

“Victorious Over Suffering”

Text: Romans 8:18-27

Subject: How To Live Victoriously Even When You suffer!

Introduction

In verses 1-4, “Victorious Over Sin” (or)

- ◆ How condemnation is lifted from believers.
- ◆ How we are free from the law of sin’s power.
- ◆ How we can live to gratify the impulses of the Holy Spirit.

In Verses 5-17, “Victorious Over Self” (or)

- ◆ How we’ve been quickened by the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ How we mortify the deeds of the flesh.
- ◆ How we can be led by God’s Spirit.
- ◆ How we have access to God in prayer (and can cry out “Abba Father” as His dear children).

Today Verses 18-27, “Victorious Over Suffering”

Question: Why do even believers struggle and suffer in this life?

Question: What enables you to suffer and yet not miss out with God?

Question: What are some of the struggles that God’s people have to endure?

Question: Why does the enemy of your soul want to steal the hope within you?

Question: What does it mean (in V. 22) to groan and travail in pain?

Question: What does it mean in (V. 23) to groan within ourselves?

Question: What is the power of patience in (V. 25)?

Question: How does the Spirit help us in our infirmities (in V. 26)?

Question: How does the Spirit help us pray in (V. 27)?

(Today)

- ◆ Three revelations of power that give victory through every suffering you encounter!

I. The “Hurt” Of Suffering (Vs. 18-23)

Question: Pastor, do godly people really suffer?

Answer: Listen to the seven words Paul uses in (vs. 18-27)

#1. (V. 18) “Suffering”

#3. (V. 21) “Corruption”

#5. (V. 22) “Pain”

#2. (V. 21) “Bondage”

#4. (V. 22) “Travaileth”

#6. (V. 23) “Groan”

#7. (V. 26) “Infirmities”

Question: What is God saying in (vs. 18-23)?

Answer: He is saying that people hurt and people suffer.

Question: What does it mean to suffer?

Answer: The word “Sufferings” in (v. 18) means: All forms of pain and struggle that you encounter:

- ◆ Sin and corruption
- ◆ Disease and pain
- ◆ Abuse and persecution
- ◆ Weaknesses and shortcomings
- ◆ Betrayal and desertion
- ◆ Temptation and carnality
- ◆ Tragedy and death
- ◆ Aging and loss
- ◆ Grief and sorrow
- ◆ Rejection and unfulfilled expectations

Question: Pastor, why does Paul tell us that even godly people suffer?

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Answer: Because God's design is to lift and encourage every believer in trial.

Question: How does God encourage, lift and sustain every believer in every season of pain and disappointment?

(V. 18) "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us"

(What Is God Saying Here?)

#1. That believers do not wallow and focus on today's suffering, but we look forward to tomorrows glory!

#2. That believers on earth are preparing to participate in a future glory and exaltation!

#3. That believers here and now, must understand this one principle: (What is it?)

- ◆ That your sufferings on earth (however great they are) are nothing in comparison with the glory that soon awaits you. (Repeat)

(Notice The Middle Of Verse 18)

"...are not worthy to be compared with"

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The Christian's future is glorious beyond what we have seen, or heard or imagined.
- ◆ It is a glory that so far exceeds anything and everything that we could comprehend.
- ◆ It is a glory involving resurrected bodies, the new Jerusalem, absence of sorrow and the presence of Jesus.

(Listen To I John 3:2)

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God (and it doth not yet appear what we shall be), (Repeat) but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is".

(But Until Then)

- ◆ In v. 19, we have an earnest expectation of what is ahead.
- ◆ In v. 20, we are subject to pain, strife and decay.
- ◆ In v. 21, we see the bondage of hurt, loss and sin's consequences.
- ◆ In v. 22, we groan and travail today because of the fall of man (and Adam's disobedience).

Question: Pastor, why do believers groan and ache and hurt and feel pain (yet not get sour and backslide?)

Answer: Because of (v. 23's) promised guarantee:

"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, or the redemption of our bodies".

Question: Why do we groan (yet remain faithful)? **(2 Reasons)**

#1. **We have a witness:**

"The first-fruits of the Spirit" means:

- ◆ We've tasted of God's Spirit at salvation.
- ◆ We've witnessed God's Presence within us.
- ◆ We've been quickened with life giving power.

