



HOLY CROSS CATHEDRAL

*This Bible study is designed as a follow-up to the sermon preached on Sunday, July 26th:
"It's Going to be OK."*

Read Romans 8:26-39.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This passage begins with the recognition that we are "weak" (not exactly an American value). But, if we believe that we are not "weak" or in need, then there would be no place for God's grace to provide for our needs. How does this passage tell us that the Holy Spirit helps in our weakness?

In the sermon the "charge" given to us is to turn to the Lord in *prayer*. As it says in verse 26 that we "ought" to pray, but we don't always know what to pray or how to pray. But, even in ignorance and anxiety, confusion and pain we ought to pray.

Stop now and spend about 5 minutes in prayer. If you don't know what to say, that's OK. If you don't know what to pray, allow your mind to stay focused on God even without words. We are told that even in such prayer that the Holy Spirit prays for us and through us. Turn now to the Lord in prayer.

In the sermon we saw that we are *assured* of God's goodness to us. Read verse 28 again. What is our assurance there?

In the sermon we were asked if we love God; if we seek to follow him above everything else; if we place worshipping him as our highest priority (even above comfort, or schedule conflicts, or personal views on things like masks). Honestly look in your own heart and ask if your life reflects a deep love for God, a mediocre love for God, and cooling love for God, an absence of love for God, etc. In what specific ways does your life display that? (This goes beyond *feeling*, and gets to actual action.)

Read Romans 8:26-39 again.

What is one significant take-away for you personally? How will you put this into practice this week, this month, this year?

Series Wrap-Up:

From this whole series on the middle chapters of Romans, what has especially stood out to you? What message is especially important for you to keep with you in this season of life?