

Session 2

**God's
Wonderful Plan
for Prayer**

Theme:

God uses our prayers to accomplish His work in the world.

Biblical Foundation:

“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.”

The Purpose of This Session

is to value prayer as God does.

Introduction:

The above Scripture (Romans 8:26-27) is the basic text for this seminar. These verses picture prayer as a huge circle, like the face of a clock. The circle shows the Process of Prayer – God’s action in human affairs.



The Process of Prayer

A. God the Father is the Originator of
Prayer:

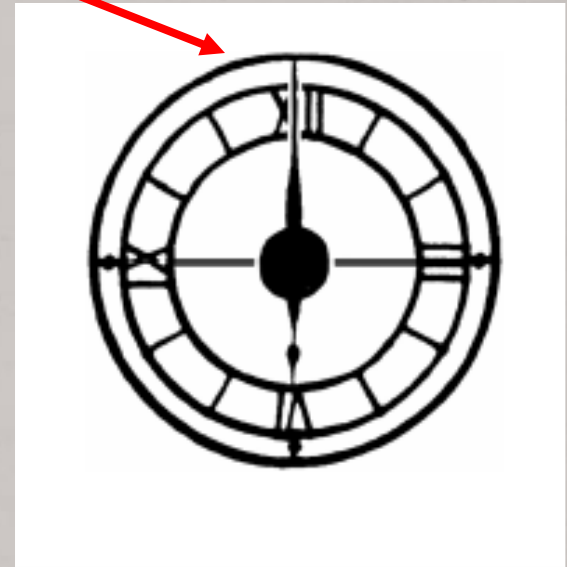
“according to the will of God”

Romans 8:27 NKJV™

1. Prayer begins in God the Father – the 12 o'clock position in the diagram.

“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

Romans 11:36 NKJV™



2. The importance of prayer originates in the nature of God.

“O You who hear prayer, to
You all flesh will come.”

Psalm 65:2 NKJV™

Because He loves us, He draws us to [**seek Him**].

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

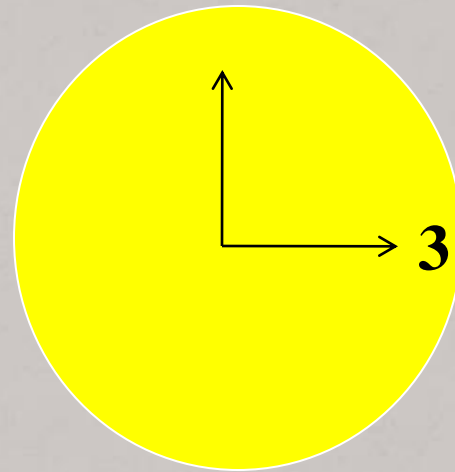
Jeremiah 29:11-13 NKJV™

**B. Three intercessors are involved
in the prayer process.**

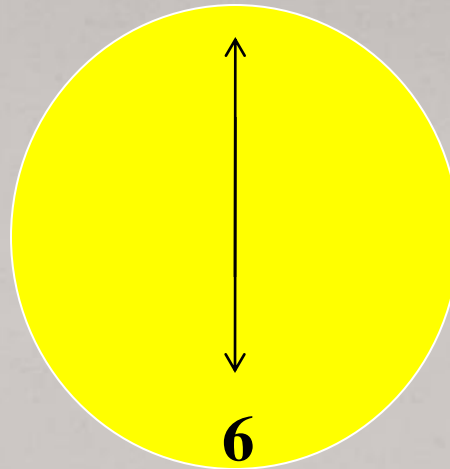
1. The Holy Spirit

“The Spirit Himself makes intercession...”

Romans 8:26 NKJV™



3 Holy Spirit



Christian

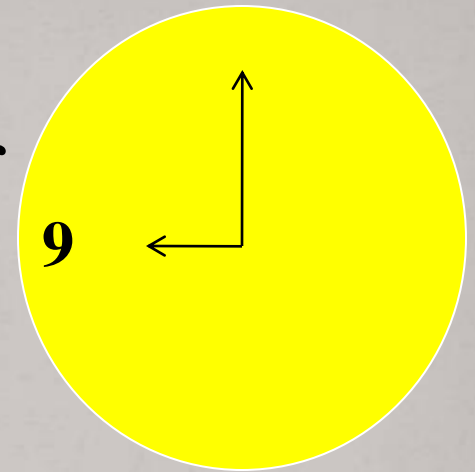
2. We Christians are at the 6 o'clock position in “the Process of Prayer” diagram.

“We do not know what we should pray for as we ought...”

Romans 8:26 NKJV™

3. The third intercessor, at the 9 o'clock position, is the Son of God who searches the minds and the hearts of people.

**Son of
God**



“...These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass... ‘I am He who searches the minds and hearts...’”

Revelation 2:18,23b NKJV™

The Lord Jesus has chosen to hear the Spirit's intercession in the hearts of His praying people (Romans 8:27)! Then, Jesus mingles these prayers with His own intercession to the Father.

“...It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

Romans 8:34 NKJV™

We conclude, therefore, that praying
Christians are [**vital**] connectors between
the mighty intercessory ministries of the
Holy Spirit and Christ Jesus!

C. A complete overview of prayer, in Romans 8:26-27, involves four cosmic actions:

1. God the Father releases His [purposes] to the Holy Spirit.

“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:10 NKJV™

2. The Spirit groans for and expresses these purposes in hearts of praying people --- for personal, church, community, and world concerns.

“...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...”

Ephesians 6:18 NKJV™

3. We express those groanings by praying to the Father, as the Holy Spirit guides us, in the name (authority) of Jesus.

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit...”

Jude 20 NKJV™

“Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

John 16:24 NKJV™

4. Christ receives the Spirit's praying in the hearts of praying Christians. He presents our prayers in His intercession to the Father, and sees that they get done.

“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

John 14:13 NKJV™

In this way, the circuit of God's spiritual action is completed in the world.

Conclusion:

Three wonders about prayer are revealed in our text, Romans 8:26-27:

1. Prayer is more than something we do.
It is something God does through us.

2. When we pray, we cooperate in the functioning of the Godhead!

“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

cf., Philippians 2:13 NKJV™

3. Our prayers do not change
God's will; they are His way
to accomplish His will.

“Your kingdom come. Your will
be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

cf., Matthew 6:10 NKJV™

End of Seminar 1

Session 2