

Triumphing in Suffering
Romans 8:15-39, Romans 5:1-4

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Triumph in Suffering -- Not through an answer to the “WHY?”
But through a divine assurance from God’s Spirit at work within you

-- that

1. God’s **PURPOSE** is at work (in all things)
2. God’s **HELP** is near (Jesus and the Spirit pray for us!)
3. God’s future is absolutely secure and provides us **HOPE**
4. Nothing in heaven or hell can separate us from God’s loving **PRESENCE**

1 GOD’S PURPOSE

Romans 5:1-3

When we are brought into a right relationship with God by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
³And not only that, but we also **boast in** (we can triumph in) our sufferings,

Why? How?

→ because **we know that God is at work:**

Romans 5:3-4

- a. that suffering produces endurance,
- b. and endurance produces character,
- c. and character produces hope,

Romans 8: 28

We know (that is, God’s Holy Spirit gives us the assurance) that in all things God works together for good with those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

2. GOD’S HELP

Romans 8:26, 27 – The Holy Spirit Prays for Us

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but **that very Spirit intercedes** with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints** according to the will of God.

Romans 8:34 -- Even Jesus Prays for Us

Does Jesus condemn us? (asks Paul) No!! In fact . .

- **Jesus is the one who died & who was raised (for us)**

- who is at the right hand of God (for us)
- who . . . **“intercedes for us.”**

3. **A HOPE in GOD’S FUTURE** -- won and secured for us by Jesus’ resurrection.

- a. Romans 8:18 – A future in which suffering will end, with a bright new world beyond

I consider that the sufferings of this present time (Greek = “the NOW time”) are not worth comparing with the glory **about to** be revealed to us (**in the future**)

- b. Romans 8:22-23 -- This Future Hope involves the whole creation
²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in **labor pains** (is giving birth to something new) --- ²³and **not only** the creation,

- c. Romans 8:23, 29 --This Future Hope involves our individual lives
²³. **we ourselves**, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁹. those whom God has known for ever -- he has also predestined -- to be conformed -- to the image of his Son

Note: “predestination” in Rom.8:29 has nothing to do with who goes to heaven and who to hell, but is concerned with our **“destination”** -- *the end result of God’s work in our lives* → we will “end up” **re-made in the image of Jesus!** Wow!

4 GOD’S (unshakeable, loving) PRESENCE

- a. Romans 8:15-21 – We are Members of God’s Family
You have received **a spirit of adoption!** When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are **children of God**, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ —**if, in fact**, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

- b. Romans 8:35-39 –
 - If God did not abandon Jesus in his suffering and death
 - If God loves us enough to suffer and die for usthen we can have this great assurance:

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
³⁷No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that -- neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.