

Abide in Me

John 15:4
*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



Volume 9 - Number 26

The Week of May 19, 2024


Dying to Live
Deep Groans
Romans 8:26-28

Welcome to the seventh installment in our series *Dying to Live*. This is also our last *Abide* for the season. Thank you for being a vital part of our Growth Group ministry this year. We hope your gathering in community this year encouraged your walk in Christ.

This week's message is about the role of the Holy Spirit in prayer. Prayer is an essential practice for every Christian. Yet, even the most fervent prayer warrior is conscious of his or her own inadequacy in prayer. The profound truth of this passage is that we are not left to our own devices *when* we pray. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us as we pray so that our prayers always hit the mark.

OBSERVATION (*What does the passage say?*)

Before meeting with your Growth Group, read through the passage at least twice and perform the following prompts:

- Place a bracket around the word *likewise*. Above it, draw an arrow pointing backwards. On the line of the arrow write 8:22-23.
- Place a  over each reference to the Holy Spirit, including pronouns.
- Circle the word *saints* (v. 27) along with all of the personal and demonstrative pronouns referring to the saints.
- Circle the word *weakness* and draw a connecting arrow to the first phrase of the second sentence.
- Double underline both occurrences of the word *intercedes*.
- Draw a line from the first pronoun *he* in verse 27 to the left margin and write *God the Father*.
- Place a parenthesis around both occurrences of the phrase *for those who* (v. 28).
- Underline the phrase *love God* and *called according to his purpose* and draw a line that connects them both.

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.

Icebreaker: What questions or doubts linger in your mind about the importance and value of prayer?

INTERPRETATION (*What does the passage mean?*)

1. What do you see in this passage that proves the Holy Spirit is more than a force or a power, but also a thinking, feeling, volitional Person?

2. In his message, Pastor Paul referred to a *Romans 8:26 Moment* when godly desires meet great uncertainty. In these moments it's often hard to know what to pray for. What does this passage promise us?

3. What kind of *weakness* does Paul have in mind in Romans 8:26? When you experience it should you simply quit praying? If not, why not?

4. Verse 27 refers to the hidden or unknown will of God (times when we are uncertain of what God wants us to do). By implication, it also refers to the revealed will of God (what God has told us in Scripture).
 - How would prayer be shaped by someone who is focused on God's revealed will?

 - What about His hidden will?

 - How does recognizing the distinction between God's revealed will and His hidden will help you face times of uncertainty or weakness?

5. What exactly is it that the Holy Spirit does in and for us when we don't know what to pray for? Why does Paul refer to the intercession of the Holy Spirit as groans?

6. Read Romans 8:28. What is the implied uncertainty in this verse? What are some of the reasons we want to know the whole picture of our lives?

7. What does the Apostle mean when he describes all things work together for good? What is *the good*?

APPLICATION (*How does the passage apply to our lives?*)

8. What are some of the things for which we know we should pray? What are some of the things in life about which we find ourselves ignorant of what to pray?
9. Share a time when you were in a *Romans 8:26 Moment*. What were your desires and what was the uncertainty? Did you struggle to know what to pray for? How did things work out?
10. If you believed that your prayers always *hit the mark*, how would that change the way you pray? How does that also affect your understanding of when God says *no* or *not now* to a specific request?
11. How is the promise of Romans 8:28 linked to the promise and power of prayer?
12. What is one step you will take to apply a truth from this passage?

As you conclude the Growth Group year, pray for each other, asking the Holy Spirit to continue His work in your lives.

