

God's ultimate goal is to make us like Christ.

Romans 8:26-30

*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. <sup>27</sup> 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**. <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be **conformed** to the **image of his Son**, in order that he might be the **firstborn** among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he **predestined** he also **called**, and those whom he called he also **justified**, and those whom he justified he also **glorified**.*

### WORDS ARE POWERFUL.

Two realities:

1. Humanity is made in God's Image
2. Humanity is sinful, fallen, and frail

Hope sustains us in suffering and God's Spirit helps our weaknesses.

8:26-27 *"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. <sup>27</sup> 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.**"*

Even when you don't know the right words to pray, the Holy Spirit prays with and for you.

8:28 *“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”*

The Son and the Holy Spirit are our constant **advocates** before God.

God can take circumstances and in the **long run**, turn them into good.

1 John 2:1

*“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”*

John 14:16-17a

*“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **advocate** to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth.”*

8:29-30

*“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”*

God’s ultimate goal is to make us like Christ (8:29; Jn 3:2).

We have been admitted to the heavenly family; we are brothers in that family and we call God “Father”. We are accordingly to live as members of the family, and that means being made like our elder Brother. This is all part of God’s predestination; he predestined us not only to be released from an unpleasant predicament, but in order that we might become like his Son. This is further explained: that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. The firstborn is, of course, the most important of the children. He is the heir and the one singled out for special honor” (Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*, p. 333).

### Application

- God’s greatest aim is our holiness, not our happiness.