

We Wait with Hope and the Spirit

Romans 8: 22-27

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **23** Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? **25** But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. **27** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Questions

1. What is something that stood out to you about this passage? Why?
2. What does Paul mean in verse 22 when he says "the whole creation has been groaning in the pains of childbirth"?
3. Has there ever been a time when you were waiting for God to do something in your life? Was it difficult to believe or have patience that the spirit is actively working in your life during a season of waiting?
4. How does knowing that we are promised eternity with God help us in a season of waiting?
5. What does hope mean to you? (v. 24-25) What does the spirit mean to you? How does having hope/spirit help you in a difficult season?
6. Do you ever find it difficult to pray? Have you ever felt helpless in prayer or felt like it's ineffective?
7. Read verses 26-27. What does the Holy Spirit do for us when we don't know how to pray?
8. Spend time in prayer.