

Title: WHERE THE SPIRIT-LED LIFE LEADS, ROMANS 8:26-39
(Chatham, NJ; 07/27/14, AM) [Pc – Exegesis]

Theme: Living by the Spirit leads the Christian to victory in which he cannot be separated from the love of God.

Purpose: To keep us focused on the victory over the world by sharing Paul's experiences.

Introduction:

1. God's power reverberates all the way through this section.
2. The context in which this occurs is the messiness of life with all its struggles and ups and downs, like Jacob's encounter with Laban and his daughters, Genesis 29:15-28.
3. It is also the conclusions to living the spirit-led life which he exhorts early in chapter eight.
4. Chapter eight concludes the first part of the book while chapter nine begins a new thought about the Gospel and the chosen people.
5. Paul is sharing things that he himself has experienced; there are a lot of stories behind his exhortations.

I. Not Know How to Pray, 26

- A. Not to worry, the Spirit intercedes for us
 1. God's power reaches to the deepest recesses of our inner being
 2. God searches the heart
 3. Psalm 139:2, "you discern my thoughts from afar"
 4. David invites God to "Search me, O God, and know my thoughts," Ps. 139:23
 5. The Spirit intercedes according to the will of God, 27
 6. God gave Paul what he needed not what he wanted when he allowed him to endure his "thorn in the flesh"
 7. Matthew 6:8 – "your Father knows what you need before you ask Him"
- B. Groanings too deep for words
 1. He intercedes because words often fail us
 2. We ask for things that are not always best
 3. We ignore asking for things that are best
 4. When we reach the point of groaning, sighing, or otherwise experiencing moments of longing, we have opened up our hearts
 5. These are inarticulate and intuitive yearnings
 6. At these times of weakness, the Spirit helps us
 7. God's power kicks into high gear when we lose our own power

II. God Has Our Best Interest at Heart, 28

- A. Bad things are still bad
 1. Paul doesn't say that bad things are good
 2. He doesn't even say that bad things happen for a reason
 3. He implies that God works out even bad things to our benefit
 4. Joseph was sold as a slave, but God used it to preserve his family
 5. God brings blessings out of curses
 6. In jail Paul saw the good that came out of his imprisonment, Phil. 1:12-14
- B. Our highest good is salvation
 1. The discussion that follows in 29-30 affirms that redemption is what God is most concerned about
 2. 1 Peter 1:9 affirms God's ultimate goal and ours: the salvation of our souls
 3. John wanted all of his readers to have eternal life because of faith in Jesus
 4. That is the good that God wants for us

III. Who Can Be Against Us?

- A. God is for us, 31
 - 1. Elisha opens the eyes of his servant to see God's army, 2 Kings 6:15-17
 - 2. God sent his son; won't he also give us all things? (32)
 - 3. No charge against us, no condemnation as long as Christ intercedes, 33-34

- B. Nothing can separate us from God's love
 - 1. Lots of things will try: verse 35
 - 2. Even our own temptations will try
 - 3. When Balaam couldn't curse Israel, he lured her into temptations
 - 4. In verses 38-39 more things will be ineffective

- C. Yet we are more than conquerors, 37
 - 1. Psalm 119:134 – redeem me from man's oppressions
 - 2. 1 John 5:5 – faith in the victory over the world
 - 3. Paul learned to conquer troubles in 2 Corinthians 1:8-10

Conclusions:

- 1. Depending on God to intercede for us, to have our best interest at heart, and to keep us in his love follows from fulfilling our obligation to live by the Spirit.
- 2. God will not allow the gift of his Son to go to waste.
- 3. Believe that nothing can separate you from that love and salvation.