



## Week #8: A New Future

*I am sure what we are suffering now cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us.*

Romans 8:18 (CEV)

**Sermon in a Sentence:** I can have unstoppable \_\_\_\_\_ and unconquerable \_\_\_\_\_ when I see suffering in the context of \_\_\_\_\_.

*For the creation waits in eager expectation... in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 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. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

Romans 8:19-25 (NIV)

- Suffering is \_\_\_\_\_, yet I have hope something far better \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 18-25)

*(Genesis 3, John 16:33, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, John 15, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 21:1-5 & 22:1-5, Isaiah 65:17-19)*

*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. 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.*

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

Romans 8:26-27, 31-34 (NIV)

- In my suffering I have help from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (vv. 26-27, 31-34)

*(Psalm 27:1-3, 2 Peter 3:9, John 3:16-17, John 14:16&26, John 16:7&13, Romans 15:13, Galatians 5:22-23, John 17, Hebrews 7:24-25)*

*We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son.*

Romans 8:28-29 (CEB)

- God works for my \_\_\_\_\_, even in suffering, by making me \_\_\_\_\_. (v 28-30)

*(Romans 5:3-5 & 8:17, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Philippians 1:6 & 2:5, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:11-13, James 1:2-3)*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:35, 37-39 (NIV)

- My victory in Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ because God's love \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 35-39)

*(Psalm 91 & 136, Lamentations 3:22-23, Isaiah 54:10, Psalm 103:8, 1 John 3:1 & 4:16, Zephaniah 3:17)*

**Discussion questions:**

1. How often do you think about the future God has promised to those who believe in Jesus? How might your perspective on today's struggles change if you more regularly lived with eternity in view?
2. What are you most looking forward to about God's promised future—the restoration of creation, the end of suffering and death, the redemption of all things, or being fully in the presence of Jesus?
3. Paul declares that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. How does the certainty of God's eternal love and the promise of being with him forever give you courage to face present challenges? Where do you need to trust God's future promises more than your present circumstances?

**Recommended resources:**

[\*Preparing for Heaven\*](#), by Gary Black, Jr.

[\*Beyond Heaven's Door\*](#), by Max Lucado

[\*Heaven\*](#), by Randy Alcorn

[\*The Problem of Pain\*](#), C. S. Lewis

[\*Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering\*](#), by Timothy Keller

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Romans 8:19-25 (NIV)

- Suffering is here now, yet I have hope something far better will be. (vv. 18-25)

*(Genesis 3, John 16:33, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, John 15, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 21:1-5 & 22:1-5, Isaiah 65:17-19)*

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*demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:35, 37-39 (NIV)

- My victory in Christ is certain because God's love never fails. (vv. 35-39)

*(Psalm 91 & 136, Lamentations 3:22-23, Isaiah 54:10, Psalm 103:8, 1 John 3:1 & 4:16, Zephaniah 3:17)*

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