

God Is For Us

3-21-21

Romans 8:31 (ESV)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

All of Romans Chapters 1-8 is to get us to this point. Specifically, the most important Chapter 3 explains our salvation. Finally, the mount Everest Romans 8:1-16 instructs us to engage the Holy Spirit. **Without engaging the Holy Spirit in Romans Chapter 8, all the promises of Romans are useless for us. Personally, I say to you, “If we do not embrace Romans 8:1-16, we are doomed to frustration.” Therefore, embracing all of Romans to this point we declare, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” This morning embracing all we have learned in Romans; we will look at the final section rejoicing.**

Romans 8:26 (ESV)

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.

***Fascinating:* God knows that as we continually deal a multitude of the issues. In these times, we are often at a loss for words and don't know how to pray. We may be overwhelmed by our situation or just too stunned to speak. This may include longings and aspirations which well up from the depths of our heart and cannot be expressed with human words. In such times, the indwelling Spirit prays for us.**

Often the Holy Spirit brings to mind words and situations which we pour out to God. Many times, the things that fill our heart are none other than the Holy Spirit crying out for us which we should verbalize by speaking to God. **This is praying in the Spirit.** Certainly, the Holy Spirit may intercede without us saying anything. Also, speaking in tongues may be included in this expression of prayer by the Spirit as stated in 1Cor.14:2. **Most importantly, we are instructed to have “confidence” in the Holy Spirit interceding on our behalf.**

Romans 8:27 (ESV)

And God who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Holy Spirit prays, what we ourselves could not articulate and God hears. **Through the Holy Spirit, God knows the inexpressible groaning of our hearts.** The prayers of the Spirit are strictly in accord with the will of God. God “makes Himself” our advocate through the interceding of the Spirit. **In those times when discouragement and pain defy description, the Spirit intercedes on our behalf based on His perfect knowledge of God’s will. THEREFORE:**

Romans 8:28 (ESV)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

We often quote this Scripture! However, the Scripture should only be used in the context of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, this verse should only be used in the context of Romans 8:1-16. It is then that, all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to HIS purpose, “because” the Holy Spirit is interceding for us with inexpressible groanings saying things we do not even have the words for. We are in a privileged place as stated in the following verse: God foreknew us, and due to the work of the Holy Spirit predestined us to be conformed to the image of Christ. We receive this promise by trusting Jesus Christ as our Savior. However, to “live out” the promise, we must embrace the Holy Spirit as presented in Romans 8:1-16. The book of Colossians summarized this truth.

Colossians 2:6 (ESV)

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him!

We trust Jesus to forgive us our sins. Therefore, to walk in HIM, to walk in the Holy Spirit, we do it the same way as when we trusted Jesus as our Savior. We set our minds on the things of the Spirit, trusting HIM to do the work of God for us. Thus, Paul ends HIS theological discussion in Romans with:

Romans 8:31 (ESV)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Paul is saying that nobody, nothing can ultimately harm or stand in the way of the one who God is for. **Even harmful plots against us, God works them for our good.** People may mean it for evil, but God will work it for good. This is beautifully shown in Genesis when Joseph's brothers fearing his vengeance for selling him into slavery pleaded with him for forgiveness. Joseph replied:

Genesis 50:20 (ESV)

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.

Kingdom people walking in the Spirit are never victims. Nothing and no one can bring harm or stand in the way of those whom God is for. **As we trusted Jesus as our Savior, in the very same way trust the Holy Spirit now in this evil world to move on our behalf.** Then and only then can we boldly proclaim, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

However, we must step into the kingdom to receive the blessings the kingdom.

Acts 16:31 (ESV)

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."