

Monika Bereczki-Farkas, October 24, 2021

Romans 8:26-30

If you want to talk to another person you have to know his or her language. For example, if I keep speaking in Hungarian you won't understand me. I have to know more and more about your language if I want you to understand me.

But even when people speak the same language it's so easy to misunderstand each other. My husband and I, we are both Hungarian, but since he was born in Transylvania, which is part of Romania today, he spoke an ancient Hungarian language when we met and many times I didn't understand him. So one day he sent me a dictionary, and it helped me to translate the different words.

Sometimes we need help to understand the language of the other person. Sometimes it takes a dictionary, sometimes it takes time to learn the other's love language. Our love languages are how we receive and express love.

When we hear the call from God and we want to talk to him, we need help too. According to the Bible the Spirit helps in our weakness. We don't know how to pray so the Spirit helps us. We don't know how to talk to God and what to say to Him so we need help.

And the good thing is that this is the will of God, he sends the Holy Spirit to help us. Now, those of you who can recall John 14-16, remember that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit before He was arrested. He was with the disciples and talked to them about the upcoming things. He said to them: But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name...John 14:26

It was so important for Jesus to share with the disciples that the Holy Spirit will come. Just imagine how terrified they were knowing what's waiting for Jesus, knowing the authorities and in fear for their lives. But Jesus wanted them to know about the Counsellor, the comforter, the Holy Spirit. That even when they were weak, God gave them the Spirit.

And we know what happened at the first Pentecost, when after Jesus went back to heaven. The disciples were together in Jerusalem and in fear because they were so afraid of the Jews, although they had met with the risen Lord, they were afraid, because Jesus was not with them anymore in the flesh.

And when the Spirit came they got power and went out into the street and proclaimed the good news to everybody.

When we are weak, when we are terrified we can lean on the Holy Spirit. Why are we weak? Is this weakness related to our health? That we didn't eat our veggies five times a day, didn't exercise and now we are weak, we cannot even open our mouths to praise God because of the lack of energy?

Or is it that we are weak in the presence of God? Maybe the latter one. Because if I want to talk to God, want to pray to Him, it means that I am in His presence. When I call his name, I am in his presence. And as soon as I realize my sinful nature, how weak I am and we know from the previous chapters of Romans 8 that there is nobody who can stand in front of God because we are all sinners. We are not righteous on our own to stand in front of Him. That's weakness, realizing who we are in front of God.

And God doesn't want us to be weak, or to not know what to say or how to say it to him so his will is to send the Holy Spirit – as Jesus promised – to be with us and in us. Jesus says in John 16:13...

And we know who the truth is: Jesus. And in the presence of Jesus we are loved, because we are the ones he gave his life for.

And now, we have arrived at one of my favourite Bible verses, this verse is on our fridge as a reminder: **And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...**

This is also the work of the Holy Spirit, because with the Spirit we don't have fear, and we have knowledge about God's plan for us. God wanted us to have the Spirit, He wanted the Spirit to reveal the truth, God's plan to us.

And we have to see this in our everyday lives, that even when bad things happen to us or around us, God is still in control. Because the Gospel is not only about the power of God, how he was so powerful to raise Jesus from the dead, but he also has a plan to save us.

We have to understand this verse well, it's not about all good things that will happen to those who love God. There is nothing about good or bad happening in this verse, the good is about the end. What's happening to you right now can be terrifying, it can bring you down to your knees, it can cause you to have tears all through the night. Or maybe it is the opposite, many good things are happening to you right now. What this Bible verse is about is that anything can happen to you, yes it can be good or bad, but God has the power to change things around and at the end you will taste his goodness, you will share the glory with Him. Yes, nothing can separate you from God. Nothing can stop you receiving your inheritance in Jesus.

This is the promise we have to grab today and remind ourselves of when we are going through the darkest valley. This is the promise which has to be ours. Own this promise!

But, and this is important, Friends, the only ones who can claim this promise are those who are the children of God, who love God. Do you love God? Do you love God, and love is 'agapao' love which means love the way God loves us, who gave everything for us, even his only son, who didn't keep anything for himself but gave everything to us. Agapao love, the way Jesus went to the cross and didn't ask why, but paid the price for all of our sins so we can love God today and claim His promise to turn everything for the good of those who love Him.

And there is one well-known theme in this passage too. We won't deal with this today, it could take a whole series of sermons, it's about predestination. People often think this is about God determining who goes to heaven and who to hell. It's not this easy but I offer a short solution for those who are interested about their future destination. If you love God, this is not a question for you to decide, whether you are called by God or not. When you love God, you know what he did for you and it is not a question of what God's plan is for you. Look at Jesus Christ and in Him you can see your predestination: dying for the sin and living for Christ. In Jesus we are called by faith. In Jesus we are justified, we are no longer slaves to sin, we are the children of God. And yes, we will be glorified when Jesus comes back, and we will share his glory.

So don't forget, that no matter what happens to you, even the worst events don't have the power to separate you from the love of God in Jesus Christ.