

DIVINE HELP IN OUR WEAKNESS

(Romans 8:26-27)

Have you ever been in a situation where because of the heaviness in your heart and the anguish of your soul, you cannot find the words to say in your prayers? This usually happens when you are praying for someone or something that is very dear to you. Whenever we are confronted with life's tragic events and painful ordeals which cause us to wrestle in prayer, the truths of Romans 8:26-27 provide us with these two crucial lessons that offer divine comfort and assurance.

1. *We need to recognize our* _____.

One fundamental reason why we do not pray as seriously, fervently and earnestly as we should, is because we do not recognize how weak and frail we really are. The term weakness that Paul uses in this text generally refers to our human limitation and inherent helplessness (Rom. 8:26). Left to ourselves, we are unable to handle life's troubles and are constantly prone to yield to sin and temptation (Matt. 26:41; Rom. 7:18; 2 Cor. 11:29; John 15:5). In particular, this weakness refers to our human limitation as it relates to our prayer life. Because of our human weakness, finite mind and limited perspective, we do not know what to pray for as we ought. In fact, when confronted with life's adversities and crises, we usually pray not in accordance to God's will, but in accordance to how we feel (Jer. 20:14,18; 2 Cor. 12:7-9). It's only when we embrace our weakness that we receive the help and strength that comes from the Spirit of God.

As Charles Spurgeon insightfully said, "When you are engaged in prayer, plead your strength and you will get nothing, then plead your weakness and you will prevail."

2. *We need to rely on the prayer ministry of the* _____.

The Holy Spirit overcomes our weakness in prayer through His own prayer for us. As our Lord Jesus is in heaven interceding for us, the Holy Spirit is here on earth, dwelling in our hearts, and is interceding for us (Rom. 8:26-27, 34). The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness by being our divine burden-bearer. He also intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. This groaning refers to an intense longing for ultimate redemption and an earnest desire for perfect deliverance from sin and suffering (Rom. 8:22,23,26). The Holy Spirit loves us so exceedingly that He yearns for that great day that all of the believers in Christ will be delivered from every speck of sin and finally be glorified, both body and soul in the perfection of holiness and joy. Our greatest comfort is to know that all the prayers that the Holy Spirit makes on our behalf are heard and answered by God the Father because the Holy Spirit always prays in perfect harmony with God's will (Rom. 8:27).
