

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Prayer

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 8:26-28

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2064

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The book of Romans is the constitution of Christianity.
- b) Romans 8:26-28
 - i) There are two words that stand out in this passage:
 - (1) The Spirit.
 - (2) Prayer.
 - c) Today's message will focus on how to pray in the Spirit.
 - d) Most people are not satisfied with their prayer life.
 - e) Prayer is the greatest Christian privilege.
 - f) Prayer is the greatest Christian service.
 - i) We can do more than pray after we've prayed, but we cannot do any more than pray until we've prayed.
 - g) Prayer is also the Christian's greatest failure.
 - i) We fail in our prayer life.
 - h) Why do we fail in our prayer life?
 - i) Indifference.
 - (1) Many times, we just don't have a desire to pray.
 - (2) The flesh doesn't want to pray.
 - ii) Ignorance.
 - (1) We don't know how to pray or what to pray for.
 - iii) Interference.
 - (1) When we go to pray, the devil tries to keep us from praying.
 - (a) The children will get into a fight or fuss, the phone will ring, we will get sleepy, our mind will wander, etc.
 - (2) The devil laughs at our organization, mocks our schemes, ridicules our good intentions, but he fears our prayers.
 - (a) He thinks that if he can keep us from praying, then he will beat us every time.
 - (3) The devil will level all of the artillery of Hell against us to try to keep us from praying.
 - i) The answer to having a satisfied, fulfilling prayer life is to find that God has given us an ally and helper, and He is the Holy Spirit.
 - i) Romans 8:26
 - ii) The Holy Spirit of God helps us, energizes us, enlightens us and empowers us to pray.
 - j) We are told to pray in the Spirit.
 - i) Ephesians 6:18
 - ii) Jude 20
 - iii) To pray in the flesh is to fail; to pray in the Spirit is to succeed.
 - k) The early church advanced on its knees, and today's churches are no greater than the prayer lives of their members.
 - i) Our ministries are no better than our prayer lives.
 - l) Today's message will look at some of the ways in which the Holy Spirit of God helps us to pray.

- 2) THE HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVATES OUR WILLS (ROMANS 8:5-7)
- a) The Holy Spirit of God moves our wills to pray.
 - b) The basic reason why we don't pray is because there is a lack of desire to pray.
 - i) We have no will, no appetite and no hunger to pray.
 - ii) People do what they want to do.
 - (1) The reason we don't pray more than we do is because we don't want to.
 - c) There is a part of us called the flesh.
 - i) When the Bible speaks of our flesh, it is talking about our old Adamic nature, that predisposition to sin.
 - ii) This is that part of us that doesn't love God.
 - (1) We were born with this.
 - iii) Romans 8:5-6
 - (1) The word "carnally" is another way of saying "fleshly" minded.
 - (2) The death spoken of here is not physical death only, but spiritual death.
 - (a) It is talking about death to goodness, purity, power and prayer.
 - iv) Romans 8:7
 - (1) The word "enmity" means "warfare."
 - (2) We must be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to desire to pray.
 - d) Romans 8:15
 - i) There is the spirit of bondage.
 - (1) The devil wants to keep us in bondage and keep us down.
 - (2) This is the spirit that motivates the children of this world.
 - ii) When we get saved, we receive the spirit of adoption.
 - (1) We are born into the family of God spiritually, and we are adopted into the family of God legally.
 - (2) The spirit of adoption means that we are heirs of God.
 - (3) Once we are adopted into the family of God, God puts His Holy Spirit into us.
 - (a) The Holy Spirit in us loves the Father.
 - (i) The Holy Spirit says, "Abba Father."
 - (b) It is normal and natural to pray when we're Spirit-filled.
 - (i) God takes away the spirit of bondage that keeps us from praying and puts His Holy Spirit in our heart and life.
 - e) Some people think that they can't pray because they can't speak in poetical phrases.
 - i) Matthew 6:7
 - (1) We're not heard for our much speaking.
 - ii) The most primary speech a child can make is "Abba Father."
 - (1) This is the counterpart of "Daddy Father."

- f) It is as natural for us to pray as it is to speak to our own earthly father when we're filled with the Spirit.
 - g) Romans 8:9
 - i) The Holy Spirit is Christ in the Christian.
 - h) Luke 11:1
 - i) When the disciples saw and heard Jesus pray, they asked Him to teach them to pray.
 - (1) The Spirit of Christ is in us.
 - i) Romans 8:6-7
 - i) Our old nature doesn't want to pray.
 - (1) If we have no desire to pray, then it's because we're not filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - j) Philippians 2:13
 - i) God works in us and activates our will.
- 3) THE HOLY SPIRIT ANIMATES OUR BODIES (ROMANS 8:10-11)
- a) He makes our bodies alive.
 - b) Romans 8:10-11
 - i) The wages of sin is death.
 - (1) Because Jesus died for us and we died with Him, the old person is crucified.
 - ii) The Holy Spirit who brought Jesus out of the grave is the Holy Spirit who came into us when we were saved.
 - iii) The word "quicken" means "give life, energy, to animate."
 - iv) The Holy Spirit gives us strength to pray.
 - c) It takes energy and strength to pray.
 - i) Romans 15:30
 - (1) The Apostle Paul spoke about laboring in prayer.
 - ii) Many of us don't pray because we're lazy.
 - d) Matthew 26:41
 - i) In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told the disciples to watch and pray, but He found them sleeping.
 - (1) Had they been filled with the Spirit, then they would have been praying.
 - e) Romans 8:11
 - i) There is something about the Holy Spirit that gives us energy.
 - f) When the Spirit of God is there, joy is there.
 - i) Nehemiah 8:10
 - g) John 4:1-32
 - i) Jesus witnessed to the woman of Samaria, and she came to saving faith.
 - ii) Jesus was tired and hungry because the disciples had gone into town for food.
 - iii) When the disciples came back, Jesus was vibrant.
 - (1) Jesus' actual body had been invigorated by the Holy Spirit of God.

h) When we are in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God will literally strengthen and animate our body as well as activate our will.

