

## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - Oct. 17-18, 2020

**Title:** “MORE THAN your loneliness”

**Text:** Romans 8:26-27

**Target:** The line of communication with God is always open, never to be met with full mailboxes, automated services, or voice recordings. You are MORE connected THAN you think!

### GETTING STARTED:

**Question #1:** Have you ever begun to pray, but just didn't have the words? Have you ever approached the Lord while being heartbroken, grieving, or angry and just didn't know where to begin? Describe a time when that recently happened to you.

### GOING DEEPER:

1. **Holy Spirit Supplies IN OUR Weakness:** “Likewise the Spirit **helps** us in our weakness.” (Vs. 26a)
  - a. **Strength over Sin**
  - b. **Sustains through Suffering**
  - c. **Secures a Stronghold**

### Question #2:

Romans chapter 8 verse 26 tells us the “Spirit helps us in our weakness”. How has this truth unfolded in your own life? Is there sin that He has helped you find freedom from? Has the Holy Spirit comforted you in your suffering? Have you felt an indescribable peace in a time of uncertainty? Share an experience of your own with the group.

2. **Holy Spirit Speaks IN OUR lack of Words:** “For we do not know what to **pray** as we ought, but the Spirit himself **intercedes** for us with **groanings** too deep for words.” (Vs. 26b)
  - a. **Challenged by Prayer:** “what to pray as we ought”
    - i. Why pray?
    - ii. What to pray?
    - iii. When to pray
    - iv. Where to Pray?
  - b. **Comforted in Prayer:** “intercedes for us”
    - i. Pleads for us
    - ii. Petitions for us

- c. **Covered in Prayer:** “groanings”
  - i. Identifies in Sympathy
  - ii. Interprets our Sentiment

**Question #3:** God reminds us that when we don’t know what to pray, or when we don’t know the will of God, the Holy Spirit will intercede for us. Have you ever been challenged by praying for your own desires while simultaneously not knowing if it’s God’s will? How have you made peace with that on-going tension in your life?

- 3. **Holy Spirit Searches IN OUR Waiting:** “And he who **searches** hearts knows what is the **mind of the Spirit**, because the Spirit **intercedes** for the saints according to the will of God.” (Vs. 27)
  - a. **Examines Intentions:** “searches hearts”
  - b. **Enlightens Inspiration:** “mind of the Spirit”
  - c. **Enables Intervention:** “intercedes for the saints”
  - d. **Empowers Interpretation:** “according to the will of God”

**Question #4:** In verse 27 we’re reminded of the effectiveness of the perfect union between God, the one “who searches hearts”, and the “mind of the Spirit”. This gives us confidence to pray knowing the Holy Spirit is interceding for us before God who knows all things. As we look to apply these truths in our own life, how satisfied are you in your prayer time today? What is one way you can practically grow stronger in your prayer life. (i.e. identifying a regular time, a place, a plan, practicing more frequent prayer throughout the day, etc.)

**Takeaway:** The Holy Spirit is drawing you closer to God by drawing out of you what is most desired by God, which is a DESPERATION for Him.

**FINISH BY PRAYING AS A GROUP.**