

**Living with the Plague #2 – March 22, 2020**  
**The Primary Ingredient**  
**Romans 8:26-27**

**I. What an amazing and stressful time we live in! COVID 19 has changed our lives, in some ways permanently. How should we respond? Jn.16:33**

- A. Life-threatening stress is not new. It is normal in this age.
- B. The Lord tells us to take heart and receive peace in Him grounded in the fact of his “overcoming the world,” which is a reference to his death, resurrection and ascension to the ruling position over creation (the right hand of the Father).
- C. So, how is it that we are to have “peace in Him?”
- D. Peace in Christ comes from thinking and living within the Gospel (the message of Christ’s death, resurrection, ascension and rule, his kingdom.), interpreting life primarily through the truth of Christ, informed and nourished through his word (Jn.6:63; 15:7; Heb.1:1-3, 4:12; 1 Pet.1:22-2:3)

**II. Last week we were reminded of this perspective in Rom.8:18-25**

- A. The coming glory renders the present suffering inconsequential. 18
  - 1. He compared it with the glory to come and said it wasn’t even in the same category. Heb. 12:2 (2 Cor.4:18-5:10)
- B. Because the whole creation will be resurrected 19-22. (Matt.19:28)
  - 1. The futility and decay have a purpose—anticipation of redemption.
- C. Which means we can live with endurance based on anticipation. 23-25
  - 1. Patience (verse 25) = endurance: hupomene = bearing up under hardship, staying at our posts.
  - 2. *Endurance must be based on hope, which can only be based on grace in Christ. Endurance does not result from threats or merit.*

**III. This week we look at the main ingredient in spiritual endurance: Prayer. Rom. 8:26-27**

- A. Prayer is the primary activity of redeemed humans that cooperates with and promotes God’s work on earth.
  - 1. Matt.6:6-13, 9:37; Luke 11:1-13, 18:1-8; John 16:23-28; Acts 4:23-31; Eph.6:18-20; Phil.4:4-6 and many more.

**IV. How does Christian Prayer work? All three persons of the Trinity are involved.**

- A. God the Father listens personally. Jn.16:26-27; Matt.6:7-13
  - 1. Note: No other mediator. In Christ his people have instant, direct, personal access to God the Father.
  - 2. This is not available outside of Christ.
- B. God the Son mediates constantly. Rom.8:34; Heb.4:15-16; 1 Jn.1:8-2:2
  - 1. Being in Christ we live in that mediation all the time.
    - a) *In the name of Jesus, means from within his person, under his authority, mediated by his personal presence in the Spirit, in the Trinity.*
  - 2. *When we pray in Jesus’ Name, we are not praying in our own name. It is Jesus’ worthiness that “earns” the prayer—not our own.*
- C. God the Spirit intercedes dynamically. Rom.8:26-27
  - 1. We are weak and ignorant about what to pray for.
    - a) *Our praying is imperfect and we must trust the Lord with it.*
  - 2. So, he helps our weakness.
    - a) Clarifying, translating, interpreting in ways we cannot comprehend (groanings too deep for words)
  - 3. Based on his perfect knowledge of our minds and his.
    - a) *According to the will of God, but it is rare to know exactly how God intends to answer a prayer or even if we are praying accurately.*
    - b) *He gives us what we would have asked for if we knew what He knows.*

D. So, God the Trinitarian One accomplishes his will and we are part of it. Eph.1:11-12

1. God is at work, implementing his plan for his glory and our rescue.
2. We pray to the Father, from within the Son, in the translation of the Spirit.
3. We are praying from within the Trinity, to the Trinity, for the accomplishment of God's plan—exactly as God in Trinity has always communicated.

**V. How to pray today? Specifically and confidently.**

- A. For the completion of what the Lord is doing through this trauma.
- B. For the defeat of the virus (give us what we need today)
- C. For the spread of the gospel behind the scenes.