

**Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)**

**Romans 8: 26-27**

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. This week, we are going to read Romans Chapter 8 and today we will read verse 26 to 27.

The life of a saint is a process of sanctification, and the result of sanctification is glorification. When describing the experience of glorification, Paul takes a very special angle—that of groaning, and it is threefold. The first groaning is that of creation itself. All creation is groaning, earnestly longing for the sons of God to be revealed in glory, so that all created things may be delivered from the bondage of corruption. In our daily environment, there are always things that do not go smoothly. When we encounter such things, it is hard for our hearts not to murmur, and sometimes we may even complain. But here Paul wants to completely change our perspective, because in truth, we have no right to complain.

Creation fell under the bondage of corruption because of the fall of our ancestor Adam; and today, because we have not yet been revealed in glory, creation cannot be set free from corruption. The responsibility rests upon us. Creation has passively fallen under bondage and has no ability to change its present condition; therefore, it can only groan helplessly. Its groaning is urging the children of God to quickly grow, mature, and manifest the glory of God's sons. If we have Paul's vision, we will realize that everything we encounter daily is under God's sovereignty and is prepared for us. Hearing their groaning and urging, we should move forward quickly on the path of sanctification, so that the glory of God's sons may be revealed without delay.

The second groaning is our own groaning. When we recognize our responsibility, and in spirit also realize that the Holy Spirit is the firstfruits, enabling us to taste beforehand the glory and riches of the firstfruits, then our soul is filled with longing and desire. We hope to fully obtain the sonship of God, to be freed from this

corruptible flesh, and to put on a spiritual body, able to manifest the glory of God's sons.

Yet, although we have this hope, we are still often dragged by the lusts of the flesh, often unable to overcome the temptations of Satan and the allurements of the world. Therefore, we also groan. This groaning, however, brings about a supply of life: where we are weak, there we become strong; where we stumble, there we rise again. Every failure can bring about growth in life. Even so, we still cannot help but groan, wondering when we will finally be freed from this body of death. The first two groanings both contain an element of helplessness—wanting to gain but not yet obtaining: creation groans toward us, and we groan toward God. But when we, feeling helpless, turn to God, this brings in the third groaning—the groaning of the Holy Spirit. This groaning is active, effective, full of value, and able to bring forth God's operation.

**Verse 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.”**

“Moreover, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.” Here, weaknesses refer to the weakness we experience in hoping to obtain the sonship of God, the redemption of our body. Especially when, in old age, the body is no longer able, and one feels unworthy of God's calling; or when faced with the desolate condition of the church, one feels powerless; or when confronted with spiritual warfare, one feels inadequate. Whatever the weakness may be, we have the help of the Holy Spirit.

The word help in Greek is very rich: *sunantilambanomai*. This word is formed from three Greek parts: *sun* – meaning “together with.” *anti* – meaning “in exchange, mutual, or corresponding.” *lambanomai* – a word we have seen before, meaning “to lay hold of by paying a price, to seize, or to win.” Thus this word indicates both sides exerting effort together, mutually taking hold, jointly bearing, in order to obtain the sonship of God, both paying the price together.

This verse refers to the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Our spirit contains the Spirit that brings the sonship, supplying it to our soul. Our emotions in the soul sense delight, our mind in the soul analyzes where the weakness lies, and our will in the soul decides to pay the price to deal with this weakness. The Holy Spirit perceives this, and He also pays a price to supply what is needed, so that in that very weakness, God's glory may be manifested. Just as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Every one of our weaknesses, through the Spirit joining with us in paying the price and helping mutually, finally obtains the Lord's grace and is made perfect.

Paul first tells us that every weakness will have the Spirit's help. Then, he further describes in detail how, through the Spirit's help, we overcome weakness. "We do not know what we should pray for as we ought"—this means when we do not know how to go forward, when we only feel powerless and sigh. For unbelievers, this is the moment of despair and helplessness. But for the saints, this sigh is effective; it is a silent signal of seeking help. The Spirit, dwelling in our spirit, receives this signal and immediately responds: the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Our groaning is a sigh for help, expressing that we have come to the end of ourselves; the Spirit's groaning is a sigh of prayer—silent, yet full of power. Our sighing is for our own weakness and helplessness; the Spirit's sighing corresponds to our sighing, relates to our weakness, yet is according to God's eternal will and plan. Our groaning breathes out our weakness; the Spirit's groaning breathes out God's will and plan. The Spirit knows exactly how to help us according to God's will and plan.

