

Major Prayer Help (vv. 26-27)

VERSE 26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness (Ὡσαύτως δὲ καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα συναντιλαμβάνεται τῇ ἀσθενείᾳ ἡμῶν [adv. hosautos in the same way, likewise + conj. de + conj. kai also + d.a.w/noun nom.nt.s. pneuma + pres.dep.ind.3s. sunantilambano come to help; also at Lk. 10:40 + d.a.w/noun dat.f.s. astheneia weakness + pro.gen.p. ego “our”]; **for we do not know how to pray as we should** [τὸ γὰρ τί προσευζόμεθα καθὸ δεῖ οὐκ οἶδαμεν [d.a.acc.nt.s. + conj. gar + pro.acc.nt.s. tis “how” + aor.act.subj. 1p. proseuchomai pray + conj. katho as + pres.act.ind.3s. dei should + neg. ouk + pf.act.ind.1p. oida know], **but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words** [ἀλλὰ αὐτὸ τὸ πνεῦμα ὑπερεντυγχάνει στεναγμοῖς ἀλαλήτοις [conj. alla but + pro.nom.nt.s. autos “Himself” + d.a.w/noun nom.nt.s. pneuma + pres.act.ind.3s. huperentugchano intercede; only here + noun instr.m.p. stenagmos sigh, groaning + adj.instr.m.p. alaletos that which cannot be expressed in words; only here]);

VERSE 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (ὁ δὲ ἐραυνῶν τὰς καρδίας οἶδεν τί τὸ φρόνημα τοῦ πνεύματος, ὅτι κατὰ θεὸν ἐντυγχάνει ὑπὲρ ἁγίων [conj. de and + d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. eraunao search, examine + d.a.w/noun acc.f.p. kardia heart + pf.act.ind.3s. oida know + pro.acc.nt.s. tis what + d.a.w/noun nom.nt.s. phronema mind, thinking + d.a.w/noun gen.nt.s. pneuma + conj. hoti because + prep. kata according + noun acc.m.s. theos + pres.act.ind.3s. entugchano intercedes +prep huper for + adj.gen.m.p. hagios “saints”]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 26

1. In verses 26-30 we have further encouragement with respect to our sufferings.
2. As noted above sufferings are a precondition to maximum Ph 3 inheritance.
3. The phrase “in the same way” refers to something that the Holy Spirit generates within us—namely our groaning while under testing.

4. Having within us hope we groan longing for ultimate sanctification.
5. The Holy Spirit assists us while praying during times of intense suffering.
6. The “weakness” here is confined to the subject of intercessory prayer in the face of adversity.
7. Otherwise we know how to formulate prayers for a variety of things.
8. The situation is that of not being able to fully articulate in prayer (i.e. put into words) a complete petition in certain situations.
9. It is those times when we feel inadequate and overwhelmed.
10. But in this verse we have a prayer promise and that promise is that God the HS will take up the slack and deliver (“intercedes”) a perfect prayer on our behalf before God.
11. Of course the more grounded a believer is in BD the less likely the believer will be to ask amiss.
12. But even the best of us share this “weakness.”
13. “Groanings” are inarticulate speech and are translated/interpreted by the HS into a perfect prayer.
14. He interprets these “groanings” in our best interest.
15. An illustration: a competent attorney is able to present his client’s case before the court, so the HS presents our case in heaven.
16. Our groanings are the product of being positive and informed living in a hostile environment.
17. Believers have two intercessors before God the Father: (1) Jesus Christ our High Priest [Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 Jn. 2:1] and God the Holy Spirit [this verse and verse 27].
18. The fact that even inarticulate speech is presented as a perfect and complete prayer is a great comfort and prayer promise.
19. This fact eliminates allot of stress!
20. During those episodes we can relax and have confidence that we are heard.
21. Paul proceeds in v. 27 to show that there is no conflict of interest between the Holy Spirit and the One who ultimately processes intercessory prayer.
22. “He who searches the hearts” must refer to God the Father as He is the member of the Godhead who is the final arbitrator with respect to prayers of the saints.
23. The Father is at the head of the chain of command within the coequal members of the Trinity.
24. Next in line is God the Son and then God the Holy Spirit.
25. God the Father is omniscient as are all members of the Trinity.
26. Otherwise there would be a major breakdown with respect to the inner thoughts of believers.
27. Not only does God the Father know our innermost thoughts, but God the Holy Spirit knows exactly what we are struggling with.
28. Nothing is hidden from God, even peoples’ thinking processes (Heb. 4:13 “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”; 1 Cor. 4:5 “Therefore do not go on passing judgment, until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise with come to him from God.”; Prov. 15:3 “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good.”; 1 Pet. 3:12 “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.” ; Zech. 4:10c “the eyes of the LORD which range to and fro throughout

the earth.”; Rev. 2:23 “And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one according to your deeds.”; 1 Chron. 28:9).

29. So the Father searches the hearts and knows what the mind of the Spirit is with regard to every prayer presented.
30. Everything the Holy Spirit does in this is in perfect sync with the Father and so He intercedes for “the saints according to *the will of God.*”
31. It is airtight and we are assured that our intercessions are perfectly processed in accordance to the will of God in any matter, even our groanings!