

# **Prayer, Providence, Praise**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 8:26-39.

B. You cannot live in Romans 8 until you have experienced the reality of the struggle and death in Romans 6-7.

## II. The Christian life is a paradox.

A. It is power in the midst of weakness.

B. It is hope in the midst of futility.

C. This is all because of Christ in a person.

D. It is a life designed for wherever a person is.

## III. Prayer is the distinctive mark of a believer in Jesus Christ.

A. The Spirit helps us in prayer.

B. Prayer is the central expression of dependence upon God.

C. God is present to do what we need through us.

D. We do not know what to pray, so God gives us a thirst after righteousness and for more of Him from the Spirit.

## IV. God's providential work.

A. As a result of prayer, we see God's providence.

1. All things work together for those who love God and are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

2. Everything that happens is God's way of meeting the cry of the Spirit within to lead you into a deeper and more wonderful experience of God's person and glory.

3. God is working situations, not to provide our wants, but our needs for something more.

B. God is working out situations that we might become conformed to Jesus Christ. We are all to be like Christ, but every Christian is a varying expression of Him.

C. Christians are more than conquerors in Christ because they take the very things designed to destroy them and use them as stepping-stones.

**Application questions:**

1. Why is prayer said to be the centerpiece of the Christian faith?

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2. How can it be said that all things work for the good of believers when bad things happen?

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3. Which paradox of the Christian life stands out to you? Why is this so important?

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