

hope



**THE
HOPE
EXPERIENCE**
50 DAYS OF HOPE

WEEK 6

HOPE WHEN LIFE SEEMS HOPELESS

RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

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Romans 8:18–28

Suffering is a fact of life. Everyone experiences it. While the Bible gives a **general explanation** for suffering in this world (sin marred a perfect creation), it does **not** provide a **detailed explanation** for each case of suffering. There are no simple formulas or pat answers. The Bible **does** offer hope to withstand the suffering we experience...

“Suffering is the heritage of the bad, of the penitent, and of the Son of God. Each one ends in the cross. The bad thief is crucified, the penitent thief is crucified, and the Son of God is crucified. By these signs we know the widespread heritage of suffering.” – Oswald Chambers

Key Words in Romans 8:18-28

- _____ appears 6 times
- _____ appears 3 times
- _____ appears 3 times

“FOR WE KNOW THAT ALL CREATION HAS BEEN **GROANING** AS IN THE PAINS OF CHILDBIRTH RIGHT UP TO THE PRESENT TIME.” *Romans 8:22 (NLT)*

“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...” *Romans 8:23a*

“IN THE SAME WAY THE SPIRIT HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS, WE DON’T KNOW WHAT WE OUGHT TO PRAY BUT THE SPIRIT HIMSELF INTERCEDES FOR US WITH **GROANS** THAT WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS.” *Romans 8:26 (NIV)*

The Key to Coping with Suffering

“I **CONSIDER** THAT OUR PRESENT SUFFERINGS ARE NOT WORTH COMPARING WITH THE GLORY THAT WILL BE REVEALED IN US.” *Romans 8:18 (NIV)*

What Is My Hope in Suffering?

1. _____ is _____

“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 8:18–19 (NLT)

2. _____ is _____

“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.”

Romans 8:20–21

3. _____ is _____

“...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 8:23b

4. _____ is _____

“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.” *Romans 8:26*

5. _____ is _____

“AND WE KNOW THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM, WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.”

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

The bottom line:

God _____ me and is _____ me

“AND I AM CONVINCED THAT NOTHING CAN EVER SEPARATE US FROM GOD’S LOVE. NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NEITHER ANGELS NOR DEMONS, NEITHER OUR FEARS FOR TODAY NOR OUR WORRIES ABOUT TOMORROW — NOT EVEN THE POWERS OF HELL CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD’S LOVE.” *Romans 8:38 (NLT)*

FOR FURTHER READING:

DAVE AND JAN DRAVECKY, *When You Can’t Come Back and Do Not Lose Heart*

ELISABETH ELLIOT, *A Path Through Suffering*

PHILIP YANCEY, *Where Is God When It Hurts and Disappointment With God*

FOR THIS WEEK’S DAILY DEVOTIONS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FOLLOW THE READINGS IN “THE HOPE EXPERIENCE: 50 DAYS OF HOPE”, A STUDY GUIDE FOR THIS SERIES WRITTEN BY TWIN LAKES CHURCH AND AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY. SUNDAY IS DAY 36.

The Hope Experience: 50 Days of Hope

Pick up a Hope Experience daily reading book in the auditorium lobby today, where you can also find a small group to join, or go to www.HopeExperience.com to get connected and search for a small group in your area.

October 3 & 4: Overflowing with Hope

Small groups kickoff! HopeExperience.com launches! Day 1 is October 4th!

October 10 & 11: The Foundation of Hope

Lunch on the Lawn!

“Refresh Reflect Renew” Women’s Retreat Weekend (www.tlc.org/women)

October 17 & 18: The Most Common Thief of Hope

Men’s Breakfast on Saturday morning (8am in Monschke Hall)

October 24 & 25: Spread Hope!

ShareFest Saturday! Sign up for a ShareFest project at www.HopeExperience.com

October 31 & November 1: Living with Hope Daily

Food drive begins — we’re aiming to raise half a million meals!

Saturday blood drive at TLC

November 7 & 8: Hope When Life Seems Hopeless

Communion Weekend!

November 14 & 15: Our Ultimate Hope!

Food drive wraps up!

November 21 & 22: Celebration Weekend

Food drive totals revealed!



Memory Verse

Why are you in despair,
O my soul?
...Hope in God...
[Psalm 42:11 NASB]