

THE ONE WHO COMES ALONGSIDE

Part 13 Romans Chapter Eight

INTRO

Last week we spoke about our human spirit groaning.

*We said we have been given **a God-inherent ability** that enables us to release the pressure of the physical struggles which we constantly incur living in a physical fallen world with an unredeemed physical body ...*

*We finished the message speaking about the great release that occurs when we groan in **our spirit**. We said by bringing this release of pressure we are sustained and joy floods our entire being ... as is expressed in the following Scripture ...*

Psalm 30:5

... Weeping may endure for a night ... but joy comes in the morning.

SLIDE

In the original language, this verse suggests '**sorrow and gloom**' as being some vagrant person who comes to stay in your tent for the night and who causes you great sorrow. However, it doesn't tell us he leaves in the morning. Instead as suddenly **as the Eastern dawn appears without any twilight ...** there is a sudden release of great joy.

The dark night of mourning fades into to a bright light of dawning.

We aren't told the vagrant leaves as he has nothing to do with the release of great joy.

*In fact, this joy is completely apart from circumstances. It doesn't say ... **Weeping endures and joy comes because God changes the situation**. No, this is regardless of circumstances ... This is a personal release of joy deep within which we already have, but now begins to flow through us whilst we are still in the circumstance. Our joy is already in us ... but this groaning allows it to be released throughout our whole soul and body.*

NOW, THAT'S GOT TO BE HEALTHY

Proverbs 17:22

A merry heart does good like a medicine ...

Psalm 30:11 NLT SLIDE

You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy.

- YOUR SPIRIT YEARNs TO COME INTO **THE PLACEMENT AND STATE OF SONSHIP** THAT IT SPIRITUALLY ALREADY HAS.
- YOUR SPIRIT YEARNs FOR THE REST OF YOU **TO BE COMPLETED** IN THE COMPLETENESS IT ALREADY HAS.
- **YOUR SPIRIT WEEPS FOR ALL THE PAIN YOUR SOUL HAS SUSTAINED ...**

IT LONGS FOR THE SOUL TO BE HEALED OF ALL PAST GUILT, FAILURE AND REGRET.

THIS IS INSIGHT INTO THE INTERNAL WORKINGS OF OUR SPIRIT AND IT NOW
CONNECTS WONDERFULLY AND MARVELLOUSLY TO OUR TEXT TODAY.

TODAY, WE SEE IN OUR TEXT ... **NOT ONLY IS OUR SPIRIT GROANING BUT ...
THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKES UP OUR PLIGHT AND GROANS WITH US ALSO ...**

Romans 8:26-27 **SLIDE**

*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. ²⁷ 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.*

THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS CONSTANTLY WITH OUR NEW CREATION SPIRIT.

Notice when we saw that **our spirit cries Abba, Father** (Romans 8:15), we also read in Galatians 4:6 that **the Holy Spirit also cries Abba Father**. AND here we see a similar union ...

We groan in our spirit because of this unredeemed body of ours, and now we read ... **the Holy Spirit groans** as well ... **SLIDE**

Romans 8:23

*... We ourselves **groan within** ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

Romans 8:26

*Likewise, **the Spirit (Himself) helps** in our weaknesses ... **with groanings** which cannot be uttered.*

Our New Creation Spirit ... has the same function and intent as the Holy Spirit.

Why? Because we have **been born again 'of the Holy Spirit'**. Our Newborn Spirit has **the same nature as the Holy Spirit**, the same nature of Christ. We are 'partakers of the divine nature' (2 Peter 1:4) ... born again of an incorruptible seed (1 Peter 1:23) ... eternal (John 3:36). Your new spirit cannot die. It is impossible because it is Christ's nature.

Romans 8:26-27 **SLIDE**

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WE SEE HERE THE SPIRIT DOES TWO WONDERFUL THINGS IN US AND FOR US

- 1. HE HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESSES**
- 2. HE INTERCEEDS FOR US ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD**

1. HE HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS ...

THESE WEAKNESSES COVER ALL PHYSICAL SICKNESS, OUR FAILURES PAST AND PRESENT, OUR LACK OF ABILITY AND OUR FEARS OF THE FUTURE.

THIS IS GOD'S INTERNAL SPRING-CLEANING FOR YOUR HOUSE.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ONE WHO COMES ALONGSIDE.

John 14:16-17 **SLIDE**

*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever ¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

HELPER = Paraklēton: an advocate, intercessor, (b) a consoler, comforter, helper

NB: the original word **Paracletus** is in the passive form meaning '**one called to the side of another**' **but** with an active idea of someone helping, consoling, counselling, or aiding him.

He comes along side ... not externally but internally.

He just doesn't stand next to us and whisper instruction in our ear ... 'You'll be all right love! Ah, just have a nice cuppa tea!' (The English answer for everything.)

Facebook: The Holy Spirit is the One Who Comes Alongside to help us in our daily struggles.

