



# GRACE-POWERED LIVING

## A Study of the Book of ROMANS

**FROM HURTS TO HALLELUJAHS**  
Romans 8:18-27

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**Introduction:** A recent survey asked a cross-section of Americans, "If you could ask God any question, what would it be?" The number one response was "Why does God allow suffering in the world?" Today we will discover how the apostle Paul answers that age-old question.

Romans 8:17 "and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* in order that we may also be glorified with *Him*."

Romans 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

### I. The Suffering of the Created World (Romans 8:22-25)

Romans 8:19, 22<sup>19</sup> "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God." 22 "For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."

#### The Biblical View of Creation

##### A. God Created a Perfect World (Isaiah 45:18)

Isaiah 45:18 "For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, *But* formed it to be inhabited) 'I am the LORD, and there is none else. . . .'"

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### B. Sin Corrupted the World (Genesis 3:17)

Genesis 3:17 "Cursed is the ground because of you . . . thorns and thistles it shall grow for you."

Romans 8:20 "For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope. . . ."

### C. God Will One Day Redeem the World (Romans 8:19-21)

Romans 8:19-21 <sup>19</sup> "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God."

## II. The Suffering of Christians (Romans 8:23-25)

Romans 8:23 "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."

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### A. Our Suffering Compared to Unbelievers

#### Three Reasons Christians Suffer More than Non-Christians

##### 1. Sensitivity to sin (Psalm 38:4, 9-10)

Psalm 38:4, 9-10 <sup>4</sup>“For my iniquities are gone over my head; As a heavy burden they weigh too much for me, <sup>9</sup>Lord, all my desire is before Thee; And my sighing is not hidden from Thee. <sup>10</sup>My heart throbs, my strength fails me; And the light of my eyes, even that has gone from me.”

##### 2. Persecution for faith (1 Peter 4:12-14)

1 Peter 4:12-14 <sup>12</sup>“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; <sup>13</sup>but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.”

##### 3. Expectation of something better (Romans 8:23-25)

Romans 8:23-25 <sup>23</sup>“And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves grown within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”

### B. Our Suffering Compared to Eternity

Romans 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

#### 1. Its intensity

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 <sup>17</sup> "For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

#### 2. Its duration

### III. The Suffering of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27)

Romans 8:26-27 <sup>26</sup> "And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words; <sup>27</sup> and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*."

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### IV. The Principles from This Passage

#### A. Present Suffering Enhances Future Joy

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

#### B. Present Suffering Is Real, But Also Temporary

Romans 8:25 “But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”

Conclusion