

Take 5!

5 Verses, 5 Questions, 5 Minutes!

On Purpose!



By Mary Kane

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Please take a few moments to ask our Holy Father to clean your heart from any unrighteousness, and to fill you afresh with His Spirit.

Now please read Romans 8:26-30.

Based on verse 26, what weakness does the Holy Spirit help us with?

He helps us when we don't know how to pray. "Knowing how" to pray about something has often been an issue in my prayer life. Through the years, I've learned to offer God my prayer requests and then preface them with "but please work this out according to Your will Dear Father, not mine."

The Greek word for *weakness* used in this passage is *astheneia* means weaknesses that pertain to the body such as frailty, sickness or feebleness. *Astheneia* also applies to weaknesses of the soul such as the ability "to understand a thing, to do great and glorious things, to restrain corrupt desires, to bear trials and troubles."ⁱ

The Holy Spirit makes His intercessions for us according to what (verse 27)?

Aren't you glad that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of *God*? I shudder to think what would have happened in my life if I received things according to my own will!

The word for *intercessions* in this verse is a real jawbreaker—*huperentugchano*. It is derived from several other Greek words that mean “in behalf of, exceedingly abundantly, to meet a person for the purpose of conversation or consultation, to pray, to bring to pass, to hit the mark, to produce fruit from seed, to give birth.”

When the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, He meets with God to discuss what is happening in our lives and He bring to pass exactly what is needed so we will bear fruit that is pleasing to Him. Wow! I want the Holy Spirit to intercede for me!

In order for all things to work for our good, we must (verse 28):

We must love Him *and* live to accomplish His purposes, not our own. The word *work* in the original Greek means “to work or labor together, a companion in work, a business or employment.”ⁱⁱ If we love God, and are living to accomplish His purposes then *all things* (good, bad, ugly, sinful; mistakes, tragedies, errors) will be laboring to bring about *good* in our lives. This verse does not mean that everything that has happened to us is good; it means that everything that has happened to us will be used for our good.

Please describe something hard that God used for your good.

Now let's consider the meanings of several words from verses 29 and 30:

Foreknew: to have knowledge or understanding of beforehand.

Predestined: of God decreeing from eternity, to appoint beforehand.

Conformed: through the idea of adjustment of parts, having the same form as another.

Called: to receive the name of, to invite, to bear a title.

Justified: to render righteous, to declare or pronounce, as he ought to be, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered.

Glorified: to praise, celebrate, to make renowned, adorn with luster, clothe with splendor, to cause the dignity or worth of someone to become manifest and acknowledged.

Please go back and circle the definitions that speak to your heart.

Why do these definitions encourage you?

Dear One, when you love God and live according to His will and purposes for your lives, you will realize what He has known all along: that you are a person of incredible worth and value. He loves you! Have a blessed day!

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ⁱ Blue Letter Bible. "Dictionary and Word Search for *astheneia* (Strong's 769)". Blue Letter Bible. 1996-2010. 2 Aug 2010. < <http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong's=G769&t=KJV> >

ⁱⁱ *The Blue Letter Bible CD*, CD-ROM, version 2.11. Sowing Circle, 2006