

INTERCESSORY MINISTRY OF INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT

We are currently studying Creation from Romans 8:18-27.

We always look for Greek markers in our passages. For example, we used the word **groaning (stenazo)** to divide (Rom.8:18-27) into three sections for study:

- (Rom.8:18-22) Creation
- (Rom.8:23-25) Christian
- (Rom.8:26-27) Comforter

The Greek word for groan is stenazo. It refers to an inward feeling of sorrow or grief. The three groans listed are related to the curses associated with Adam's Original Sin (AOS).

The Greek word for intercession is entugchano. It refers to conversing or pleading on behalf of another.

<p>This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> the Intercessory Ministry of the Indwelling Holy Spirit.</p>

We will address a few questions in this lesson:

- Why is the Holy Spirit groaning?
- Why does the Holy Spirit need to intercede?
- How does it benefit the believer?

1. We are told one intercessory ministry is to “help (sunantilambano/ p.m.ind.3ps) [to bear a burden] our weakness (te astheneia) [to be without strength sufficient for the task whether real or imagined]”.

Doctrinal point: Church age believers (CAB) are never left alone to bear the burdens of life (sunantilambano).

Not only does God promise to never leave nor forsake the believer in (Heb.13:5) and (Josh.1:5) [Lord to Joshua]; but He put the indwelling Holy Spirit inside every Church Age Believer at the moment of salvation, forever (John 14:16; 1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.3:2). He is there to help the Church Age Believer bear the burdens of life, counting it all JOY! (Jas.1:2-8; Gal.5:22-23)

These believers were suffering (groaning) under the burden of the curses associated with Adam's Original Sin (Rom.8:22). Suffering travail of childbirth (Gen.3:16) “And in the same way” (Rom.8:26). This phrase refers back to other groans of (Rom.8:18-25).

There is a similar phrase in (Rom.8:23), “And not only this (Rom8:18-22) [creation], but also we ourselves (Christians)” groan within ourselves **waiting eagerly** (apekdechomai) (Rom.8:19, 23, 25) for our adoption of our body (Rom.8:23-25).

Waiting eagerly for what? (Rom.8:18-19, 21, 23) “**for our adoption as sons and for the redemption of our body**” (2 Cor.4:14-18.)

2. Another important New Covenant intercessory ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit is prayer on behalf of the Church Age Believer going through undeserved suffering, living with a corruptible body in the Angelic Conflict (AC) (Rom.8:26-27).

Remember there are three general categories of suffering in the Christian Way of Life (CWL):

- Self-Induced Misery
- Divine Discipline
- Undeserved Suffering (Suffering for Christ's sake)

One example of Undeserved Suffering was Satan's testing of Job's faith relationship with his Lord using physical suffering.

Satan was absolutely confident that Job would curse God to His face because of Undeserved Suffering (Job 2:5).

As care-giver, Job's wife understood the analogy of travail / pain of childbirth associated with prolonged suffering. As a result, she encouraged Job to curse God and die (Job 2:9) [to put himself out of misery] (spiritual suicide). Job answered her much like Jesus answered Peter in (Matt.16:21-23) – "You talk like a foolish person." (Job 2:10)

3. The intercessory prayer ministry of The Spirit is essential during prolonged periods of Undeserved Suffering.

The Lord reminded Paul of this doctrine while Paul was going through a prolonged period of Undeserved Suffering (2 Cor.12:1- 10). Paul called it, "the thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, and to keep me from exalting myself."

Like with Job and Paul, the spiritual lessons to be learned are often **in the midst of the suffering** (Heb.12:2; Eph.4:17-24).

Paul was already the champion of Grace. So, what were the lessons the Lord wanted to teach Paul in (2 Cor.12:9-10)?

Pay attention to the marker (power in weakness) The word **comforter** consists of **com** [with] and **forte** [strength] (Rom.8:26).

4. The intercessory prayer ministry of The Holy Spirit was between the Holy Spirit and God, not between the Holy Spirit and the Church Age Believer. It was offered on behalf of the Church Age Believer.

It involved "groaning too deep for words" (alaletos) [a-laleo/ tos] Better translated **unexpressible** (inexpressible, indefinable, indescribable, ineffable, unspeakable, untellable, unutterable). It is important to understand that it was the groaning of the Holy Spirit (Rom.8:26-27) **not believer's** (Rom.8:23-25).

Groans too deep for words is the **language of Omniscience**. It is the language between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit regarding the Will of God in the bigger picture of His Perfect Plan. (Rom.8:34).

Every Church Age Believer has the promise of the Indwelling Holy Spirit's intercessory ministry (Rom.8:26-27). It is now an issue of cycling it by faith (2 Cor.5:7).