However, He not only comes alongside us externally as an objective counsellor ... **He enters into the very heart-pulse of our pain.** He 100% identifies with the Feelings of our infirmities. **HE GROANS AS WE GROAN.**

- **HE UNDERSTANDS US IN HIS COMPANIONSHIP**
- **HE IDENTIFIES WITH US IN HIS EMPATHY**

Even though He is God and He never needed to groan ... He takes on our pain as Christ did and enters into our plight with us.

Many years ago I learned, a woman who is facing an emotional crisis doesn't necessarily want a man to come in and give her advice as to how to solve her situation.

SHE WANTS TO BE UNDERSTOOD. SHE WANTS EMPATHY FIRST ... I LEARNED TO JUST LISTEN, UNDERSTAND AND SHARE HER PAIN.

This is exactly the character of God with His people, **AS WE SEE IN THE FOLLOWING VERSE:**

Isaiah 63:9

In all their affliction He was afflicted ...

The parable of the Sheep and the Goats also expresses the same idea about God's character.

Matthew 25:40

*The King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, **you did it to Me.**'*

Romans 12:15

... Weep with those who weep.

SO WE NOT ONLY HAVE A DIVINE ABILITY TO GROAN IN OUR SPIRIT.

WE HAVE A DIVINE ASSISTANT WHO GROANS WITH US ...

He comforts us with understanding before He begins to strengthen us ... refocus us ... bring us hope ... release joy within us ... and slowly but certainly ... lead us out ... despite the circumstances ...

He enters into our pain and hovers above us to bring us out.

2. HE INTERCEEDS FOR US ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD ... BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO PRAY FOR

Romans 8:26-27 **SLIDE**

*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. ²⁷ 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.*

So here we are facing an unpleasant situation ... a specific negative circumstance.

So, our mind goes into gear trying to solve the problem EXTERNALLY ... PHYSICALLY. And the problem creates another problem. **We now have a problem of striving in our own strength.**

We start worrying ... which leads to tension ... which leads to striving ... which leads to panic ...

When we realise, this is not really working and it is affecting our well-being and temperament ... we resort to prayer ... but even here we strive and fail ...

We begin to pray panic prayers ... desperate prayers ... prayers not in Faith ...

CHARLES FINNEY stopped a church prayer meeting saying, 'I hate sinful prayer meetings'. They said, 'Why do you call this a sinful prayer meeting?'

'Because you're not praying in faith and Scripture tells us whatever is not of faith is sin'.

OUR TEXT TELLS US ... EVEN WHEN WE FINALLY RESORT TO PRAYER ASKING GOD TO HELP, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO DO THAT PROPERLY.

... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO PRAY FOR. THE SCRIPTURE MEANS 'THE WHAT' TO PRAY FOR ...

We pray, Lord get me outta this mess please ... change the circumstances ...

Many of us pray alone ... while the Holy Spirit waits for us to come to the end of ourselves.
WE WANT TO CHANGE THE CIRCUMSTANCE ... HE WANTS TO CHANGES US IN THE CIRCUMSTANCE.

THIS IS THE NEXT LEVEL OF SURRENDER

1. WE STOP TRYING TO FIGHT THE CIRCUMSTANCE OR MANIPULATE OUR WAY OUT LIKE JACOB
2. WE STOP TRYING TO PRAY OUR PRAYERS AND JUST GROAN AND WEEP INSIDE.

*When we have exhausted our store of endurance ... When our strength has failed ere the day is half-done ...
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources ... Our Father's full giving is only begun. (Don Moen)*
We finally give up to God ... fall on our knees and turn to Him.

The woman with the issue of blood (Haemophilia) had spent all her life's savings with no improvement. She in desperation presses through the crowd to just touch Jesus and she was healed. Now imagine if she was able to do that before she'd spent all her money ... she'd have been healed and still have her savings.

OFTEN ... WE HAVE TO COME TO THE END OF OURSELVES.

THERE IS NO, 'I CAN DO' IN NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ... THERE'S ONLY ... 'I CAN DO IN CHRIST ALONE'. JESUS SAID, 'WITHOUT HIM I CAN DO NOTHING'.

THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES FOR US WHAT WE CANNOT DO FOR OURSELVES **THE HOLY SPIRIT REDIRECTS OUR GROANING INTO TO THE WILL OF GOD**

Romans 8:27 SLIDE

He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:14 says, THE SONS OF GOD ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

NOW THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS US BY STARTING TO REDIRECT OUR GROANING ... INTO INTERCESSION ... ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL FOR US.

For example: *As you're growing older ... you realise there are many of your dreams you haven't fulfilled ... and that you are now too old to do them. (Many people live their lives with a deep regret). 'I didn't get that cottage by the lake with the white picket fence and a loving wife or husband (like 'Little House on the Prairie'). I didn't become somebody notable like a pilot ... a firemen ... etc.'* **These things are real regrets we bury inside which the Holy Spirit can release in us through 'GROANING' ... TURNING IT NOW FROM REGRET TO HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY WHEN CHRIST COMES AGAIN, AND HE SAYS ...**

Joel 2:25 **SLIDE**

... I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten ...

NOW WE WEEP WITH GRATITUDE ... YOU HAVE TURNED MY MOURNING INTO DANCING.

