

Romans: A Study on Reformation  
Lesson 19 “Praying The Will of God”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on the book of Romans today. Paul wrote this letter from Corinth to the church in Rome to bring reformation to this church in 57 A.D. We are studying verse by verse through the book with our focus being on “Reformation.”

A. The main problem Paul wanted to reform with the church in Rome was the relationship between the Jews and Gentiles. They were in strife about beliefs and practices associated with their faith and trying to impose their will on each other. Paul did not want to revive this church. He wanted to reform it, which means bring change.

B. Last week we studied **Romans 8:16-26** about how creation (unbelievers/people) are waiting for a revealing of the sons (mature sons) of God. They are groaning for this and many of us are groaning to be used (we know there is something more). We also saw the Holy Spirit is groaning as well. When we pray in the spirit He prays through us and this will lead to breakthrough and cause people to walk in the purpose of God. This is what we are going to talk about today: **The Will of God.**

II. The Purpose of God

A. **Romans 8:22-28**

1. **Romans 8:22-26** Record 3 different groanings. The people groan, we groan, and the Holy Spirit groans. It’s out of this that breakthrough happens.
  - a. **Exodus 2:23-24** God heard the children of Israel’s groaning.
  - b. He then moved on Moses’s heart to do something about it. This had been on Moses’s heart for quite a while as he had tried to deliver the children of Israel 40 years earlier, but missed God’s timing. **Acts 7:23-25.** In a sense, Moses was groaning because he knew there was more for his life. God then moved on Moses again and appeared to him in a burning bush and Moses said, “Let me turn aside and see this great sight.”
  - c. In **Exodus 3**, God (Holy Spirit) begins to speak to Moses about how He would bring about deliverance through Moses. Conversation with God is called prayer. **I’ll admit, Moses wasn’t praying in tongues in this conversation, but this was a very spiritual conversation, which led to the perfect will of God for Moses and the children of Israel. Out of this God gave instructions to Moses about deliverance.**
  - d. **The point of all of this this is divine encounter!**
  - e. Another example of groan is **John 11:33 and 38** where Jesus groaned within Himself before raising Lazarus from the dead. **Jesus groaned in the spirit and this led to breakthrough.** ex: Frances Chan and Brownsville Revival.

2. In *verse 26-27* , Paul says the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us according to the will of God. When the Holy Spirit prays through us He prays the mind of God and perfect plan of God for our lives.
  - a. Did the perfect will of God happen the deliverance of the children of Israel?
  - b. Did the perfect will of God happen with the raising of Lazarus from the dead? **This is why praying in the spirit is so important.**
3. It's important to understand, this prayer doesn't happen unless we pray.
  - a. helps - **synantilambánomai, to take hold of opposite together, i.e. co-operate (assist).**
  - b. **Luke 10: 40** *But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help (synantilambánomai) me."*
4. **Romans 8:28** Out of this prayer all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose. When we don't pray, all things don't work together for good. This will of God is not automatic.
  - a. In 1906, William Seymour received an invitation to pastor a holiness mission in Los Angeles. Prior to that he had been seeking God with all of us heart for years and growing in the word. **He knew there was more than dead Christian religion many lived in (He groaned for more).** When he received the invitation he moved from Houston to Los Angeles.
  - b. At the same time many in Los Angeles were believing for and praying for a great revival. Pastor Joseph Smale visited Wales the previous year during the Welsh Revival and was believing for the same thing to happen in Los Angeles. "Journalist Frank Bartleman wrote to Evan Roberts and received this reply, "I pray God to hear your prayer, to keep your faith strong, and to save California." Out of this Bartleman says he received a gift of faith for revival in Wales.
  - c. When Seymour arrived in Los Angeles he began to teach on the baptism of the Spirit from *Acts 2*. That didn't go over well with his new church and he was fired after a week.
  - d. All of us would agree the Azusa Street Revival was the perfect plan of God, but it wasn't automatic. People had to pray, which is what Seymour and a man named Edward Lee and they began to pray 7-8 hours a day. Seymour then began holding Bible Studies in Lee's home and taught on the baptism of the spirit. They then decided to hold a 10 day fast on April 9th to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. During this Seymour prayed for Lee and he was filled with the spirit and Jennie Evans was as well. Evans was knocked to the floor when she was touched by God and then came up and was able to play the piano which she had never done before.
  - e. News of all this hit and people began to pack into Lee's home so they decided to purchase a bigger building 312 Azusa Street. They day before their first meeting a massive Earthquake hit San Francisco. This caused

people to think the end of the world was about to happen and everyone better get serious about the things of God. This led to the building at Azusa Street being packed shortly after it opened. This was the greatest revival since Pentecost and it almost didn't happen. The key was they prayed inspired by the spirit and prayed in the spirit. This caused the perfect will of God to happen.

f. I tell this story about the **Azusa Street Revival** because it is very similar to the *Exodus*. Those needing deliverance were groaning, the deliverers were groaning, and the Holy Spirit was groaning. **Azusa was a major reformation to the body of Christ in the early of 20th century.**

III. Conclusion - What do we do with all this? We need to pray. We need to be inspired by the spirit and we need to pray in the spirit. This is going to be a key to seeing reformation in our day.

A. If you've never received the baptism of the Holy Spirit accompanied with speaking in other tongues, our prayer team would love to pray with you after service. It's a major key to seeing breakthrough in your life.

B. Call Up Prayer Team

C. Pray Closing Prayer