

Pastor's Corner

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words. --Romans 8:26 (ESV)

As many of you know, my mother is battling pancreatic cancer. My mother has always been one that in my eyes was strong in her faith and one that I knew was always praying for me, as well as others.

The other day, my mother became ill and she went into the hospital for antibiotics and fluids. While we were waiting in the emergency room, Mother made the comment to me that she couldn't pray.

After things had settled a bit, I asked her what she meant by her comment. She explained that she was used to having long, deep conversations with God through prayer, but lately it seemed all she could say was, "Lord, please help me." I reminded her that when we cannot pray the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, intercedes on our behalf.

You might wonder what that looks like. It happens when the "body," men and women and children alike, who have experienced the result of prayer in their lives, take the time to stop and pray for others. That morning, I posted a note asking for prayers on behalf of my mother. I was truly humbled as I began to see my phone light up from the many messages.

I share this with you to remind you that when you feel you cannot pray, reach out to others and seek the prayers of the body of Christ. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ—many members making up the body of Christ.

I also suggested to her that, instead of trying to find words to pray for herself, to begin to pray for others. Think of those around you—in the church, those that you meet in your daily walk, your family. Often, when we take the focus off of ourselves—not that our struggles and pain are not real or worthy of our focus; yet, when we remove the focus from ourselves and move it to others, our own perspective begins to change, and, suddenly, we have made it through another day.

Finally, when we feel we can't pray, or maybe we don't know what to pray; here is one to hold on to:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.