

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)*

## Help

I need that without a doubt. **What do you need without a doubt?** I need help without a doubt. I desperately need your help without a doubt. **How have you come to realize that you desperately need my help?** I have foolishly relied on myself. I tried and failed miserably to be self-reliant and self-sufficient. Learning the foolishness of my self-reliance and self-sufficiency has not come quickly or easily. I have suffered bruising and battering and brokenness as I have slowly learned that I desperately need to rely on you. I have learned painful lessons that I have no desire to repeat. **That's good. As painful as the lessons were, it was critically important that you learn them.** Of that, I am sure.

I have more to say about relying on you. **I'm listening.** I cannot assume that I have learned the lesson of relying on you fully and completely. I cannot say that I don't need to be on guard against drifting back toward self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Every day I will need to reaffirm that I will be relying on you to help me in my weakness. Every day I will need to give you control of my life. Every day I will need to ask for your help. **That will be very good.**

I have even more to say. **I am still listening.** I am so weak. I am so in need. I don't need a little bit of help here and there and now and then. **Realizing that you are weak and need help is a very good thing. Do not let your weakness discourage or defeat you. I specialize in working through weakness. I work best through weakness. I work most powerfully when you rely most completely on me. If you think you are strong and capable, you will only get in the way of my accomplishing God's will in and through you.** That is so helpful. That is so encouraging. For that, I am so very thankful.

**I have more to say.** Now it is I who is listening. **I am praying for you. I am interceding for you. I am praying that God's purposes and plans will be accomplished in and through you. I will give you prayers to pray. I will pray through you with groans that words cannot express. Be sure of this, I am with you to help you. Rely on me. That I will do. That will be very good.**

*Holy Spirit, I am weak. I need help. It has been foolish for me to rely on myself. No more of that! I will fully rely on you. Help me to pray when I have no idea how to pray. Intercede for me in accordance with God's will so I will live a fruitful life, pleasing to Him. Amen*

**The Spirit Empowered Life** *Helps Us In Our Weakness*

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

NIV Romans 8:26-27

**The Spirit Empowered Life** *Helps Us In Our Weakness*

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

NLT Romans 8:26-27

**The Spirit Empowered Life** *Helps Us In Our Weakness*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

NRSV Romans 8:26-27

**The Spirit Empowered Life** *Bears Us Up In Our Weakness*

So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will.

AMP Romans 8:26-27

**The Spirit Empowered Life** *Helps Us In Our Weakness*

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

NASB Romans 8:26-27

**The Spirit Empowered Life** *Helps Us In Our Weakness*

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. 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.

ESV Romans 8:26-27

**The Spirit Empowered Life** *Helps Us In Our Weakness*

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. 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.

NKJV Romans 8:26-27

**The Spirit Empowered Life** *Helping Us Along*

Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God.

MSG Romans 8:26-27

**The Spirit Empowered Life** *Helps Us With Our Daily Problems*

And in the same way—by our faith—the Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying. For we don't even know what we should pray for nor how to pray as we should, but the Holy Spirit prays for us with such feeling that it cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows, of course, what the Spirit is saying as he pleads for us in harmony with God's own will.

TLB Romans 8:26-27

**The Spirit Empowered Life** *Helps Us In Our Weakness*

Also, the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain. God can see what is in people's hearts. And he knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way God wants.

NCV Romans 8:26-27

# Helps Us In Our Weakness

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The Spirit Empowered Life** – Romans 8:26-27

**In Context:** *Read Romans 8*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

In the same way, | the Spirit helps us in our weakness. | We do not know what | we ought to pray for, | but the Spirit himself | intercedes for us | with groans | that words cannot express. | And he who | searches our hearts | knows the mind of the Spirit, | because the Spirit | intercedes for the saints | in accordance | with God's will. Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Holy Spirit, I am weak. I need help. It has been foolish for me to rely on myself. No more of that! I will fully rely on you. Help me to pray when I have no idea how to pray. Intercede for me in accordance with God's will so I will live a fruitful life, pleasing to Him. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you had no idea what to pray for in a particular circumstance?

**When has the Holy Spirit given you prayers to pray when you had no idea how to pray?**

When have your prayers been more like Holy Spirit inspired groans that words could not express?

**How have you come to better understand why you need to rely on the Holy Spirit to help you?**

How are you relying on the Holy Spirit to help you in your weakness?

**When has the Holy Spirit worked in and through your weakness to accomplish God's purposes?**

How encouraged are you to know that the Holy Spirit intercedes for you in accordance with God's will?

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Rely on the Holy Spirit to help you in your weakness.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you can rely on the Holy Spirit to help you in your weakness.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are relying on the Holy Spirit to help you in your weakness.

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**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you rely on the Holy Spirit to help you in your weakness.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Holy Spirit, I will rely on you to help me in my weakness.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Holy Spirit, how will you help me in my weakness as I rely on you today?*

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