____ of the cries of Jesus, our heavenly intercessor, before God's throne. We tend to think prayer is _____ to our Christian lives, but God clearly doesn't agree. God thinks prayer I _____ and has invested Himself—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—in the generation, _____, and presentation of our prayers before His throne.

Even the feeblest cries of the _____ believer—even my cries—are made both beautiful and _____ by the Spirit of Jesus.

- In verse 22, we were told _____ is groaning in the pains of childbirth for the day of deliverance from its bondage to corruption. Then in verse 23, we were told that _____ also groans inwardly as we wait eagerly for fulfillment of God's promises. And now we're told that _____, by His Spirit, joins us and creation in our groaning.

God's not stumped by our _____. He has no sense of frustration. He's never robbed of words. He's not _____ of what to say.

Sometimes in our weakness we don't know what to pray for. Our words _____ us. We find ourselves sitting in a posture of mute helplessness before God, longing for His will to be done, but unsure what that looks like or what it _____.

In those moments, we shouldn't think we've _____, that our cries, sighs, groans, and tears are unnoticed and don't reach the throne of God. Instead, we need to understand that the _____ ministry of the Spirit in us takes those sighs, groans, and tears—our inarticulate mumbles as we wait on God, when all we've got is, "Help me Jesus! I don't know which way to go. I don't know which way is up right now."—and makes them _____, articulate, and eloquent in the ears of God.

There's no groan, no tears shed, no sigh of longing for God in His grace that doesn't resound with mighty, compelling arguments in the courtroom of heaven. No matter how _____ we may feel, our prayers are _____.

God is the searcher of _____, Paul says. He knows what we're like. He knows how _____ we are, how our words run out, how our understanding fails. He knows we don't always _____ things as we should. He also knows the _____ of the Spirit because the Spirit's intercession is always according to the _____ of God.

Sometimes our prayers are _____. And by wrong I don't mean we're wrong in praying them—we can bring anything to God—but wrong in that they're not within God's _____ and purpose for us at this time.

God _____ our messiness, baggage, and brokenness. He sees the depths of our sin. He searches our hearts, and still hears the voice of the Spirit interceding for us, and He's always _____ to answer Him because the Spirit is always praying according to God's will.

This isn't a disincentive to pray, but an _____.

The ministry of the Spirit makes our prayer _____.

Notes:

At Home Work

Is there something about today's sermon that I need to:

- Admit
- Believe
- Change in me
- Demonstrate
- Share
- Confess
- Research further