



## Discussion Questions • Abbotsford

**Title of Sermon:** Prayer and Providence

**Passage:** Romans 8:26-28 NIV

**Big Idea:** God will accomplish His purpose for us through prayer.

### Sermon Points:

#### 1. Prayer

- a. What is an example of a difficult situation in your life in which you did not know what to pray for? Did you end up praying for that situation or not?
- b. What are the situations in your life, or the life of others you love, that you are seeking God to intervene? Spend some time intentionally praying for those things.
- c. What impact does the following Thomas Schreiner quote (from his commentary on Romans) have on your view of prayer knowing that the Holy Spirit is interceding for us as believers?

***“Since the Spirit intercedes in accord with God’s will, his prayers are always answered. The prayer of believers is not always answered affirmatively since we do not always know what God’s will is. By contrast, the Spirit’s prayers are always answered with a yes, precisely because he always prays in accordance with God’s will. Believers should take tremendous encouragement that the will of God is being fulfilled in their lives despite their weakness and inability to know what to pray for. God’s will is not being frustrated because of the weakness of believers. It is being fulfilled because the Spirit is interceding for us and invariably receiving affirmative answers to his pleas.”***

#### 2. God’s Purpose

- a. In light of our circumstances, our response shouldn't be "What If?" or "Why Me?" but rather, "What Now?". Spend some time evaluating your situation, and consider how God is calling you to respond in light of the situation you find yourself. Is there a need for you to respond with repentance, reconciliation, contentment, rejoicing, or anything else that comes to your mind?

### Wrap Up and Prayer

From your reflection, what resonated with you? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon?

**Benediction** - Romans 8:38-39 NIV



***"<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."***