

**Strong Help for Weak Saints**  
***The Intercessory Ministry of the Holy Spirit***  
**Romans 8:22-27**

***Thought for the Day:*** We do not know how to pray as we should but God hears our prayers because the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf in accordance with His will.

When we received Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, God gave us a wonderful Gift—the Holy Spirit—who dwells within us and who prays to God on our behalf in accordance with His will.

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

- The “pains of childbirth” here are not anticipating the birth of a baby but rather, the revelation or manifestation of the children of God (vs. 19).
- The whole creation is eagerly waiting for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are.
  - We all assume we’re going to be there—but we’d better make absolutely sure! Our regular appearance at church is no guarantee that we have a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ! (Matthew 7:21-23; John 6:39-40; 6:29)
  - The only work that saves is faith; but the faith that saves, works! (James 2:14-26)

**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.**

- The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is God’s guarantee (downpayment, pledge) that we will reach our intended destination. (Ephesians 1:13-14)
  - If we do not have the Holy Spirit in our lives, we do not belong to Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:9)
- What is the “redemption of our bodies” and when is this going to take place?
  - For those who are members of Christ’s body, the Church, it will take place at the Rapture of the Church. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9; 1 Corinthians 15:50-55)

**24 For in this hope [confident, assured expectation] we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.**

- Titus 2:11-14.
  - Patient but active waiting: 1) Saying “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions; 2) Living a self-controlled, upright and godly life; 3) Being eager to do what is good.
- “Our salvation is both present and future. It is present because the moment we believe in Jesus Christ as Savior we are saved (Romans 3:21-26; 5:1-11; 6:1-11,22-23); our new (eternal) life begins. But at the same time, we have not fully received all the benefits and

blessings of salvation that will be ours when Christ's new kingdom is completely established. While we can be confident of our salvation, we still look ahead with hope and trust toward that complete change of body and personality that lies beyond this life.

"Waiting for things patiently is a quality that must be developed in us (see Rom 5:3-4; James 1:3-4; 5:11; Rev 13:10; 14:12). Patience is one of the Spirit's fruit borne in our lives. It includes fortitude, endurance, and the ability to bear up under pressure in order to attain a desired goal." *(The Life Application Commentary Series)*

**26 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. 27 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.**

- This "weakness" is our inability to accurately analyze situations and pray intelligently about them.
- Words fail us; the Holy Spirit will not!
- We groan because of our troubles (vs. 23); the Spirit groans for our comfort (vs. 26).
- God knows both what is in our hearts and what is in the mind of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, He knows our hearts, He hears our prayers and He answers our prayers because the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in accordance with His will.
- "As believers, we are not left to our own resources to cope with problems. Even when we don't know the right words to pray, the Holy Spirit prays with and for us, and God answers. With God helping us pray, we don't need to be afraid to come before him. We simply ask the Holy Spirit to intercede for us 'in accordance with God's will.'" Then, when we bring our requests to God, we trust that he will always do what is best." *(The Life Application Commentary Series)*