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The Groaning

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Romans 8:18-28 ¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹The creation waits in eager expectation for the revelation of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but because of the One who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until the present time. ²³Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved; but hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he can already see? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet see, we wait for it patiently. ²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans too deep for words. ²⁷And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. (BSB)

I. What can we learn from this passage?

- A. The suffering that we do in this life cannot be compared to the glory that we will see in the future. V. 18
- B. Creation was cursed when mankind fell. Creation longs for the change that will come in the future. V. 19-21
- C. The curse of creation is birthing something in mankind that is worth the suffering. Creation is groaning. V. 22
- D. We groan, wanting our new bodies that God has promised that He will give to His children. V. 23
- E. Our hope helps us in our suffering because we stand firmly on His promises. V. 24-25
- F. The Holy Spirit groans for us as a prayer to the Father during times when our minds just cannot put our prayers into words. V. 26-27
- G. God uses all of our challenges to work good things in us in order to fulfill His purpose in our lives. V.28

II. How can we apply this to our life?

- A. We need to see suffering as something necessary that produces great things in us. This is the Better vs. Bitter choice that we can make.
- B. We must take responsibility for our environment around us. The suffering of creation was because of us and we must do our part to be good stewards of the earth.
- C. We must invest our treasures into heaven. This life is not all that there is.

- D.** We must know the promises of God and daily stand on these *truths*. God cannot lie!
- E.** We must take time to just *allow* the Holy Spirit to pray for you. It is ok to not know just how to put it into words. Also, learn what Scripture teaches about praying in the Spirit.
- F.** We must learn to see God *working* in us and through us even in hard times.