

Intercessor

Romans chapter 7 deals with a contrast between man and his spirit, that is, between flesh and spirit. This thought is continued into chapters 8 and 9 to some degree.

^{NAS} **Romans 8:14** For all who are ^abeing led by the Spirit of God, these are ^bsons of God. (Romans 8:14 NAS) (we are led by the Spirit of God through the word he has given us – JT)

^{NAS} **Romans 8:15** For you ^ahave not received a spirit of slavery ¹leading to fear again, but you ^bhave received ²a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ^c"Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15 NAS)

^{NAS} **Romans 8:16** The Spirit Himself ^abears witness with (not “to” but “with” – JT) our spirit that we are ^bchildren of God, (Romans 8:16 NAS)

^{BYZ} **Romans 8:16** Αὐτὸ τὸ πνεῦμα συμμαρτυρεῖ **τῷ** πνεύματι ἡμῶν, ὅτι ἐσμὲν τέκνα θεοῦ· (Rom. 8:16 BYZ)

The spirit (singular) – Paul does not say our “spirits.” The articular noun (**τῷ**) implies previous reference (object of identity D&M page 141) and since the word “spirit” is singular and the word “our” is plural we have a collective noun. The “spirit” of adoption had just been discussed. It is a collective “spirit” (character) as sons of God that we have – the spirit of adoption. What is the collective? The church.

Paul speaks of and applies the word “spirit” in several ways. The spirit versus the flesh, the spirit of man, the Holy Spirit, etc.

Now we come to:

Romans 8:22-27 NAS

²² For we know that **the whole creation groans** and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly** for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

²⁶ **And in the same way** the Spirit also helps our weakness; for **we do not know how** to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself **intercedes** for *us* with groanings too deep for words;

^{KJV} **Romans 8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for **we know not what** we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh **intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Rom. 8:26 KJV)

BYZ **Romans 8:26** Ὡσαύτως δὲ καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα συναντιλαμβάνεται ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν· τὸ γὰρ **τί** προσευξόμεθα καθὸ δεῖ, οὐκ οἶδαμεν, ἀλλ' αὐτὸ τὸ πνεῦμα **ὑπερεντυγχάνει** ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν στεναγμοῖς ἀλαλήτοις· (Rom. 8:26 BYZ)

The whole Creation:

NAS **Mark 16:15** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mk. 16:15 NAS)

NAS **Matthew 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (Matt. 28:19 NAS)

NAS **Luke 24:47** and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem (Lk. 24:47 NAS)

NAS **Colossians 1:23** if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister. (Col. 1:23 NAS)

Do we know how to pray? We may not know "the what" to pray for in an emotional time but we do know the how. Why is this translated "how?"

Friberg

26807 τίς, τί, gen. τίνος an interrogative pronoun used in direct, indirect, and rhetorical questions; (1) as a substantive; (a) who? which one? what? (MT 3.7); (b) in the sense of ποῖος (*of what kind?*), *what sort of person? who?* (JN 1.22); (c) as equivalent to πότερος *which of two?* (MT 27.17); (d) neuter τί with prepositions: διὰ τί *why? for what reason?* (MT 9.11); εἰς τί *why? for what purpose?* (MT 26.8); ἐν τίνι *with what?* (MT 5.13), *through whom?* (LU 11.19); πρὸς τί *why? for what (immediate) purpose?* (JN 13.28); χάριν τίνος *thanks to what? for what reason? why?* (1J 3.12); e*) special uses of neuter τί: as a substitute for a relative pronoun *anything that, that which, what* (MK 14.36); as an adverb using the accusative of respect for what reason? why? (MT 16.8); in an exclamation how! (LU 12.49); (2) as an adjective which, what (MT 5.46) (**all underlining by JT**)

How verses What

1 Thess. 5:17-18 NAS

¹⁷ pray without ceasing;

¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess. 5:17-18 NAS)

^{NAS} **1 Timothy 2:1** First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,
² for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. (1 Tim. 2:1-2 NAS)

1 Tim. 2:8 NAS

⁸ Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. (1 Tim. 2:8 NAS)

Matt. 6:5-8 NAS

⁵ "And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

⁶ "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

⁷ "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.

⁸ "Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him. (Matt. 6:5-8 NAS)

Matt. 6:9-13 NAS

⁹ "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

¹⁰ 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ 'Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen .*' (Matt. 6:9-13 NAS)

Etc.

In difficult times, we know "how" to pray but we are unable as we groan to articulate our words into a prayer. Our spirit is not hindered by this.

