**All things work Together for Good**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 8:24-28**

**Wednesday Evening**

**August 21, 2024**

**Romans 8:24-28**

24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. 26 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. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

**24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?**

Saints, when we put our faith in Christ as Savior, we are saved and we can eagerly look forward to the freedom we will have at Christ’s return.

We already have the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is unseen, but we must eagerly wait for our new bodies, which are also unseen.

Our full redemption has not yet happened; it will happen when Christ returns.

**2 Corinthians 4:18**

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

**1 Thessalonians 5:8**

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of our hope of salvation.

**Titus 3:7**

so that, having been justified by His grace, we would become heirs with the hope of eternal life.

**Hebrews 11:1**

Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see.

That is why it is still a hope for believers. Our salvation is both present and future.

It is present because the moment we believe in Jesus Christ as Savior we are saved; our new life (eternal life) begins.

But at the same time, we have not fully received all the benefits and blessings of salvation that will be ours when Christ’s new Kingdom is completely established.

**25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.**

Saints, while we can be confident of our salvation, we still look forward with hope and trust toward that complete change of body and personality that lies beyond this life.

Waiting for things patiently is a quality that must be developed in us.

**Romans 5:3-5**

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

**James 1:3-4**

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

**James 5:11**

Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

**Revelation 13:10**

He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

**Revelation 14:12**

Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Patience is one of the Spirit’s fruit borne in our lives. It includes fortitude, endurance, and the ability to bear up under pressure in order to attain a desired goal.

**26 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.**

Saints, in the same way that our “hope” gives us fortitude, the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress.

At times, our weakness is so intense that we don’t even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray.

At those times, the Spirit voices our requests for us. He intercedes by appealing to the only one who can help us, God himself.

We may not know the right words to say, but the Holy Spirit does. His groanings to God become effective intercession on our behalf.

The companionship of the Spirit in prayer is one of the themes of this chapter.

Here, the Spirit literally “joins in to help” us, expressing for us what we can’t fully express for ourselves. How should we pray?

**1. Utilize all the forms Prayer Takes:**

Adoration, confession, petition, thanksgiving, and meditation

Saints, as we pray, we should trust the Spirit to make perfect what is imperfect.

**2. Listen during prayer**

We should ask the Spirit to search our hearts and minds, and then we should be silent.

**3. Practice Prayer as a Habit**

**4. Combine Prayer with other regular Spiritual Disciplines**

**Philippians 4:4-8**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

**5. Confess Sins that the Spirit points Out**

**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.**

Saints, the Father knows all hearts and he knows what the Spirit is saying.

**Jeremiah 17:9-10**

9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? 10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

**Psalm 139:1-2**

1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

**Acts 1:24-25**

24 And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen 25 to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

God can look deep, past our inarticulate groanings, to understand the need we face, our hidden feelings.

Even when we don’t know the right words to pray, the Holy Spirit prays with and for us, always in harmony with God’s own will.

With God helping us pray, we don’t need to be afraid to come before him.

**28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**

Saints, because the Spirit’s efforts on our behalf are carried out in full agreement with God’s will, everything that happens to us in this life is directed toward that goal.

Saints, what happens may not itself be “good,” but God will cause everything to work together for the ultimate good of his children, to meet his ultimate purpose for their maturity.

The point is, God works all things for good, not “all things work out.”

Suffering will still bring pain, loss, and sorrow, and sin will bring shame.

But under God’s control, the eventual outcome will be for our good.

God works behind the scenes, ensuring that even in the middle of mistakes and tragedies, good will result for those who love him.

At times this will happen quickly, often enough to help us trust the principle.

But there will also be events whose results for good we will not know until eternity. Our ultimate destiny is to be like Christ.

God’s design is more than just an invitation; God summons us with a purpose in mind: we are to be like Christ and share his glory.

**1 Corinthians 1:4-9**

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Philippians 4:11**

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace!**