#2. **We have a wait:**

"Waiting for the redemption of our body" (means:)

- ◆ We wait for salvation's complete fulfillment.
- ◆ We wait for our bodies to be resurrected.
- ◆ We wait for mortality to put on immortality.
- ◆ We wait knowing that there is so much more to come.

#1. We have the Hurt of Suffering!

II. The "Hope" In Suffering (Vs. 24-25)

(V. 24) "For we are saved by hope, but hope that is seen is not hope, for what a man seeth, why does he yet hope for?"

(V. 25) "But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it?"

- Question:**
- ◆ If all of creation suffers from corruption?
 - ◆ If even believers suffer affliction and adversity?
 - ◆ If all of us groan and labor for deliverance from our corrupt and sinful world?
 - ◆ If we all wait for the perfect redemption of our bodies?
 - ◆ Then what is it that keeps us in the meantime (and what is it that the devil wants to steal from you)?

(One Thing In Verses 24 & 25)
"Hope...Hope...Hope...Hope"

Question: Why does the devil work overtime to steal hope out of every heart here?

(Verse 23) "For we are saved by hope"

- ◆ The word "saved" here means "**kept, preserved and sustained**"
- ◆ We are saved at salvation by faith. (Not hope)
- ◆ After salvation, we are kept, preserved and sustained in trial by hope!

Question: Why is hope in your heart so important when you suffer any painful season, circumstance or person?

(The End of Verse 25)
"...then do we with patience wait for it"

Question: Wait for what?

Answer: Whatever we are hoping for!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Hope is a strong desire and corresponding expectation for something.
- ◆ As long as hope is in your heart, you can practice (v. 25) and be patient in the process.

(In Other Words)

Question: What happens when we lose hope for something to come about?

Answer: We throw in the towel, run out of patience and give up on what we're hoping for!

- ◆ Some of you are hoping for your spouse's salvation.
- ◆ Some of you are hoping for a child's salvation.
- ◆ Some of you are hoping for a job change.
- ◆ Some of you are hoping for a wedding day.
- ◆ Some of you are hoping for God to vindicate the truth you've stood for.
- ◆ Some of you are hoping for justice in the midst of an injustice.

Question: What is it that keeps you and sustains you?

Answer: "**Hope**" that God puts in your heart!

Question: How many of you are low in hope?

Question: ~~How~~ how can I get it back?

#1. The Hurt of Suffering #2. The Hope in Suffering

III. The “Helper” Through Suffering (Vs. 26 & 27)

Question: What is it pastor, that strengthens my hope, gives me patience and lifts me above my circumstances?

Answer: (V. 26) “Likewise **the Spirit** helpeth our infirmities” (and)
(V.26) “**The Spirit** maketh intercession for us”

Question: Why do we need the Holy Spirit’s help?

Answer: (V. 26) “...for we know not what we should pray for as we ought”

- ◆ How many of you know, that we need God’s help in prayer?
- ◆ How many of you know, that prayer enables God to sustain you in suffering?
- ◆ How many of you know, that suffering and adversity can make you weak and infirmed?
- ◆ How many of you know, that spirit energized prayer is God’s way to keep hope in your heart to remain patient at all times?

(2 Great Confessions Are Made In V. 26)

- #1. We don’t know how to pray as we ought, (and)
- #2. We do have the Holy Spirit to help us be great prayers.

Question: How does the Spirit help us in our weakness?

Answer: The Greek word for “**Helpeth**” means, “**To work in association with**”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The Holy Spirit works with us as we pray and put forth an effort.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The Holy Spirit can’t pray through us unless we cooperate and pray, (and)
 - ◆ We can not pray as we should without the help of the Holy Spirit.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ God births in us the desire to pray (and)
 - ◆ God then enables us to pray with His Divine Help.

(The Glorious Result Of This Is:)

- #1. The Holy Spirit knows what is best for us.
- #2. The Holy Spirit enables us to pray apart from our own ability.
- #3. The Holy Spirit directs and guides our praying.
- #4. The Holy Spirit pulls us in the right direction.
- #5. The Holy Spirit knows when our burdens are too heavy to express.

(What Is God Saying Here?)

- #1. We all **hurt at some time** (and) groan for our ultimate expectation).
- #2. We all **need Hope** when we’re tried or we’ll give up and give in.
- #3. We all have **Divine help** if we’ll cooperate with God.

Altar Call
AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor
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