

Jake Magee

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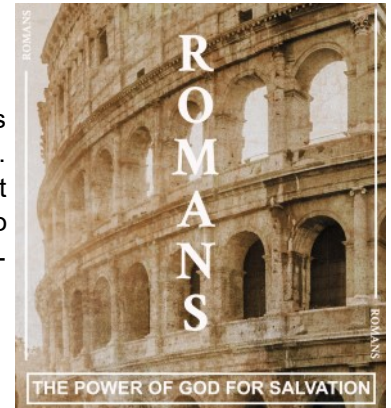
The Strange Help

Romans 8:26-28



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 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, for those who are called according to his purpose.



Our Weakness

Romans 8:26 tells us that we do not know what to pray for as we ought. This reminds us that we all experience moments of uncertainty about God's will for our lives. Life presents countless choices—career, marriage, health, and family decisions—leaving us anxious about making the wrong choice and straying from God's plan.

How God Doesn't Help

Our true weakness is not a lack of information about God's will but something deeper. God does not always provide clear answers, but instead, He intercedes with "groanings too deep for words" (Romans 8:26). This teaches us that God is addressing our greater need, not just our desire for direction.

Where God Doesn't Focus

We often seek clarity and certainty, but God focuses on something deeper—our relationship with Him. The profound and mysterious interaction between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in guiding our lives shows us that our priority should be communion with Him, rather than a fixation with knowing exactly where our lives are headed.

How God Doesn't Guide

Romans 8:28 assures us that God works all things—even hardships—for our good. This means our past mistakes and painful experiences do not derail God's plan. Instead, He may use them to bring us into alignment with His purpose. If God could use the cross—the greatest tragedy—for ultimate good, He can certainly use our struggles for His glory.

Proverbs 3:5&6, ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Discussion Questions

Romans 8:26-28

Getting Started

Describe a time when you felt completely lost while traveling. How did you navigate that uncertainty? What emotions did you experience?

Digging Deeper

1) In Romans 8:26, Paul describes our "weakness"—our inability to always know what to pray for or what God's will is in specific situations. What does it reveal about us that God allows this weakness to remain?

2) On Sunday, Pastor Jake mentioned that this weakness helps to address deeper issues in our hearts. Discuss the following possibilities:

- Our desire for certainty about the future can sometimes hinder our trust in God.
- Our faith can become more about following a blueprint for life rather than trusting the Architect.
- We may idolize our own vision for our lives instead of surrendering to God's direction.

3) We often desire clear direction from God. According to this passage, how does the Holy Spirit's intercession differ from that expectation? How does it challenge our assumptions about how God should help us?

4) Pastor Jake described the interaction between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as a deeply mysterious and complex process that guides us into God's will.

- Why might someone find this strange or difficult to understand?
- How does this help us recognize the deeper weakness that God is addressing in us?
- What is God teaching us about what it means to walk in His will?

5) If we truly believed that communion with God is more important than knowing our future, how would that change the way we pray, plan, and live?

6) Romans 8:28 says that "God works all things together for good."

- What does "all things" include?
- How does this challenge the way we view obstacles and setbacks in our lives?

Making It Real

- Spend time reflecting on Psalm 37:4-5 and Proverbs 3:5-6. What steps can you take to shift your focus from seeking answers to seeking God Himself?
- Pray together as a group, asking the Holy Spirit to help you trust in His intercession and guidance.

Resources

- **Romans: Righteousness from Heaven** | R. Kent Hughes
- www.blueletterbible.org
- www.biblehub.com
- www.preceptaustin.org