

who wrote it originally. Actually we have that truth given in Peter. Did I read from 1 Pet. 1 this afternoon? I had thought of doing it but I guess I didn't. I trust most of you are familiar with that verse in 1 Pet. 1 where he says in v. 11 on--"Trying to find the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ which was in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that should follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you, by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.

So we know that the writers of the Bible expressed thoughts at times beyond what they knew. We know that. But that doesn't mean you can take one sentence and necessarily squeeze a lot out of it. But sometimes I think we find most interesting evidences of a knowledge that they probably didn't have in the words that they used.

I want to call your attention to an instance of that which thrilled me when I first learned of it in the book of Romans. Rom. 8:28. We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose." But I'm not sure we are so familiar with vv. 26-27. "In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness." That is not exactly a literal translation," but I think it's probably about as good as you can get in English. The KJV is I think, "the Spirit helps our infirmities." Well, that's not an accusative. It doesn't mean he helps our infirmities. He makes our infirmities stronger. As this means, he helps us in relation to our infirmities. There's no "in" in the Greek, but there is a dative-- a dative of respect. He helps in respect to our infirmities.

"We do not know what we ought to pray but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express." With groanings that cannot be uttered" KJV says. With groans that words cannot express. As a boy I used to feel sorry for the poor Spirit that could not express His groans! Not really, of course, but I couldn't quite figure what that meant. That the Holy Spirit prayed with groans that He couldn't utter! It didn't seem to me to make sense. It was only within the last few years that I came to realize that this "with groans" is a dative and I believe exactly the same kind of dative we have in the previous verse. "He helps us in relation to our weaknesses, and he intercedes for us in relation to the groans that words cannot express." It's our groans that we cannot express, in relation to which the Spirit intercedes for us.

The next verse begins "he who searches our hearts." Well, when you stop to think about it there's a very deep truth there. There is somethings in our hearts we can't express. And that the Holy Spirit can search and find there. We can't express it. We can't utter our groans but the Spirit can understand our groans and can intercede for us.