4) THE HOLY SPIRIT ADAPTS OUR REQUESTS (ROMANS 8:26)

a) Romans 8:26

i) Paul includes himself when he says that the Holy Spirit helps “our” infirmities and that “we” don’t know what we should pray for.

(1) We should accept our weaknesses for two reasons:

(a) It’s a fact.

(b) It’s an asset.

(i) The Apostle Paul learned that his weakness was an asset.

1. 2 Corinthians 12:9

(ii) Many of us think that we’re too weak, but it may be that we haven’t been weak enough.

ii) What God wants to do in prayer is to deliver us from self-sufficiency.

(1) He makes us perpetually weak that we might be perpetually powerful as we depend upon Him.

b) The Holy Spirit of God adapts our requests in prayer.

i) He moves in alongside of us.

ii) The word “helpeth” in Romans 8:26 is made up of three words which mean “with,” “face to face” and “to take hold of.”

(1) The only other time this word is used in the Bible is when Martha was in the kitchen fixing a meal and asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her.

(a) Luke 10:38-42

(2) When we pray in the Holy Spirit, we are face to face with Him.

(a) There is that vital relationship.

(b) He with me and I with Him.

(3) He takes hold, and I take hold; and together we do it.

(4) I cannot do it without Him, and He will not do it without me.

iii) Together in prayer, the Holy Spirit of God helps us to pray.

c) What should we pray for?

i) There are many needs in our world.

(1) If we pray just according to need, that is like trying to bail out the ocean with a teacup.

(a) We’ll become discouraged.

(2) If we try to pray for everything, then we’ll end up praying for nothing.

ii) Once we know what to pray about, we don’t know how to pray.

(1) When we pray for the sick, is it God’s will to heal them, or does God want to take them home?

(a) John 17:24

(b) Sometimes it is God’s will to extend their lives, and in His mercy, He lets them stay with us.

(i) But God has also made us for Heaven.

- (2) In our prayer meetings at church, how many people are praying for the lost who need to be saved?
 - (a) Most people are praying for the saints to get well, which there is nothing wrong with that.
 - (b) But we seem far more interested in keeping the saints out of Heaven than the lost out of Hell.
- d) We must pray with selectivity and specificity in order to pray with power.
 - i) Romans 8:26
 - (1) When we pray, the Holy Spirit will lay prayer burdens on our heart and teach us what to pray for.
- 5) THE HOLY SPIRIT ADMINISTRATES OUR ACCESS (ROMANS 8:14-15)
 - a) The Holy Spirit will administrate our access to God.
 - b) Romans 8:14-15
 - i) The Holy Spirit energizes us and leads us into the presence of God.
 - c) The Bible teaches that it is the Holy Spirit who ushers us into the throne room of God.
 - i) Ephesians 2:18
 - (1) We pray to the Father through the Son in the Spirit.
 - ii) The Lord has invited us to come boldly to the throne of grace, but we need the Holy Spirit to usher us into the throne room.
 - d) When we're filled with the Holy Spirit, He will take us by the hand and lead us right into the presence of God.
- 6) THE HOLY SPIRIT ARTICULATES OUR NEEDS (ROMANS 8:26)
 - a) Sometimes when we pray, we don't have the vocabulary.
 - i) There are certain things that we cannot put into words.
 - b) Romans 8:26
 - i) This passage is not talking about praying in tongues, which is an utterance.
 - ii) This passage is talking about groanings that cannot be uttered.
 - c) A word is like a vehicle that delivers a thought from one person to another person.
 - i) There are some thoughts that are too heavy for the vehicle.
 - (1) We may have something that we don't know what to ask for, we don't know how to ask it, and we don't know how to articulate it.
 - (2) In Romans 8:26, one translation states, "Sighs that are too deep for words."
 - ii) The word "groanings" is a word that's used for labor pains.
 - (1) It is a groaning that desires to bring forth.
 - (2) It is a form of inarticulate prayer.
 - d) We may not know how to pray or what to pray for, but the Holy Spirit knows.
 - e) Romans 8:27

- f) The Holy Spirit will take our prayers and transform them and make them adaptable to Heaven.

7) CONCLUSION

- a) To pray in the Spirit, you must first of all be saved.
 - i) You cannot have the Holy Spirit unless you are saved.
 - ii) Romans 8:9
- b) You can be saved and the Holy Spirit be in you, and you still not pray in the Spirit.
 - i) Not only are you to have the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit is to have you.
 - ii) You are to be filled with the Spirit.
 - (1) Not only is He to be resident in you, but He needs to be president.
- c) Enthroned the Lord Jesus in your life today.
- d) If you have never truly been saved, ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come into your heart.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16