

“The Interceding Ministry of the Holy Spirit”

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: While we hope in God and wait patiently for Christ’s coming glory, the Holy Spirit works in our weakness to keep us in communion with God.

To “intercede” means: “to act or interpose in behalf of someone in difficulty or trouble, as by pleading or petition.” It literally means “to go between.” It’s not that the Holy Spirit is our atoning sacrifice, only Jesus is that mediator (see 1 Timothy 2:5). Paul states in Romans 8:34: “*Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*” So, the Holy Spirit doesn’t replace the ministry of Christ, he does however, communicate that ministry to us and enable us to communicate with God. So, the Interceding ministry of the Holy Spirit is a helping and communicating ministry.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 8:26-28** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “The Interceding Ministry of the Holy Spirit”

DIG IN

1. The Holy Spirit Helps us. (Romans 8:26a)

In what ways does the Holy Spirit help us in our physical weakness? What are some specific examples of physical weakness?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit help us in our moral weakness? Why do we have moral weaknesses?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit help us in our spiritual weakness? What does this teach us?

Why is it good for us that we have weakness (see 2 Corinthians 12:9)?

2. The Holy Spirit Intercedes for us. (Romans 8:26b-28)

Describe a time in your life when you were in a situation that led you to groan in a way that was too deep for words. How did the Holy Spirit intercede for you in that situation?

Why is it important that we recognize that the Holy Spirit is able to reach down to the lowest of lows in us and reach up to the highest of highs in God?

Why is it important that the interceding ministry of the Holy Spirit be in accordance with the will of God? In what ways does God reveal his will?

How is our own act of praying an important part of the interceding ministry of the Holy Spirit?

In what ways does abiding in Christ (see John 15:7-8) enable us to take advantage of this Spirit’s interceding ministry more fully? What does that look like practically?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?