

NO SEPARATION!

Separation is a sad thing. Some military families must endure lengthy separations, which are often very sad and challenging. When a loved one or close friend moves far away we experience the sadness of separation. Death certainly causes separation; a visit to the funeral home will show you how much sadness it causes.

Some people believe a genuine Christian can become separated from God by losing their salvation. Is that possible? What does the Bible say about this? As you read Romans 8:26-39 you will find numerous things God has done for us and learn whether those who have new life in Christ can ever become separated from God.

Rom. 8:26 Why does the Spirit need to help us? What do we not know?

What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

The Holy Spirit personally **intercedes** for believers before the throne of God. If you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit is taking your needs to the Father right now. Some people take the phrase “*groanings which cannot be uttered*” out of context, mistakenly claiming it is speaking of some unknown “prayer language” for believers. According to the Bible, however, the Holy Spirit is the **only** one speaking these “*groanings which cannot be uttered*.”

Rom. 8:27 We may pray something that is not best for us, but the Spirit’s prayers are **always** in the will of God.

Rom. 8:28 “And we know that _____ things work together for _____ to them that _____ God, to them who are the _____ according to His **purpose**.”

God’s eternal **purpose** involves saving those He has chosen for Himself. The next two verses explain more about His purpose.

Rom. 8:29 “For whom He did _____, He also did _____ to be conformed to the image of his _____, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

The word **foreknow** “*speaks of a predetermined choice to set His love on us and establish an intimate relationship.*”¹ **Predestinate** simply means to choose in advance.

Rom. 8:30 “Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also _____: and whom He called, them He also _____: and whom He justified, them He also _____.”

Remember that **justified** means to be made right with God, just as if you had never committed a sin. Here is the sequence: in eternity past God **foreknew** you and **predestinated** you. God then

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called you to salvation, and when you were saved He **justified** you. When you go to be with Jesus, He will **glorify** you.

Rom. 8:31 “If God be _____ us, who can be _____ us?”

Rom. 8:32 What has God done for us?

What else will He do for us?

Rom. 8:33 Since God has justified us, who can legitimately bring a charge against us?

Rom. 8:34 Who can condemn us?

List the things Christ has done for us:

Not only is the Holy Spirit interceding for believers (v. 26), but the Lord Jesus Christ is also doing the same thing!

Rom. 8:35 “Who shall _____ us from the love of Christ? Shall _____, or distress, or _____, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or _____?”

Rom. 8:36-37 We may face death for the Lord Jesus, but “in all these things we are more than _____ through _____ that _____ us.”

Rom. 8:38-39 What cannot separate us from the love of God?

Concluding Thoughts: Think for a moment about all God has done on your behalf. This passage taught us that: the Holy Spirit intercedes for us (v. 26-27), God always does what’s best for us (v. 28), God chose us, called us, and protects us (v. 29-33), Jesus Christ intercedes for us (v. 34), and nothing can ever separate us from the Lord and His loving care (v. 35-39).

Since God saved you and does all these things for you, do you think He can hold onto you?

If you’ve never truly trusted Jesus Christ these wonderful promises don’t apply to you. Is God calling you to salvation right now? If so, read the verses printed on the back of this book, confess your sin, and ask Him to save you. Do it now.

If you already have new life in Christ you should thank God for saving you, interceding for you, and keeping you so you can never again be separated from Him. Thank Him now.

Project: Memorize **Romans 8:38-39**. Pick up a new *Sunday School Member Quarterly* and begin the **Daily Bible Readings** on Monday. Our study of Romans continues next week.