

Living Hope

Romans 8:18-28

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- 1) Hope begins with a decision.**
- 2) Hope battles in anticipation.**
- 3) Hope welcomes God's help in suffering.**

Application

- 1) Do you think that life should go your way because you are living for God? See John 16:33 and 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.**
- 2) What has sin done to creation? See Genesis 3:17-19. Will creation return to its original state? See Revelation 21:4, 22:3.**
- 3) How is the birth of a child a representation of the human condition? How does that relate to hope? See Romans 8:22.**

4) How does the Holy Spirit help us? See Romans 8:26-28. Identify a time when you saw God work in a bad moment of your life to achieve good for you or others.

Memory Verse

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

- Romans 8:26 NIV