

to be compared with the glory that will follow but we still have them now. We don't see this. And Paul says in verse 24, "Hope that is seen is not hope." But He says God has given us this wonderful hope and we can with patience wait for it and we can enjoy even today something of the glory that is to be ours at the return of God. "If we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." But he goes on to say, "Yes, with the glories not all future either. He discusses our present condition now and he stresses the fact throughout the remainder of the chapter that our present condition is one also of being entirely under God's care. In the future God is going to free us from the infirmities of the body. He is going to give us powers we can't dream of today. But he says, "Even today God is caring for us in a glorious way." And for a Christian to be sad and downcast and miserable is certainly dishonoring the Lord because the Lord in this present day is glorifying with the privilege of having Christ in us and of having the spirit directing and leading and helping. "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." I don't like this translation at all here - "With groanings which cannot be uttered." I cannot quite imagine the poor spirit trying to groan and can't quite utter it. It doesn't seem to me that it's a proper picture at all. It seems to me that the groaning which cannot be uttered is not here a ~~data~~ of the means, of the instrument, but a ~~data~~ of the respect -

> that he maketh intercession for the groaning which cannot be uttered, that he maketh intercession in relation to, these longings, these aspirations, these feelings which we have in our hearts which we cannot express. It's not the spirit which is unable to utter or unable to express - it is we. This thought is brought out in Sayers' Lexicon about this verse where he says that these words in Romans 8:26 mean, as the whole context shows, nothing other than this, "Although we have no very definite conception of what we desire and cannot state it in fit language in our prayer but only disclose it by inarticulate groanings, yet God receives these groanings ~~XXX~~ as acceptable prayer inasmuch as they come from the soul (10.5) of the Holy Spirit." In other words, it is not the spirit which cannot express it but we. It is we who cannot say what we long for, what we desire and how important that is to realize. A man was telling me not long ago that he was a judge for the United States Mediation Department