

30 July 2017 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost.

Readings: 1 Ki. 3:5–12; Romans 8:26–39; Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52.

Theme: *Back into the valley* – **Romans 8:26**, “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.”



I. RELY ON PRAYER.

Romans 8:26-27, “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. 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.”

Mark 9:19, 29, “I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not... He replied, ‘This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.’” Footnotes: Some manuscripts add *and fasting*.



II. KNOW GOD’S PURPOSE.

Romans 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**.”

What is that purpose? V. 29, “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.”

How does it come about? V. 30. “And those whom he **predestined** he also **called**, and those whom he called he also **justified**, and those whom he justified he also **glorified**.” Progressively. Cf. 2 Cor. 3:18.

Illus. Count Zinzendorf. Progressive sanctification. “Like yeast.”



III. STEWARD HIS PRESENCE.

A. God Protects.

Romans 8:31, “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

B. God Provides.

Romans 8:32, “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” cf. Jehovah Jireh.

C. God Defends.

Romans 8:33, “Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.”

D. God Prays.

Romans 8:34, “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

E. God Overcomes.

Romans 8:37-39, “In all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Illus. “We are the champions, my friend.” Cf. 1 John 5:4-5.

CONCLUSION: People. T.E.C. “This is normal Christianity.”

Amy Grant: I love to sing and I love to pray, Worship the Lord most every day. I go to the temple and I just want to stay, To hide from the hustle of the world and its ways. *And I'd love to live on a mountain top, Fellowshiping with the Lord; I'd love to stand on a mountain top, 'Cause I love to feel my spirit soar.* But I've got to come down from that mountain top, To the people in the valley below; Or they'll never know that they can go, To the mountain of the Lord.

May our journey, Out of the valley, On top of the mountain, and Back into the valley, be one that helps others know, the love of God, and that they can go, to the mountain of the Lord, and back into the valley again for others, in Jesus' name. Amen. ☺

“Mountain Top”

Amy Grant.

I love to sing and I love to pray
Worship the Lord most every day
I go to the temple and I just want to stay
To hide from the hustle of the world and its ways

And I'd love to live on a mountain top
Fellowshipping with the Lord
I'd love to stand on a mountain top
'Cause I love to feel my spirit soar

But I've got to come down from that mountain top
To the people in the valley below
Or they'll never know that they can go
To the mountain of the Lord

Now praising the Father is a good thing to do
To worship the trinity in spirit and truth
But if we worshiped all of the time
There would be no one to lead the blind

But I'd love to live on a mountain top
Fellowshipping with the Lord
I'd love to stand on a mountain top
'Cause I love to feel my spirit soar

But I've got to come down from that mountain top
To the people in the valley below
Or they'll never know that they can go
To the mountain of the Lord

Now I am not saying that worship is wrong
But worship is more than just singin' a song
It's all that you say and everything that you do
It's letting his spirit live through you

Still I'd love to live on a mountain top
Fellowshipping with the Lord
I'd love to stand on a mountain top
'Cause I love to feel my spirit soar

But I've got to come down from that mountain top
To the people in the valley below
Or they'll never know that they can go
To the mountain of the Lord