

Romans 8:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Analysis

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit (ho dè ereunōn tās kardías oīden tí tò phrónēma tou pneúmatos)—Ho ereunōn tās kardías ("he who searches hearts") is God the Father (1 Chronicles 28:9; Jeremiah 17:10; Revelation 2:23). God knows tò phrónēma tou pneúmatos ("the mind of the Spirit")—the Spirit's intention in His intercession. This demonstrates Trinitarian unity: the Father understands the Spirit's unspoken advocacy perfectly.

Because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God (hóti katà theòn entugchánei hypèr hagiōn)—Katà theón means "according to God" or "in line with God's will." The Spirit's intercession always aligns with the Father's purposes—He never prays contrary to divine will. This ensures our prayers, supplemented by the Spirit, are effective. The Spirit knows God's will exhaustively (1 Corinthians 2:10-11) and intercedes accordingly, guaranteeing prayers offered in the Spirit succeed.

Historical Context

This verse provides foundation for confidence in prayer (1 John 5:14-15: "if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us"). The Reformers emphasized that true prayer requires the Spirit's enablement—we cannot pray rightly in our natural state. Prayer is Trinitarian: we pray to the Father, through the Son, by the Spirit.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the Spirit's intercession "according to God's will" provide assurance even when answers differ from our requests?
2. What does this verse teach about the Trinity's cooperative work in salvation—Father, Son, and Spirit?
3. How does knowing God searches your heart and the Spirit intercedes for you affect your prayer life?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	ἐρευνῶν	τὰς	καρδίας	οἶδεν	τί	τὸ
G3588	And	he that searcheth	G3588	the hearts	knoweth	what	G3588
	G1161	G2045		G2588	G1492	G5101	
φρόνημα	τοῦ	πνεύματος	ὅτι	κατὰ	θεὸν		
is the mind	G3588	of the Spirit	because	according	to the will of God		
G5427		G4151	G3754	G2596	G2316		
ἐντυγχάνει	ὑπὲρ	ἀγίων					
he maketh intercession	for	the saints					
G1793	G5228	G40					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:10 (Parallel theme): I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Acts 1:24 (Parallel theme): And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

Ephesians 2:18 (Spirit): For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Romans 8:34 (References God): Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (References God): And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

Proverbs 17:3 (Parallel theme): The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

Acts 15:8 (Holy): And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

Psalms 44:21 (References God): Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

Jeremiah 11:20 (Parallel theme): But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that triest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause.

Matthew 6:8 (Parallel theme): Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.