

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 4

No 18

Living Victoriously in the Spirit.

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-30

This portion speaks of the Holy Spirit coming to lend a hand, for that is what the word 'helps' or 'helpeth' in v26 means. It does not mean to take over but to assist where we are weak. The word is only otherwise used by Martha asking that Mary should do her bit Luke 10:40. The lesson is important. God does not absolve adopted sons of their responsibilities, but He does make it possible to accomplish them. He gives the victory. As we talk of victory, note that in Chapter 8:1–25 we read of our walking in the Spirit. From v26 the emphasis is on what God has chosen to do on behalf of those on whom His favour rests. Victorious living does not ultimately depend on our faith but on the power of a sovereign God.

The Help We Receive v26:

Help in appropriate prayer. Wuest points out that Paul wrote, '*the* what we should pray for', or specifically what to say. Have you ever set down to pray over a problem and not known what to ask, the task is too complex, the outcomes too far reaching. Here the omniscient Holy Spirit takes over as we wait before God speaking thoughts on our behalf when our words fail us,.

Our Lexicon gives:

groanings or sighs,
inexpressible or unspeakable

Verse 27 explains verse 26. It is the Lord Jesus, our great High Priest, who searches the hearts of men and who knows the mind of the Holy Spirit.

Search me O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me
And lead me in the everlasting way. Ps 139.

This searching is not agonising over sin which leads again to repentance, but rather to take up those deep desires of the heart set on Him and present them to God in accord with the way of God. It is praying in the Spirit. (Please See Hebrews 4:13).

According to God v27 If you are reading a Bible that is a translation (AV or NASB) you will see that the words

read 'he intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.' The words 'the will of' are in italic to indicate that they are not actually in the text, but put in to make it read better in English. This prayer is not about something that we must do, but a relationship of the believer in union with God; God's nature including His love and care, His provision, His purposes and of course His will. Therefore v28 applies:

God is working in our life no matter what is happening on the earthly level. Be it good times or bad God is achieving His purpose. What is that purpose, that you and I, sons and daughters of Adam, should be conformed to the image, the likeness of His son v29. This is not saying that all bad things are really good. It says that God uses them to achieve this purpose. There are no accidents in God's purpose.

God's Purpose in Our Salvation

v29&30. In Romans we have been dealing with God's plan for our salvation and our response and transformation from sons of Adam to sons of God. In five nutshell words Paul shows us God's part in His dealing with mankind.

Foreknew. The Greek means 'before' and 'to know by understanding that comes through experience', as in the knowledge of husband and wife of each other in a life shared. God has this kind of knowledge of us even before the world began.

Predestined. The Greek word means 'before' and 'to mark out a boundary', like a surveyor setting out a parcel of land according to the title deed. This word is translated 'declare' in Romans 1:4 where Jesus is marked out as God's Son by His resurrection. Called. The Greek word means 'to call, invite, summon or name'. The Lexicon says, "The Authority of the speaker dictates the nature of the calling, friends invite; kings summon."

Justified. The Greek word means 'to declare righteous' thus establishing a proper relationship with God. This is possible because Jesus died for those whom God has called.

Glorified. The Greek word means 'to acknowledge'. With God we glorify by acknowledging His honour, His attributes and His majesty. Here He acknowledges our adoption as His sons, and by the Spirit of Adoption, our satisfactory conformation to the image of His only-begotten Son.

Think About That.

This passage begs us to stop and consider what is being said. It has caused considerable mis-interpretation

and division over the years. If God marked out and chose those whom He knew, what choice do we have?

We need to get it right.

First this passage considers God's side in our salvation. We are not considering our side. Husband and wife are both free to choose in Christian marriage.

Second, we are as free as any to accept or reject the Gospel call (2 Timothy 2:14). Although we are conditioned by family background, training, cultural tradition, etc, we are each morally responsible for our own decisions and actions.

Third, we will never fathom all the mind of the infinite God, but what He has revealed, whilst wonderfully logical, is meant to be read, understood and acted up, on, not disputed.

Fourth, the first eight chapters explain at length, God's love mercy and grace in wooing men to Himself, having done all that is necessary.

These two verses are like our looking at the beauty of the world around us and then a quick glimpse at the brilliance of the sun which makes all visible.

Fifth, we are considering God's sovereignty. He has absolute right over His own creation. Paul is about to tell us more about this as we look at His dealing with Israel over thousands of years. Let us hold our judgment until then.

Romans in the GNT Wuest, p140. Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. The Greek English Reader's Lexicon of the New Testament. Bible References quoted are from the NASB.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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