²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He **intercedes** for the saints according to *the will of God*. (Romans 8:22-27 NAS)

^{BYZ} **Romans 8:27** ὁ δὲ ἐρευνῶν τὰς καρδίας οἶδεν τί τὸ φρόνημα τοῦ πνεύματος, ὅτι κατὰ θεὸν ἐντυγχάνει ὑπὲρ ἁγίων. (Rom. 8:27 BYZ)

Romans 8:34 NAS

³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, **who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.** (Romans 8:34 NAS)

^{BYZ} **Romans 8:34** τίς ὁ κατακρίνων; Χριστὸς ὁ ἀποθανών, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐγερθείς, ὃς καὶ ἔστιν ἐν δεξιᾷ τοῦ θεοῦ, ὃς καὶ ἐντυγχάνει ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν. (Rom. 8:34 BYZ)

Friberg

9814 ἐντυγχάνω 2aor. ἐνέτυχον; (1) *meet up with, encounter*; (2) of approaching someone with a petition *turn to, appeal to*; in a negative sense *complain to, make a complaint against* (AC 25.24); **(3) with ὑπέρ as directing a petition toward God for someone intercede for, pray for** (RO 8.27); with κατά as a petition made against someone *intercede against* (bold – JT)

27435 ὑπερεντυγχάνω plead, intercede for another (RO 8.26)

Gingrich

2303 ἐντυγχάνω

ἐντυγχάνω *approach, appeal, plead* Ac 25:24; Ro 8; 27, 34; 11:2; Hb 7:25.* [pg 67]

6573 ὑπερεντυγχάνω

ὑπερεντυγχάνω *plead, intercede* Ro 8:26.* [pg 206]

14987 ἐντυγχάνω

ἐν-τυγχάνω, f. -τεύξομαι: aor. 2 ἐνέτυ²χον: pf. ἐντετύχηκα: aor. i pass. part. ἐντευχθείς in act. sense: *-to light upon, fall in with, meet with a person or thing, c. dat., Hdt., etc.:- absol., ὁ ἐντυχὼν the first who meets us, any chance person, Thuc.; of thunder, to fall upon, c. dat., Xen.; so of misfortunes, Aesch.*

2. rarely, like τυγχάνω c. gen., λελυμένης τῆς γεφύρης ἐντυχόντες *having found* the bridge broken up, Hdt.; ἐντυχὼν Ἀσκληπιδῶν *having fallen in with* them, Soph.

II. *to converse with, talk to*, τινί Plat.

2. *to intercede with, intreat*, τινί N. T., Plut.: -c. inf. *to intreat one to do*, Id.

III. of books, *to meet with*, Plat.: hence, *to read*, Luc.

44087 ὑπερεντυγχάνω

ὑπερ-εντυγχάνω, *to intercede*, ὑπέρ τινος for one, N.T.

Thayer

1905 ἐντυγχάνω

ἐντυγχάνω; 2 aorist ἐνέτυχον; generally with a dative either of person or of thing;

1. *to light upon a person or a thing, fall in with, hit upon, a person or a thing*; so often in Attic.

2. *to go to or meet a person, especially for the purpose of conversation, consultation, or supplication* (Polybius, Plutarch, Aelian, others): with the addition περί τίνος, the genitive of person, *for the purpose of consulting about a person*, Acts 25:24 (R. V. *made suit*); to make petition: ἐνέτυχον τῷ κυρίῳ καί ἐδεήθην αὐτοῦ, Sap. 8:21; ἐνέτυχον τῷ βασιλεῖ τὴν ἀπόλυσιν ... αἰτούμενοι, 3 Macc. 6:37; hence, *to pray, entreat*: ὑπέρ with the genitive of person *to make intercession for* anyone (the dative of the person approached in prayer

being omitted, as evident from the context), Romans 8:21,34; Heb. 7:25, (followed by περί with the genitive of person, Clement of Rome, 1 Corinthians 56, 1); *τίνι κατά τίνος* (to plead with one against anyone), to accuse one to anyone, Romans 11:2, cf. 1 Macc. 8:32; 10:61,63f; 11:25. (Not found in the Septuagint) (Compare: *ὑπερεντυγχάνω*.)*

5438 ὑπερεντυγχάνω

ὑπερεντυγχάνω; to intercede for one: *ὑπέρ τίνος* (Winer's Grammar, sec. 52, 4, 17), Romans 8:26; on this passage see *πνεῦμα*, p. 522b. (Ecclesiastical writings.)*

NAS **1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (1 Tim. 2:5 NAS)

Mediator

Friberg

18199 *μεσίτης, ου, ὁ* basically, a neutral and trusted person in the middle (*μέσος*); (1) one who works to remove disagreement *mediator, go-between, reconciler* (1T 2.5); (2) one who provides a guarantee of fulfillment of contracted obligation *mediator* (HE 9.15)

Louw – Nida

31.22 *μεσίτης, ου m:* (derivative of *μεσιτεύω* 'to bring about an agreement,' 31.21) one who causes or helps parties to come to an agreement, with the implication of guaranteeing the certainty of the arrangement - 'gobetween, mediator.' *διαταγείς δι' ἀγγέλων ἐν χειρὶ μεσίτου* '(the Law) was put into effect through angels by a mediator' Ga 3.19.

