



Connection...In Christ

Romans 8:26-27 |

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SUMMARY

Read: Romans 8:26-27

Ray Ortlund helpfully notes that, in the Christian life, *"We never graduate out of weakness, even in prayer."* There's a good deal of freedom in being able to admit to God just how weak you are at a given moment. How great is that? Even if you can't say it to anyone else, you can tell your Heavenly Father that you don't have it together, that you're a complete mess.

Coming to the end of yourself means arriving at a place where you are beyond your understanding. You don't have to understand everything in order to move forward in trusting God and, even more great news, you don't even need to have the right words, or words at all.

If you can sigh deeply about your troubles, or groan out in pain because a friend has betrayed you, or exhale in grief, then you are ready to pray as a Christian. You don't have to work your way up to being a Christian who prays properly. You have the Spirit of the living God dwelling inside you, and He can translate and perfect your prayer.

Why? Because God, your Father, understands you more fully than you do yourself. He knows not only the deepest longings of your heart, but also the faintest whisper of a thought that enters your mind.

Again Ray Ortlund helps us discover what this means, *"...when you have a stroke and cannot speak properly and you find yourself cut off even from those who love you most and all you have left is a desire to go home to be with the Lord, he will hear the longings of your heart. And when you are hit by a drunk driver and your life-blood is flowing out of you in the twisted wreckage of your car, in those final moments of semi-consciousness, when all you can do is moan, God will understand your prayer, take your devastation into his mighty hands and subdue it to his glorious purpose."*

REFLECT: God has so united himself with us in Christ that we are never, can never be separated from his Spirit listening, knowing, interpreting, and relaying even the subtlest longings of our hearts to our Father. What more could we want?

Take some time as a group to read Romans 8:26-27. Then ask these questions:

1. What stood out to you as you read today?
2. What point does Paul seem to be making?
3. How does this portion of Scripture connect to what came before? How does it connect to what comes after?
4. What didn't make sense? What do you still wonder about?