



Discussion Guide

August 3, 2025

Romans 8:18-27

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

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.

Read verses 18-21

1. How does Paul compare present sufferings with future glory? What comfort does this offer you personally?
2. What does creation's eager expectation for the children of God suggest about God's ultimate plan?
3. How is the image of creation being subjected to frustration both sobering and hopeful?

Read verses 22–25

4. Why do you think Paul uses the metaphor of childbirth to describe creation's groaning?
5. What does it mean to wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship and the redemption of our bodies?
6. How does Paul's teaching on hope challenge or encourage your current outlook on life?

Read verses 26–27

7. In what ways does the Spirit help us in our weakness, according to Paul?
8. How does the image of the Spirit interceding with wordless groans deepen your understanding of prayer?
9. What does it mean that the Spirit intercedes 'in accordance with the will of God'?