

Sermon Series: The Holy Spirit, My Best Friend

10/13/24 “Praying When I Don’t Know How,” Rom. 8:16-28, NLT

INTRODUCTION

MAIN IDEA: Focus on God when suffering. Why? Because He gives us five things.

I. First, our identity (16-17a) *His kids, never abandoned*

- A. we’re His kids...loved, accepted, watched, led, taught
- B. legally adopted
- C. need to put off false identities (others control)
 - 1. lies: failure, hopeless, unlovable, unacceptable
 - 2. pride-based: successful
 - 3. misleading: singer, writer, teacher, parent

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, our reality (17b-22) *suffering AND glorification*

- A. we follow Jesus in suffering

John 16:33, NLT: I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

Matthew 16:24, NLT: Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

- 1. we suffer in this world (23a)
- 2. all of the world suffers (19-22)... *creation itself*
- 3. all people suffer

- B. we follow Jesus to glory...peace, rest, His presence, joy

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, our hope (23-25) *a future that is WONDERFUL*

- A. in His promises

- 1. our adoption...*we will be home with Him*
- 2. the redemption of our bodies...*new bodies*

- B. in what we cannot see but wait patiently for...*trusting His timing, His goodness, His Presence*

ILLUSTRATION: engaged, waiting to be wed

VI. Fourth, our help (26-27)

Help: to take hold with someone –*Mounce*

“Holy Spirit ‘takes hold of’ (*lambane tai*) our weakness (a) together with us (*sun*) and (b) instead of us (*anti*) as our intercessor” -- *Stamp*

- A. helps us in our weaknesses [sickness, feebleness]...
strengthening us, encouraging us, lifting us up
- B. intercedes for us... *sometimes doing what we cannot*
 - 1. ex: when we don’t know how to pray
 - 2. with groanings...deep inexpressible feelings
 - 3. according to the will of God

NOTE: Many exclude tongues from this; however, some believe tongues may also be included. I [Sam] pray in tongues when I don’t know how to pray.

ILLUSTRATION:

V. Finally, our comfort (28)

- A. in His sovereignty God works for us
 - 1. not manipulating situations... permitting terrible things or causing them
 - 2. but orchestrating what He deems good from it

EX: the cross

- B. using everything for good for us (His children)

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: