

We Need Help and We Have Help

Romans 8:26-27

USA Today wrote about the people who received federal payouts due to their loss in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. The average payout per family was 1.5 million dollars.

Would you believe, all that this money has done, in many cases, is blow peoples' lives apart? Court battles over the money are pitting one generation against another; a victim's parents against a fiancé or spouse. At least twenty-two same-sex partners are fighting for their share, opposed by the deceased individual's relatives.

The article went on to tell that women are coming to America from Trinidad, Bolivia, Colombia, and Brazil, claiming to be related to victims, and no one in the family knew. It also told of one man who had moved to New York from Trinidad, married, and had three daughters. After the attack a woman arrived to claim his body and the money, claiming to be his wife. She was able to prove they were married and not divorced, thus making his marriage to his American wife illegal.

Another woman is battling in court against a Bolivian woman who claimed to be the victim's wife. They are battling over whether or not DNA can be taken from the deceased man's razor to prove the paternity of remaining children (This is from a sermon preached by Stephen Davey).

Paul says our help is the Holy Spirit not the Almighty dollar in Romans 8. Paul is emphasizing the ministry of the Holy Spirit in Romans 8. There are the greatest number of references to the Holy Spirit in Romans 8 than anywhere else in God's Word. There is an average of one reference to the Holy Spirit to every two verses in Romans 8.

In Romans 8 we learn that

- A. The Holy Spirit is For Us (8:26-27). The Holy Spirit is our Prayer Partner.
- B. God The Father is For Us (8:31-32). He gives us what we need.
- C. God the Son is For Us (8:34). Christ prays for us.

The Holy Spirit is our prayer partner. We are on Christ prayer list. God the Father answers all of Christ's prayers.

1. We Need Help (8:26) "The Spirit helps our infirmities."

A. We All Have General Weaknesses (26a)

- 1. We have physical weaknesses (James 5)
- 2. We have emotional weaknesses (Luke 10:40)
- 3. We have spiritual weaknesses (John 15:5)
- 4. We all have weaknesses (Hebrews 5:1-3)

5. We all are to minister to the weak (1 Thessalonians 5:14; Romans 14:1; 15:1)
- B. We All Have a Specific Weakness (26b) “We know not what we should pray for”
 1. Paul generally knew how to pray (Paul’s Prison Prayers are some of the most profound prayers i.e., Ephesians 3:14-21)
 2. Paul did not know specifically how to pray at times (2 Corinthians 12:8)
 3. Paul was not alone
 - a. Elijah (1 Kings 19:4) prayed for God to take his life
 - b. Moses (Numbers 11:15)

2. We Have a Divine Helper

A. The Holy Spirit helps us. He does not take over our prayer life.

1. Help means to take hold of anything with another. It was used of one person carrying one end of a log, not the entire log.
2. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the “Comforter” the one called along side to help.
3. “Help” is used only one other time in the NT (Luke 10:40). Martha felt she could not do everything by herself. She had misplaced priorities. But we Christians cannot make it on our own. We need one another. But sometimes Christians don’t help they hinder. In those times we have to do like David, “encourage ourselves in the Lord.”

I had a young preacher from another church come to me. He has just gotten started in church work and has been hurt. His bubble burst. He thought all Christians were loving and supportive.

B. The Holy Spirit helps us pray by giving us godly desires.

1. “Groanings” means wordless desires
 - a. Creation desires a new creation with no curse (8:22)
 - b. Believers desire a new body (8:23). Also in 2 Corinthians 5:2.
 - c. The Holy Spirit gives believers godly desires for which to pray (8:26)
We have two intercessors.
 - 1) We have Christ in Heaven as our advocate with the Father. In Luke 22:31, Christ said to Peter, “Simon, Simon behold Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you like wheat: But I have prayed for you, that you faith fail not.”
 - 2) We also have the Holy Spirit in our hearts helping us with our prayers. In a courtroom scene the attorney intercedes two ways for his client. Outwardly he approaches and addresses the judge. The attorney also prepares his client what to say on the witness stand.

2. The Holy Spirit helps us by giving us desires for God’s will. This is not the only

verse that teaches this truth (Psalm 37:4; Philippians 2:13). This verse in Romans 8:26, tells us how God works in us to desire and do His good pleasure.

Charles Spurgeon, the famous preacher, was working hard on a message but was unable to complete it. It grew late and his wife said, “Why don’t you go to bed. I’ll wake you up early and you can finish your sermon in the morning.” Spurgeon dozed off and in his sleep began to preach the sermon that was giving him so much trouble! His wife wrote down what he said and the next morning gave her preacher-husband the notes. “Why, that’s exactly what I wanted to say!” exclaimed the surprised preacher. The message had been in his heart; it had simply needed expression. So with prayer: if we are abiding in Christ, the very desires of our will lead us what to say to God.