A mediator is someone who stands between 2 parties while an intercessor is someone who pleads to one party on behalf of another party.

Verses that use *ἐντυγχάνω* and *ὑπερεντυγχάνω*

NAB **Acts 25:24** And Festus said, "King Agrippa and all you here present with us, look at this man about whom the whole Jewish populace **petitioned** me here and in Jerusalem, clamoring that he should live no longer. (Acts 25:24 NAB)

BYZ **Acts 25:24** Καί φησιν ὁ Φῆστος, Ἀγρίππα βασιλεῦ, καὶ πάντες οἱ συμπαρόντες ἡμῖν ἄνδρες, θεωρεῖτε τοῦτον περὶ οὗ πᾶν τὸ πλῆθος τῶν Ἰουδαίων **ἐνέτυχόν** μοι ἐν τε Ἱεροσολύμοις καὶ ἐνθάδε, ἐπιβοῶντες μὴ δεῖν ζῆν αὐτὸν μηκέτι.

NAS **Romans 8:34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also **intercedes** for us. (Romans 8:34 NAS)

BYZ **Romans 8:34** τίς ὁ κατακρίνων; Χριστὸς ὁ ἀποθανών, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐγερθείς, ὃς καὶ ἔστιν ἐν δεξιᾷ τοῦ θεοῦ, ὃς καὶ **ἐντυγχάνει** ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν. (Romans 8:34 BYZ)

NAS **Romans 11:2** God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in *the passage about Elijah*, how he **pleads** with God against Israel? (Romans 11:2 NAS)

BYZ **Romans 11:2** Οὐκ ἀπόσωτο ὁ θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ὃν προέγνω. Ἡ οὐκ οἴδατε ἐν Ἡλίᾳ τί λέγει ἡ γραφή; Ὡς ἐντυγχάνει τῷ θεῷ κατὰ τοῦ Ἰσραήλ, λέγων, (Romans 11:2 BYZ)

NAS **Hebrews 7:25** Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make **intercession** for them. (Heb. 7:25 NAS)

BYZ **Hebrews 7:25** Ὅθεν καὶ σφύζειν εἰς τὸ παντελὲς δύναται τοὺς προσερχομένους δι' αὐτοῦ τῷ θεῷ, πάντοτε ζῶν εἰς τὸ ἐντυγχάνειν ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν. (Heb. 7:25 BYZ)

ἐντυγχάνειν – used when the intercession is between two who have different classes – superior with someone less in stature?

NAS **Romans 8:26** And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself **intercedes** for *us* with groanings too deep for words; (Romans 8:26 NAS)

BYZ **Romans 8:26** Ὡσαύτως δὲ καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα συναντιλαμβάνεται ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν· τὸ γὰρ τί προσευξόμεθα καθὼς δεῖ, οὐκ οἴδαμεν, ἀλλ' αὐτὸ τὸ πνεῦμα ὑπερεντυγχάνει ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν στεναγμοῖς ἀλαλήτοις·

NAS **Romans 8:27** and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He **intercedes** for the saints according to *the will of God*. (Romans 8:27 NAS)

BYZ **Romans 8:27** ὁ δὲ ἐρευνῶν τὰς καρδίας οἶδεν τί τὸ φρόνημα τοῦ πνεύματος, ὅτι κατὰ θεὸν ἐντυγχάνει ὑπὲρ ἁγίων. (Romans 8:27 BYZ)

Romans 8:26 and 27 use two different words that are translated “intercedes.” There must be a distinction intended by the Holy Spirit.

Brief Comments Related to the Text

²² For we know that **the whole creation groans** and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves**, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

²⁶ **And in the same way** the Spirit also helps our weakness; for **we do not know how to pray** as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words;

²⁷ and **He who searches the hearts** knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*. (Romans 8:22-27 NAS)

The work of the Holy Spirit was to reveal the mind of God to man. (e.g. 1 Cor 2:7-16; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:21) For example, providing the ability to prophesy and tongues. Confirming the Word of God as truth. Having the Holy Spirit intercede and/or take our prayers to the Father is the opposite of His function.

