

## In HARMONY with God's WILL ~ Romans 8:26-27

→ Scripture Reading Romans 8:22-27

### INTRODUCTION

8:22 We know that the whole creation has been GROANING as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

8:23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, GROAN inwardly as we wait eagerly for our ADOPTION as sons, the REDEMPTION of our bodies.

One groans not just because of persecution, but because one is not yet FULLY redeemed. Believers' bodies are still subject to weakness, pain and death. The believer therefore longs for the suffering to END and for the redemption of the body to be complete. Message of Paul

8:24 For in this HOPE we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?

#### We HOPE and Long to be Free FOREVER from the...

- PENALTY of sin
- POWER of sin
- PRESENCE of sin

8:25 But if we HOPE for what we do NOT yet have, we WAIT for it PATIENTLY.

In one sense Christians are already adopted children of God, but in another sense they have yet to FULLY experience their Inheritance. Message of Paul

### The Holy Spirit PLEADS for us ~ Romans 8:27-28

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. <sup>27</sup> And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

### APPLICATION

Does prayer get God to change his mind? NO, it does not. Does prayer change things? YES, it does because God has ORDAINED that it should be this way. Boice

#### Thoughts on PRAYER Boice

- We are SUPPOSED to pray
- Do NOT expect prayer to be EASY
- Realize WHAT we are doing WHEN we pray
- Find ENCOURAGEMENT in these verses
- Prayer helps us CHANGE our FOCUS
- In Prayer we POUR OUT our hearts to God

## IMPLICATIONS

### → Because we are WEAK we Always NEED the HELP of the Holy Spirit

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit HELPS us in OUR weakness...

**John 16:6-7** (NIV) Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. <sup>7</sup> But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the COUNSELOR will not come to you; but IF I go, I will send Him to you.

Because of our remaining humanness and susceptibility to sin and doubt, the Holy Spirit also helps us in our weakness. The point is that, even after salvation, we are characterized BY spiritual weakness. Acting morally, speaking the truth, witnessing for the Lord, or doing any other good thing happens ONLY by the power of the Spirit working in and through us despite our human limitations. MacArthur

### → God DISPLAYS His Power through our WEAKNESS

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps US in OUR WEAKNESS...

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** (NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a THORN in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

<sup>8</sup> Three times I PLEADED with the Lord to take it away from me.

<sup>9</sup> But He said to me, "MY grace is sufficient for you, for MY power is made perfect in weakness."

...Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my WEAKNESSES, so that Christ's POWER may rest on me. <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ's sake, I DELIGHT in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For WHEN I am WEAK, then I am STRONG.

In the area of our sanctification we expect immediate victories either by a formula or spiritual experience. But God does not work that way. We are called to a struggle, and our perseverance IN that struggle is itself a VICTORY, even if the results are not visible or spectacular. Boice

## TAKE AWAY ??

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