

Romans 8:26-27

Does The
Holy Spirit
Intercede
For Christians?



The Spirit Also...

- **Three uses of the term “spirit” in the context**
 - Verse 16 – “The Spirit Himself”
 - Verse 16 – “our spirit”
 - Verse 15 – “the spirit of bondage”
- All translations of the same word – pneuma
1451



The Spirit Himself or “itself”?

- **“Himself” – autos 846**

- Himself: NKJV, NASB, ASV, ESV, NIV
- Itself: KJV
- Neuter gender
- Should be “itself” unless the context demands “himself” or “herself”



The Spirit Himself or “itself”?

- **“Himself” – autos 846 Neuter gender**
- **Male context**
 - (Matthew 3:4) “...John himself was clothed in camel’s hair”



The Spirit Himself or “itself”?

- **“Himself” – autos 846 Neuter gender**
- **Female context**
 - (Heb.11:11) “By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed...”



The Spirit Himself or “itself”?

- **“Himself” – autos 846 Neuter gender**
- **Male AND Female context**
 - (Ac.21:25) “...the Gentiles... should keep themselves from things offered to idols...”
 - (Jas.1:26) “If anyone among you... deceives his own heart...”



The Spirit Himself or “itself”?

- **“Himself” – autos 846 Neuter gender**
- **Neutral**
 - (1Cor.11:14) “...doesn’t nature itself teach you...”
 - (Heb.9:24) “...into heaven itself...”
 - (Jn.21:25) “...the world itself...”



The Spirit Himself or “itself”?

- **“Himself” – autos 846 Neuter gender**
- **Neutral**
 - (Jn.7:7) “the world... it hates me... it’s works are evil”
 - (Jn.10:17-18) “I lay down my life that I may take it again... no one takes it from me...”



The Spirit Himself or “itself”?

• Context

- (Rom.8:16) “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit...”
- (Rom.8:21) “because the creation itself also will be delivered...”
- (Rom.8:23) “even we ourselves groan within ourselves...”
- (Rom.8:26) “...the Spirit Himself makes intercession...”

Preliminary Facts

- **There is one mediator between God and man...**

- Advocate (1Jn.2:1)
- Intercessor (Rom.8:34) (Heb.7:25)
- Mediator (1Tim.2:5)

- **All refer to ONE mediator – Jesus**

- He who searches the hearts makes intercession
 - (Acts 1:24; 15:8) (Heb.2:18; 4:13) (Rev.2:23) – Jesus!
- The human spirit is the Lord's tool to search man's heart (Prov.20:27)

Groanings Which Cannot Be Uttered

- **The intercession is done with groanings which cannot be uttered...**
 - Does the Holy Spirit have groanings which cannot be uttered or put into words?
 - Is the Holy Spirit unable to utter or convey something?
 - Is the Divine Spirit unable to put His groanings or feelings of infirmity into words?!



Groanings Which Cannot Be Uttered

- **The human spirit often groans from “the suffering of this present time” (v.18)**
 - John 11:33, 38
 - 2 Corinthians 5:2-4 (cf. 4:16-18)
 - Exodus 2:25; 3:7



Context – Suffering (v.17-18)

- **Suffering vs glory revealed in us (v.18)**

- **“Creation”**

- Earnest expectation – revealing of the sons of God (v.19) (1 Jn.3:2-3)
- Subjected to futility (v.20) / bondage of corruption (decay) (v.21) (2Cor.4:16-18)
- Delivered from futility and corruption at the revealing of the sons of God – the resurrection and the glorified body (1 Jn.3:2-3)

Context – Suffering (v.17-18)

- **Suffering vs glory revealed in us (v.18)**
- **“Creation”**
 - The creation groans and labors with “birth pangs” (v.22) – waiting for delivery from corruption
 - Not only does the creation (body) groan, but also (v.23) we groan within ourselves (spirit groans) (Jn.11:33, 38)
 - So our body and spirit groan, awaiting the redemption of the body (2Cor.5:1-4)

Context – Suffering (v.17-18)

- **Suffering vs glory revealed in us (v.18)**
- **“Creation”**
 - Two renewals
 - First fruits of the Spirit – Renewed inwardly (2Cor.4:16-18)
 - The redemption of the body – Our bodies renewed (2Cor.5:1-4)



Context – Suffering (v.17-18)

- **“spirit also...”**

- “Likewise, the spirit also helps”
- Not only does it groan in hope, but it’s groanings, which are expressions of suffering which cannot be put into words serves as intercession for our bodies in this time of suffering, futility and corruption