Having the Holy Spirit take our groanings and interpret them to God is something that has no support as being done in either the Patriarchal or the Mosaic Ages.

Acts 7:32-34 NAS

³² 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.' And Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look.

³³ "But the Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.'

³⁴ 'I have certainly seen the oppression of My people in Egypt, and have heard their groans, and I have come down to deliver them; come now, and I will send you to Egypt.' (Acts 7:32-34 NAS)

The Holy Spirit didn't take their groanings and interpret them to God. They groaned and God heard their groanings.

JRT – in the same way as what? In the same way that the whole creation groans (the gentiles?) and those who have the first fruits (the Jews) groan for redemption – our spirit helps with our weaknesses.

The flesh has weakness that leads to sin.

Romans 6:19-20

¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms **because of the weakness of your flesh**. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. (Romans 6:19-20 NAS)

Our flesh has help in this battle as it is assisted by our spirit.

Romans 1:9 NAS

⁹ **For God, whom I serve in my spirit** in the *preaching of the gospel* of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, (**Romans 1:9 NAS**)

How does “the Spirit (should be small “s”) also help our weakness?”

When the flesh is weak and we are unable to speak, the spirit is not hampered by the flesh in expressing its thoughts to God. God is able to know our thoughts even though we are not able to physically express them in a prayer by uttering words.

Matthew6:8 NAS

8 "Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him. (Matthew6:8 NAS)

We also serve God with our bodies.

Romans 12:1-2

^{NAS} **Romans 12:1** I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.*

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2 NAS)

We do not know how to pray – should be “we do not know the what to pray.” We do know the “how” Matt 6 – Jesus (and other examples from scripture) taught us the how of prayer.

the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words – the word “Holy” is absent

Why would the Holy Spirit need to groan? This is our spirit.

The spirit of man knows his own thoughts.

^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 2:11** For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2:11 NAS)

The Holy Spirit communicates though words.

1 Corinthians 2:13 NAS

9 but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."

¹⁰ ^{1a}For to us God revealed *them* ^bthrough the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the ^cdepths of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NAS)

¹³ which things we also speak, ^anot in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, ¹combining spiritual *thoughts* with **spiritual words**. (1 Corinthians 2:13 NAS)

How did God reveal information to us? He revealed them through the Spirit and the Spirit revealed what we needed to know through what was written or during the time of the miraculous, His revelation was through tongues and prophecy.

The Holy Spirit would “speak” not groan when He communicates.

^{NAS} **John 16:13** "But when He, ^athe Spirit of truth, comes, He will ^bguide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
(John 16:13 NAS)

Is there a verse where the Holy Spirit communicates elsewhere with groaning?

Who intercedes for man? These verses answer that question.

Verse 27 – He who searches the hearts

Romans 8:26-27 NAS

27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27 NAS)

God the Father or Jesus knows the mind of the Spirit because He intercedes for the saints? (verse 27) Is it saying the Spirit know His own mind? How does this make sense? The immediate context tells us that Jesus is the one who makes intercession for the saints. (see verse 34) Is this saying that the Holy Spirit know His own mind?

Romans 8:34 NAS

34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. (Romans 8:34 NAS)

Who searches the hearts? Who intercedes?

Revelation 2:23

23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. (Rev. 2:23 NAS)

Some would say that the Father is the heart searcher.

1 Chron. 28:9; 29:17, Ps 7:9 and Jer. 17:10

If the Father is the heart seeker, then to whom does He intercede?

The word Lord/Jehovah does not always refer to the Father.

How does the LORD search the heart?

^{NAS} **Proverbs 20:27** The ^{1a}spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the ²innermost parts of his being.
(Prov. 20:27 NAS)

Why is Jesus the one who intercedes?

Even the Old Testament tells us that Jesus is the one who will intercede.

Isaiah 53:12 NAS

¹² Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12 NAS)

Because Jesus suffered, He is qualified to intercede.

Heb. 4:15-16 NAS)

The High Priest under the Old Testament was the one who made intercession for the people. Jesus is the one said to make intercession for the saints and the One who is qualified to do so. Is the Holy Spirit qualified?

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted (tested – JRT) in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. (**Heb. 4:15-16 NAS)**

18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. (**Heb. 2:18 NAS**)

Heb. 7:25 NAS

²⁵ Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (**Heb. 7:25 NAS**)

^{NAS} **Isaiah 53:12** Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12 NAS)

Is Jesus able to understand our difficulties?