Our sighing is a sigh of not knowing how to go on; but the Spirit's sighing clearly knows how to help us: perhaps we need discipline, perhaps we need chastening, perhaps we need comfort, perhaps we need support. The Spirit's groaning is purposeful, definite, leading us into God's will and plan. The Spirit's groaning is to help us to obtain the sonship of God, and this is exactly what we are hoping for.

Dear brothers and sisters, never underestimate these three kinds of groaning. They are necessary experiences on the path of sanctification as we journey toward glory. We must learn to hear the groaning of the environment: every circumstance we face will bring forth a groaning, urging us to manifest the glory of the sons of God. We must also learn to groan often—not groaning because the stock market has fallen, not groaning because we lost a job, nor groaning because of sickness in the body, but groaning over our own weakness, that we cannot yet obtain the sonship of God sooner. When we have such groaning, the Holy Spirit responds with His groaning, and with groanings which cannot be uttered, He intercedes for us.

As saints walk the path of sanctification, before entering into glory, what remains is groaning. When we have walked the journey of life, and before the curtain closes, it is with one final groan: “Lord, I have done what I could; the rest I entrust to the Holy Spirit.” This is a groan of gratitude, and also a groan of surrender. And the Holy Spirit will respond with His groaning: “Beloved child, rest for now. When you rise again, Christ will have returned, and you will obtain the sonship, your body will be redeemed, and the glory of the Son of God will be revealed in you.”

**Verse 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.”**

When the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings which cannot be uttered, perhaps we cannot understand, but He who searches the hearts knows the mind of the Spirit. The One who searches the hearts is God. God is Spirit, and God naturally understands the mind of the Spirit. The groaning of the Spirit does not require words, because all the intention of the Spirit is contained in that one groan. God can fully understand all that the Spirit is expressing. The Spirit dwells in us and knows our situation and our needs thoroughly. If it were to be described in words, it would be thousands of words, but in one groan of the Spirit, those thousands of words are all included. Although it is but one groan, God immediately understands the meaning of the Spirit.

The intimate cooperation within the Triune God, the unhindered fellowship, and the perfect coordination are fully manifested here. For the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. The Greek word for intercede is *entugchano*, which means “hit the bull’s eye” or “strike the target directly.” In English it is translated as “intercede” or “make a petition,” that is, to make supplication on behalf of others. The Spirit knows our condition, and the Spirit also knows God’s will and plan; therefore, the Spirit’s intercession strikes the target directly, hitting the very point. A prayer according to God’s will, God will surely hear—how much more when it is the Spirit who prays for us.

On our path of sanctification, if we look at our own condition, and then look at the circumstances we are in, we will feel afraid, not knowing how we can ever obtain the adoption as sons. That is why there is the groaning of creation and our own groaning. But the Spirit surely knows how to intercede for us; and our assurance of glorification rests in the Spirit’s intercession. This is a prayer that strikes directly at the target, and it is a prayer that God will surely hear. The intercession of the Spirit for us is the assurance of our glorification.

Let us pray together: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You! After You died and rose again, and ascended to heaven, You sent the Spirit to dwell in us. When we feel helpless and let out a groan, the indwelling Spirit immediately responds with groaning. Our groaning may be out of helplessness, but the Spirit’s groaning knows with certainty our needs. The groaning of the Spirit is a silent prayer; it is prayer according to God’s will and plan, interceding for us, helping us to obtain the adoption as sons of God. If it were up to ourselves, we truly have no assurance that we could finish the path of sanctification and reach the goal of glory. But our assurance is in the Spirit, for the Spirit prays to God according to our needs. Lord, grant us a humble heart, a submissive spirit, to yield to all that God has arranged for us. Bless my daily life. I pray in the holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!