

## **Romans 8:17 • Suffering Is Temporary But Purposeful**

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:9 **You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit**, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.**

Romans 8:14 **For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but **you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons**, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God,**

Romans 8:17 and **if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him** in order that we may also **be glorified with him.**

*If you are in Christ there is no condemnation awaiting you.  
If you are in Christ you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit.  
If you do not have the Spirit of Christ you do not belong to Him.  
Everyone who belongs to Him has the Spirit.  
All sons of God, belong to Him and are led by the Spirit.  
All sons are children of God.  
Children of God are heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.  
All heirs will be glorified with Christ, if we suffer with Him.  
Glorification requires suffering.  
We do not suffer in order to become an heir.  
We suffer because we are heirs.  
Why?*

Romans 8:18 For I **consider** that the **sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**

Romans 8:19 For the **creation waits** with eager longing for the **revealing of the sons of God.**

## **The Reality of suffering**

Romans 8:20 For the **creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but **because of him who subjected it, in hope**

Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, “I will surely **multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children...**

Genesis 3:17 And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ **cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;**

Genesis 3:23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden **to work the ground from which he was taken.**

Ecclesiastes 1:3 **What does man gain by all the toil** at which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:8 **All things are full of weariness;** a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:13 And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an **unhappy business** that God has given to the children of man **to be busy with.**

Psalms 90:10 The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; **yet their span is but toil and trouble;** they are soon gone, and we fly away.

*What is the purpose of living 70-80 years in a futile world full of toil and trouble?  
Was this world, subjected to futility, full of toil and trouble made this way on purpose?  
What was that purpose?*

Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God **all things work together for good, for those who are called** according to his purpose.

Acts 14:22 **strengthening** the souls of the disciples, **encouraging** them to continue in the faith, and **saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**

1Peter 4:12 Beloved, **do not be surprised at the fiery trial** when it comes upon you to test you, **as though something strange were happening to you.**

### **The Finiteness of suffering**

Isaiah 25:8 **He will swallow up death forever;** and the **Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,** and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

Revelation 7:17 For the **Lamb** in the midst of the throne will be their **shepherd,** and **he will guide them to springs of living water,** and **God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”**

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a **new heaven** and a **new earth,** for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the **dwelling place of God is with man.** He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and **God himself will be with them as their God.**

Revelation 21:4 **He will wipe away every tear** from their eyes, and **death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”**

Revelation 21:6 And he said to me, “**It is done!** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. **To the thirsty** I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

### **The Purposes of suffering**

Matthew 25:34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**

*God is preparing us for the kingdom that was prepared for us before the foundation of the world.*

Romans 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Suffering is a tool used to conform us to the image of His son.

2Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is **preparing for us an eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison,

*Suffering delivers us from false hopes to our true, blessed hope.*

1Peter 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

Romans 5:3 Not only that, but **we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces** endurance,

Romans 5:4 and endurance produces character, and character **produces hope**,

2Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the **affliction we experienced** in Asia. **For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.**

2Corinthians 1:9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. **But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God** who raises the dead.

2Corinthians 1:10 **He delivered us** from such a deadly peril, and **he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope** that he will deliver us again.

*Suffering delivers us from a false identity. Our true identity allows us to suffer well.*

John 12:43 for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

Philippians 3:4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

Philippians 3:5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

Philippians 3:6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Philippians 3:7 But **whatever gain I had, I counted as loss** for the sake of Christ.

Acts 9:3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.

Acts 9:4 And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

Acts 9:5 And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “**I am Jesus**, whom you are persecuting.

Philippians 3:8 Indeed, **I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have **suffered the loss of all things** and count them as rubbish, **in order that I may gain Christ**

Philippians 3:9 and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ**, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

Philippians 3:10 **that I may know him and the power of his resurrection**, and **may share his sufferings, becoming like him** in his death,

*Suffering allows others to see Christ in us.*

2Corinthians 4:8 **We are afflicted in every way**, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

2Corinthians 4:9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

2Corinthians 4:10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, **so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies**.

2Corinthians 4:11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, **so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh**.

*Suffering allows us to be vessels of God’s love & be loved.*

2Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of mercies and God of all comfort**,

2Corinthians 1:4 **who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction**, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2Corinthians 1:5 For **as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.**

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.**

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

“Jesus does not call us to do what he did, but to be as he was, permeated with love. Then the doing of what he did and said becomes the natural expression of who we are in him.”  
**Dallas Willard**

2Corinthians 1:20 For **all the promises of God find their Yes in him.** That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Isaiah 25:8 **He will swallow up death forever;** and the **Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,** and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.