

No More Excuses

God shows up in my pain.

October 10-11, 2009

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Romans chapter 8, verse 18 (862)

The best is yet to come!

- The best of this life has nothing to compare with what we will experience in eternity.
- The worst of this life will be seen as necessary in order to experience the “glory” of eternity.
- “glory” – weight or heaviness – something of real substance
- There's no glory without struggle!– “But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.”
Romans chapter 8, verse 17 (862)
- God is getting you ready for your big reveal! Are you getting yourself ready?

Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

Romans chapter 8, verse 18 (862)

There's nothing like hope.

- ✓ God knows the depth of our troubles.
- ✓ It's ok to groan but it's got to have an “eager hope” along with it.
- ✓ Some day you will say, “It was worth it”.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit gives a moment by moment reminder of the real hope that ALL Christ followers possess.
- ✓ “We were given this hope when we were saved”. Romans 8:24
- ✓ Your new body is waiting, so in the mean time start working on the inside.

We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

Romans chapter 8, verses 24-25 (862)

Only God gives hope.

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

2 Corinthians chapter 4, verses 16-18 (884)

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 chapter 8, verses 26-27 (862)

- Better to be physically weak and spiritually strong than vice versa.
- “with groanings” - the Holy Spirit knows and feels our pain
- Pray for God to remove the bad circumstances but realize he is more interested in my spiritual growth than my comfort.
- “Prayer is not getting my will done in heaven but getting God’s will done on earth”
- God is never far because his Spirit is always working within me.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory. Romans chapter 8, verses 28-30 (863)

Our bad things turn out for good...

- ✓ Terrible things happen to everyone, including those who love God.
- ✓ God causes good & bad things “to work together for the good **of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them**”
- ✓ When things work together in your life, it’s because of God.
- ✓ This promise does not have a deadline so don’t place one on God. The good may come much later.

... and our good things can never be lost.

- What God turns into good will last for all eternity.
- God’s end purpose for us – “to become like his Son” - that’s my glory.
- Be careful... God did not promise you better circumstances, he promised you a better life.
- Christ did not suffer so that we would not suffer. He suffered so that when we suffer, we become like him.
- God is transforming you on the inside through every circumstance of life and later he will transform the outside to reveal your true glory.

Want more?

1. Read Genesis chapter 3 to gain a better understanding of how suffering began.
2. When did God exactly curse the ground and why?
3. Read Philippians chapter 2:5-11. What characteristics are necessary for “glory”
4. How does God’s hope change the way we live, treat others and serve God.
5. What circumstances in your life seem hopeless?
6. Read 2 Corinthians chapter 5. Why can we be confident while living under adversity.
7. How does the Holy Spirit work in us until we get our new bodies?
8. What is your most urgent prayer request? Share it with another.
9. What circumstance is God working out for the good in your life?

Next Week: Our Victory... God’s love conquers all!