



Set Free from Our Groaning Romans 8:18-27

Although we groan in our suffering, we can have hope when we focus on our future glory.

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (v.18)

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- What is your perspective? Is it temporal or eternal?

Creation groans while waiting to be set free. Romans 8:19-22

“...that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans...” (v.21-22)

- What should our response be to a world that is groaning with desire to be made new?
- Waiting is a painful process with a beautiful ending to come. 2 Corinthians 5:2,4; John 16:20-22

We groan while “eagerly waiting” to be made completely new. Romans 8:23-25

“...but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption...” (v.23)

- We have the first fruits, but we are waiting for the completion. And it’s not easy to wait.
- How do you “wait eagerly?”
 - Wait - *apekdechomai* - expect fully, look for.
 - “Already, not yet” tension in which we are caught. “Already,” through the indwelling presence of God’s Spirit, we have been transferred into the new age of blessing and salvation; but the very fact that the Spirit is only the “first fruits” makes us sadly conscious that we have “not yet” severed all ties to the old age of sin and death. As Hebrews 2 teaches, for example, all things are already ‘put under our feet,’ but we do not yet see all things put under our feet (Heb. 2:7-8).

The Spirit groans when we don’t know how to pray and, by example, teaches us how to pray. Romans 8:26-27

“...the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” (v.26)

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Share about a time when you had to wait a long time for something that was very important to you. What was that process like? How were you able to seek God in that? Or, how would you like to handle that differently in the future? Romans 8:23
2. How do we focus on our future glory while not ignoring the impact that we can make on the earth in the present? What is our role and responsibility in sharing God's peace with others through meeting spiritual and physical needs? What is our role and responsibility in caring for God's creation after studying this passage?
3. Share about any difficulties you have in your prayer life. What aspects are hard? Do you ever not know what to pray or how to pray? Share about how it makes you feel that the Holy Spirit is interceding for you. Romans 8:26-27

Next Steps:

1. **Get involved with Calvary's Reach:Local ministry** to help bring the peace of God through helping meet both spiritual and physical needs of people who are currently "suffering." Find out more at calvarylife.org/reach
2. **Set aside some intentional time to pray this week.** Make an effort to recognize those moments when you don't know what to say. In those moments, thank the Holy Spirit for knowing your heart and for praying to the Father on your behalf.
3. **Practice perspective.** Consider what your future glory will be like one day. Being in the presence of God, a new heaven and earth created perfectly, no more crying or pain, a place prepared for you by Jesus, beauty greater than the finest jewels on earth, and more. Meditate on Romans 8:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.