

Romans



Romans 8:24-28 ²⁴ *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?* ²⁵ *But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

²⁶ *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*

²⁷ *And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because^[a] the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.* ²⁸ *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[b] for those who are called according to his purpose.*

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1. The Christian can have hope in ALL circumstances.

²⁴ *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?* ²⁵ *But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

If you remember from the last lesson verses 21-23 talk about how Christians and creation long for Jesus' return and the sinless eternity in the new heaven and the new earth. In the meantime, we should look forward with "hope" to what God has promised, and patiently endure our present sufferings. We must hope in the unseen and rest in the promises of scripture for our future.

How are you or those that you know currently suffering? Do you have hope?

When we can endure hardship with a good and hopeful attitude it gives us the ability to show Christlikeness to a world that desperately needs Jesus.

Do you ever struggle with bad attitudes and impatience? Write down some of God's promises from scripture that you can reflect on when you struggle.

2. The Holy Spirit is our helper.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Intercede- means to pray for someone else. Do you pray for others? List at least two people you plan to pray for this week.

Groanings- means expressing feelings of compassion for our weak condition. Verse 26 tells us that the Holy Spirit groans with groanings too deep for words. It seems that the Holy Spirit can communicate to God in a way that surpasses our ability to speak. He can see deep into our hearts and convey to God what we are needing and feeling, the kind of needs and emotions that we can't even put into words. In other words, the Spirit knows us better than we know ourselves. The spirit knows that in our sinful nature we are limited in our understanding of God's will and even our understanding of ourselves. He requests the Father's help for our weak condition.

²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Spirit intercedes according to the will of God. We do not always know the will of God, but the Spirit does. How awesome is it that he perfects our prayers to the father? I found the quote below while studying for this lesson.

"When we do not know what to pray for and even when we pray for things that are not best for us, we need not despair for we can depend on the spirit's ministry of perfect intercession on our behalf."

How do you determine what the will of God is? Does reading God's word help?

3. God is ALWAYS good and working for our good.

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

One of the attributes of God is that he is Omnibenevolent. The definition is to possess perfect or unlimited goodness. As we have all heard or said "God is good ALL the time and ALL the time GOD is GOOD! This is 100% true!! God orders all the events of life so that they culminate in the blessing of His children. You must be a child of God to experience His good blessings.

How have you experienced God's goodness lately?

In life we go through difficult times of suffering and loss, At the time these moments do not feel good or like blessings, but once in a while we can look back at hurtful and tragic situations and see how God worked it out for our good.

Have you had a time of suffering, loss, or despair that you looked back on and saw how God worked it out for your good?

- ❖ Spend some time in prayer today. Thank the Holy Spirit for interceding on your behalf and be sure to think of those that you can intercede for. 1 Thessalonians reminds us to always be communicating with God. This verse tells us directly what the will of God is, and we do not have to wonder if we are in his will when we are doing the things listed, He assures us we are.

