

VIII

Glory through Suffering

ROMANS 8:17–27

...and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons,

the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ 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 groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

JOHN 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

1 PETER 2:21

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

PSALM 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

READ | ROMANS 8:17-27

THINK ABOUT

Prosperity Preachers give the impression that if you are ill or poor, something is spiritually wrong with you. But this is not the teaching of Scripture (as is seen in these verses). The New Testament writers (as Paul does here) assume that followers of Jesus will experience suffering. See also John 16:33 and 1 Peter 2:21.

We learn in these verses that suffering is the way to glory for those who follow Jesus (v. 17-18). The present sufferings are insignificant compared to this future glory.

The whole of God’s creation groans in present subjection and is eagerly longing for the future. Praise God there will be new heavens and a new earth.

Although we “groan inwardly” (v. 23) God graciously gives us the Holy Spirit who comes to help in our time of weakness. Here is the hope of the Gospel.

APPLY

Don’t be devastated when suffering and trials come into your life. Being a follower of Jesus does not render you immune from such suffering and disappointments! Each day, remember the hope of the Gospel: our future glory.

Take a moment today and thank God that you are His heir and fellow heir with Christ! This hope (vv. 24-25) is not a mere possibility, but a sure certainty.

Even when you are too weak to pray, the Spirit is interceding for you.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

ASK

What have been some of the worst sufferings you have experienced as you have followed Jesus?

How have you responded to these sufferings? How should you respond?

What evidence is there that even “the whole creation” is groaning (v. 22)?

Have you ever been in a situation where you have been so weak that you have been unable to pray?

PRAY

Thank God that you are an heir and fellow heir with Christ.

Ask God to help you in your time of weakness and suffering.

Thank God for the Holy Spirit who intercedes for us.



“You Never Let Go” — Redman

“GLORY THROUGH SUFFERING”

Romans 8:17-27

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.