

## SPECIAL DEVOTIONAL

### THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US TO PRAY

*“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*

**(Romans 8:26-27 NKJV)**

The word “*weakness*” on the above Scripture comes from the Greek word ἀσθένεια (*astheneia*) which refers to feebleness (of mind or body); by implication, malady; morally, frailty:—disease, infirmity, sickness, weakness.

We must honestly admit that as humans, we are not always in good condition; physically, mentally or spiritually strong. Because in reality, we are always faced with different kind of ‘*storms*’ (problems) in life;

- Which attack us physically (the weather, the nature, disease outbreaks, works that are too heavy, busyness that consumes a lot of our time and energy),
- mentally (problems that have to be solved, which come one after another, and it sometimes feels too heavy for us to bear), and
- spiritually (a condition where we feel ‘*dry*’, ‘*lonely*’ and ‘*distant from God*’). Generally speaking, it is the impact of physical and mental weakness coupled with being slack on important spiritual disciplines like prayer, praise and worship God as well as Bible reading.

In this kind of condition, we oftentimes don’t know what to do. When we try to pray, there is a sense of oppression and we don’t know how to pray and what to pray for. And that causes us to be overwhelmed and confused. This condition is so disturbing and uncomfortable. Praise the Lord, in this kind of condition, the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness! When we don’t know how to pray, the Holy Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

*“In the same way the Spirit helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”* **(Roman 8:26 – NASB)**

Oftentimes we feel oppressed in our weakness because there is something that we feel and yet it is hard to express it with words, and we even don’t know to whom should we express it to. At that time, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groanings. When does the Holy Spirit intercede for us in such a way? Of course we can’t comprehend the work of the Holy Spirit because he is God that is not limited by anything. However, when we pray in tongues, be it in worship or in prayer when we don’t know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit helps us to pray to God.

And the most amazing thing is that the prayer that the Holy Spirit utters will surely be heard and answered by God. Why can we be sure about this?

1. The Word of God says: *“Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is”*; it means that the prayer that the Holy Spirit utters comes from a pure heart, far purer than our own prayer.

Because whether we realize it or not, some of us pray with so many unnecessary “seasoning”, with assumption that the ‘sweet words’ can persuade God to answer their prayers.

Remember **James 4:3 NKJV**: “*You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.*”

2. The Word of God adds: “...because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” Imagine how powerful that prayer is. The prayer is according to the will of God and the prayer is an intercession for the saints. The word saints in its original language is *ἅγιος* (*hagios*) which means sacred, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially consecrated; of course, through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

**Romans 8:26** is so amazing, it is a comfort for us, believers. Christ has become an intercessor for us and He has reconciled us with the Father (**2 Corinthians 5:19; Hebrews 2:17**), Christ is also the one who sends the Holy Spirit (**John 16:7**), who becomes an intercessor for us in our weaknesses to pray to God.

Do you want to experience this supernatural experience? Let’s give ourselves to be baptized by the Holy Spirit and live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit always. Remember our three primary focuses, just as our Senior Pastor has said to us over and over again: the Presence of God, Anointing and Speaking in Tongues! Jesus bless you. Amen (AR)