We think in finite terms ... The Holy Spirit sees in infinite terms ... We think for our generation ... God thinks in generations beyond our lifetime.

WHEREAS TEMPORAL ISSUES MAY HAVE GOTTEN YOUR ATTENTION AND FOCUS ... NOW THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS YOUR FOCUS BACK ONTO ETERNAL ISSUES. *He knows 'THE WHAT' to pray ... We need to surrender to Him... He knows the ETERNAL will of the Father for you ...*

THIS IS THE ANSWER TO ALL OUR STRUGGLES AS PILGRIMS IN THIS EARTH.

THIS GROANING IS WITHOUT WORDS AND WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING.

Romans 8:26-27 **SLIDE**

*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**.²⁷ 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.*

THIS MEANS ... IT'S NOT ABOUT THE WORDS YOU SPEAK TO GOD ...

IT'S ABOUT THE HEART YOU OFFER TO GOD. GOD HEARS YOUR HEART CRY.

Isaiah exposed all the religious prayers of Israel

Isaiah 29:13 Berean Study Bible

*... The Lord said: "These people draw near to Me with their mouths and honour Me with their lips, **but their hearts are far from Me**. Their worship of Me is but rules taught by men.*

Jesus also spoke to the religious leaders about their meaningless and religious prayers.

Matthew 15:8

*These people draw near to Me with their mouth and honour Me with their lips, **but their heart is far from Me**.*

... Praying great swelling words ... 'Oh omnipotent ... omnipresent ... omniscient God ... who is spoken of in Scripture as ... '

God says, 'What is this guy on about??? Who is he talking to?'

IN CONTRAST, GOD HEARD THE HEART'S CRY OF ISRAEL WHEN THEY WERE IN SLAVERY

Exodus 3:9 **SLIDE**

*Now therefore, behold, **the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me**, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.*

DON'T THINK GOD DOESN'T HEAR ... HE DOES

THE RESULT

THIS STARTED A SERIES OF EVENTS ... MOSES WAS CALLED ... THE PLAGUES OF EGYPT WERE UNLEASHED ... THE RED SEA PARTED ... PHAROH'S ARMIES WERE DESTROYED ... AND ISREAL WAS SET FREE ... **IT ALL STARTED FROM A SINCERE HEART'S CRY ...**

Romans 8:27

Now *He who searches the hearts* knows what the mind of the Spirit is ...

DON'T THINK GOD DOESN'T HEAR ... HE DOES

- **SOME THINGS ARE SO WEIGHTY THEY CANNOT BE EXPRESSED IN WORDS**

HANNAH THE MOTHER OF SAMUEL

1 Samuel 1:10 & 13 NIV **SLIDE**

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. ¹³Hannah was praying in her heart; and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk.

This is the closest thing to PRAYING IN TONGUES we can see in the Old Testament.

Eli thought she was drunk, as did the lookers-on on the day of Pentecost.

THE RESULT ... SAMUEL WAS BORN, WHO BECAME THE FIRST PROPHET OF GOD IN ISRAEL AND WHO ANOINTED KING DAVID, ISRAEL'S GREATEST KING.

DON'T THINK GOD DOESN'T HEAR

THERE IS AN INARTICULATE HEARTS CRY

- **SOMETIMES YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF WEEPING FOR YOU-DON'T-KNOW-WHAT.**

THIS IS THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU.

When I was being carried through cancer ... many times I would be lying on the couch and would just start weeping. Somebody would ask, 'Why are you crying?'

I'd blubber, 'I don't know'

Read from book 'WHAT THEY DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT SUFFERING'

Chapter 7, 'Personal Experiences of a Different Kind'

1 Samuel 16:7

... The LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

GOD HEARS YOUR HEART'S CRY ... DIRECTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

HE HEARS IT ... HE APPROVES IT ... HE ENFORCES IT ... HE GRANTS IT ...

IT HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY HIM ... DIRECTED BY HIM ... AND IS RECEIVED BY HIM.

SUPPLEMENTAL

OUR PHYSICAL BODY

PLUS THE BREAKING DOWN OF OUR PHYSICAL BODY ... WHEN WE ENCOUNTER OUR PHYSICAL FRAILTY WHAT IS THE FIRST THING WE DO?

The body starts failing and **breaking down** ... You feel its pain ... **What do we do?**

Panic? ... Worry? ... Go to the Doctor? ... Start complaining?

ALLOW YOURSELF TO GROAN.

NB: THIS GROANING IS NOT DEVOID OF JOY, IT IS NOT WITHOUT PEACE.

We have joy unspeakable and full of glory ... yet we also groan in certain hope.

We have peace with God and the peace of God even though we still groan.

Only the New Creation Spirit can do this ... both joy and sorrow at the same time.

THIS IS THE WAY OUR NEW CREATION SPIRIT WORKS NOW AND PAUL IS GIVING US INSIGHT INTO WHAT IS GOING ON INSIDE US RIGHT NOW ... HE WANTS YOU TO KNOW THE WAY YOUR NEW CREATION SPIRIT WORKS ...

THESE ARE THINGS PAUL IS TELLING US HERE AND NOW ...