

Groaning Conquers

Finding victory and inseparable love
while we wait for what is to come.

Rom 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.

Rom 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. 19 For **the creation waits** with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that **the whole creation has been groaning together** in the pains of childbirth until now.

Rom 8:23 And not only the creation, but **we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly** as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, **but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings** too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.



**The Sufferings
of this
Present
Time**

**The Glory
to be
Revealed**

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!
(2 Cor 4:17)

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A shared, cosmic, and divine reality

Creation's Groan	Believers' Groan	The Spirit's Groan
Cosmic and collective.	Conscious, internal longing.	Divine intercession.
The curse of sin subjecting the earth to futility and bondage to corruption.	Possessing the firstfruits of the Spirit while trapped in mortal bodies subject to death.	Our inherent human weakness and inability to know what to pray.
Longing for freedom and the revealing of the sons of God.	Eagerly awaiting adoption and the physical transformation of resurrection.	Praying beyond human speech perfectly according to the will of God.

All Creation Groans

Creation's Groan

Cosmic and collective.

The curse of sin subjecting the earth to futility and bondage to corruption.

Longing for freedom and the revealing of the sons of God.

Gen 3:17 ...**cursed is the ground because of you**; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

Isa 24:5 The earth is defiled by its people; they have transgressed the laws; they have overstepped the decrees and broken the everlasting covenant. 6 **Therefore a curse has consumed the earth**, and its inhabitants must bear the guilt...

8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, **but because of him who subjected it, in hope** 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We Groan, but in Hope

Believers' Groan

Conscious, internal longing.

Possessing the firstfruits of the Spirit while trapped in mortal bodies subject to death.

Eagerly awaiting adoption and the physical transformation of resurrection.

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, **groan inwardly** as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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Php 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

1 Cor 15:51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. ...54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

God Groans with Us, and for Us

The Spirit's Groan

Divine intercession.

Our inherent human weakness and inability to know what to pray.

Praying beyond human speech perfectly according to the will of God.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with **groanings too deep for words**. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

1 Cor 14:15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

Perfect translation for unspoken pain

The Father's Will

The Spirit perfectly translates our deepest needs according to the mind of God.

The Holy Spirit

Intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. He searches our hearts.

Our Weakness & Unspoken Pain

We do not know what to pray for as we ought.

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**. 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. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he **also glorified**.



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Job 38:1-11 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: “Who is this who obscures My counsel by words without knowledge? Now brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall inform Me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who fixed its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its foundations set, or who laid its cornerstone, while the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Who enclosed the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and thick darkness its blanket, when I fixed its boundaries and set in place its bars and doors, and I declared: ‘You may come this far, but no farther; here your proud waves



Ps 135:6 The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If **God is for us**, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him **graciously give us all things**? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is **interceding for us**.

Reframing the present struggle

It is NOT Punishment

God is inherently for us, not actively plotting against us in our pain.

It IS Temporary

The present affliction cannot compare to the eternal weight of glory waiting for us.

It is NOT Pointless

Every tear is captured in the chain of purpose, working ultimately for our good.

We Are NOT Alone

The Holy Spirit groans within us, perfectly interceding when we have no words.

35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor 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.**

More than conquerors

- ✓ He died for me when I was an enemy.
- ✓ He sent His Spirit to bear witness that I am a child of God.
- ✓ When I have no words, the Spirit groans and intercedes for me.
- ✓ God is with me. God is for me. He is conforming me to be like Jesus.
- ✓ His love will never leave.
- ✓ My destination is glorious.

We are victorious, even as we groan and wait for better things to come.