Since Jesus is the one who became flesh, how would the Holy Spirit be equally or more qualified than Jesus?

Questions:

Does the Holy Spirit have trouble speaking such that He has to groan or is there another reason for Him to groan?

Does the Holy Spirit then discuss the prayer with Jesus or does He go directly to the Father with the prayer?

Is it a capital “S” or a small “s?”

Parsimony

Having two intercessors at the same time violates the principle of parsimony. Is one insufficient?

Are 2 intercessors needed? How would this work?

How would Jesus and the Holy Spirit divide up the prayers?

How did the Holy Spirit qualify to do intercessory activities since He did not do what Jesus did?

Is there another activity that the Son and the Holy Spirit do the same thing together at the same time? Aren't their functions different with the same goal? Discuss *paraclete* if necessary.

^{NAS} **Romans 8:27** and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*. (Romans 8:27 NAS)

^{BYZ} **Romans 8:27** ὁ δὲ ἐρευνῶν τὰς καρδίας οἶδεν τί τὸ φρόνημα τοῦ πνεύματος, ὅτι κατὰ θεὸν ἐντυγχάνει ὑπὲρ ἁγίων. (Romans 8:27 BYZ)

Is this saying that the Holy Spirit knows His own mind? No. Jesus searches the heart and knows the mind of the **spirit**.

ὁ - definite article, nominative, **masculine**, singular.

If this was the Holy Spirit, the article would be neuter (spirit is neuter) not masculine.

ὁ δὲ ἐρευνῶν – and “he” who searches

This is the one who searches the heart and “knows what the mind of the Spirit is” and it is not the Holy Spirit.

Implication? The one who searches the hearts and intercedes cannot be the Holy Spirit or the article would have been neuter singular.

Greek Is Able to Establish a Subject and Action In Three Different Ways

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- 1) Subject in nominative case with finite verb
- 2) Infinitive with the substantive in the accusative case
- 3) Genitive substantive as the subject (with participle)

Romans 8:27 is number 1 above. In other words, the one doing the “searches” of the hearts, “knows” what the mind of the Spirit is and “intercedes” is the same individual. **If Paul wanted to say that the Holy Spirit is the one who intercedes then he would have used the genitive absolute.**

If one argues that the intercession is done by the Holy Spirit then he would also have to argue that the Holy Spirit is also the one who is searching the hearts. He would then also be claiming that the Holy Spirit knows His own mind because of the intercessory work that He does. This obviously makes no sense.

The Intercessory Work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit gave us the scriptures from which we learn how to pray. He revealed that Jesus is the intercessor.

Jesus in speaking to the apostles made the following comment.

^{NAS} **John 14:26** "But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (John 14:26 NAS)

^{ASV} **John 14:26** But the **Comforter**, *even* the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you. (John 14:26 ASV)

^{BYZ} **John 14:26** Ὁ δὲ **παράκλητος**, τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον, ὃ πέμψει ὁ πατὴρ ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί μου, ἐκεῖνος ὑμᾶς διδάξει πάντα, καὶ ὑπομνήσει ὑμᾶς πάντα ἃ εἶπον ὑμῖν. (John 14:26 BYZ)

In 1 John, the same Greek word is used which referred to the Helper that Jesus spoke about – the Holy Spirit

Who is the Comforter, Helper, Advocate today?

^{NAS} **1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; (1 John 2:1 NAS)

^{BYZ} **1 John 2:1** Τεκνία μου, ταῦτα γράφω ὑμῖν, ἵνα μὴ ἀμάρτητε. Καὶ ἐάν τις ἀμάρτη, **παράκλητον** ἔχομεν πρὸς τὸν πατέρα, Ἰησοῦν χριστὸν δίκαιον.

How does a Christian address sin in their lives? We must pray about it and Jesus acts as our advocate. Does the Holy Spirit?

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn. 1:9 NAS)

What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

He is a revealer of truth – not the originator of truth.

^{NAS} **Revelation 2:11** 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.'
(Rev. 2:11 NAS)

^{NAS} **John 16:13** "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (John 16:13 NAS)

Next:

NAS Romans 8:26 And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;
(Rom. 8:26 NAS)

^{BYZ} **Romans 8:26** Ὡσαύτως δὲ καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα συναντιλαμβάνεται ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν· τὸ γὰρ τί προσευξόμεθα καθὼς δεῖ, οὐκ οἶδαμεν, ἀλλ' αὐτὸ τὸ πνεῦμα ὑπερεντυγχάνει ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν στεναγμοῖς ἀλαλήτοις·