



And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. *Romans 8:26-27*



What's one thing that tests your "Christianity" more than it probably should? (Slow drivers, buffering internet, loud chewing, autocorrect, etc.)

Read Romans 8:17-30

1. The message, and this passage, emphasises that following Jesus' doesn't exempt believers from suffering – why do you think many Christians struggle with that?
 - Why do you think it is important that Paul mentions suffering and glory together?
 - What are the "sufferings" that Christians share in now?
 - If God causes everything to work together for good, but we know everything is not good, how does acknowledging that trauma, cancer, and betrayal are fundamentally evil—rather than pretending they are "blessings in disguise"—actually grow or protect our faith during suffering?
2. What does the "groaning" in Romans 8:22-26 describe?
 - What does Holy Spirit do when we don't know how to pray?
 - When have you experienced seasons where it was difficult to pray?
 - What encouragement can be found in these verses when in the midst of struggles?

3. Romans 8:28 creates a distinction – so what is the difference between saying: “All things are good” ad/or “God works all things for good?”
 - Why shouldn’t we use this verse to minimise someone’s suffering?
 - How does the account of Joseph’s (Genesis 50:20) life demonstrate the truth of Romans 8:28?
 - While Joseph was in the pit or prison do you think he struggles with continuing to trust God?
 - Why do we struggle to trust God when we can’t see or understand what He is doing?

 4. What is the “good” God is working towards in Romans 8:29-30?
 - Why do we so often define “good” as comfort or success?
 - How does James 1:2-4, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and Hebrews 12:10-11 compare to Romans 8:28-30?
 - How do these passages say that God uses difficult situations to shape our character?
 - How has God brought fruit, maturity, compassion or ministry out of your suffering? (or maybe you have seen Him do this in someone else's life)
 - How can Christians become a witness to others through the way they suffer?

 5. Which part of the message or passage challenged or encouraged you the most and why?
 - We were called to “Stop interpreting God through your pain and start interpreting your pain through the character of God.” What does this look like practically for you?
 - What is one area of pain, disappointment, grief, or uncertainty where you need to trust that God is still working?
 - How can we as a group be better at supporting people who are hurting?

 6. This week: Bring one honest struggle to God instead of hiding it.
 - Spend time thanking God for where He has been faithful.
 - Encourage someone else who may be hurting.
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