

## “Groaning & Weakness”

### Key Scriptures

Romans 8:18-27 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

<sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;

<sup>21</sup> because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

<sup>23</sup> Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. <sup>24</sup> For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

<sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

<sup>27</sup> Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

**Key Point:** The greater the groaning, the greater the glory. The weaker your spirit, the stronger His support.

## TALK IT OVER

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- In what instances have you found it difficult to wait? Is there something you are waiting on even now?

**Start thinking.** Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- What does vv. 19-22 teach us about nature? How does this guide Christians into a unique approach to nature?
- Make a list of what Paul says is in store for us as children of God? (18-23) What assurance does Paul give in the present time that we will come into glory?
- What does Paul mean by the references to “groaning?” Are there differences between the meaning of each?

**Start sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- Why do you think that the process of waiting, and the feeling of not being in control are so closely related?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us through times of suffering and waiting? How does the Holy Spirit help in prayer? Have you experienced this?
- The Message version says in verse 25, “*That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don’t see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.*” What are some ways that the act of waiting helps to change you, grow you, or teach you?

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Commit Romans 8:18 to memory this week, and be ready to share it during the next group meeting.

**Prayer Requests.** It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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