

STIR IT UP SERIES

LET HIM COOK!

ROMANS 8:18-30


THE WELL CHURCH

Let Him Cook!

Scripture Readings

Romans 8:18-30 (NKJV)

18 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. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits 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 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 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? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

26 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. 27 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.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified,

these He also glorified.

Introduction: When God Stirs the Pot

In our first lesson Stir it Up we understood the difference between being “spun” versus being stirred. Being stirred is less about being moved by patterns and rotations and more to do with being transformed and moved towards action. We’re not stirred to nearly “redo;” we are stirred to “become.” What was dormant becomes awakened. What was hiding becomes revealed. What laid separate now becomes “involved.” And sometimes when God stirs the pot, He uses ingredients that don’t taste good on their own. But when mixed together produce a level of goodness that couldn’t have been attained without those unexpected elements.

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Now & Then

“Every now and then” we need a fresh perspective on where we are, what we’re going through and where we’re going. Paul reminds the early Church in Rome that the sufferings that he and they are experiencing in their present circumstance is not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed. He implores them to be aware of where they are now but also envision a coming glory what was far better and a reward well worth it! He then gives them insight that creation itself is suffering and also awaiting a future glory when we experience that future glory that the earth and elements themselves will experience a greater glory.

There is a difference between what I’m going through “now” versus what I will be rejoicing in “then!”

Verse 22 reminds us that even as we groan in the tension of our lives—sometimes experiencing great joy and other times sadness—yet the totality has been a long groan because of the tipping scale towards sadness; creation itself also groans. But the revelation we’re getting doesn’t stop there. In verse 23 he encourages us that those that have the first fruits of the Spirit have a hope that even reaches beyond the grief and loss of the grave to the redemption of our bodies, and our manifestation as sons and daughters of God.

Hope is the powerful and necessary presence here.

- Whatever today took, Hope returns it to you with anticipation
- Whatever life has robbed you of, Hope assures you that justice will come to make you whole

But Hope is not visible because if it was, then it wouldn’t be Hope. Verse 24 says, ‘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? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.’

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- Hope meets you in your “now” and shows you how things will be “then.”

Romans 5:3-5 (NKJV)

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- Mixed in with the bitterness of sorrow is this emerging presence and aroma of Hope!

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Weakness While We Wait

Even through Hope meets us in our “now” and shows us what it will be like “then” we are now being shifted to a place between “now” and “then.” This is not a usual place to be. It feels strange to be in a place in your faith where you’re not absorbed in the “now” but you haven’t yet attained what’s to come “then.” To navigate this new space you need more than natural strength. ***You need the Holy Spirit!***

Romans 8:26-27 (NKJV)

26 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. 27 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.

Prayer is now the necessity but not always the appetite. We develop an appetite for prayer with repetition and results but to get there requires us to understand that without it we can’t cross over between “now” and “then.”

You may be in a season where you don’t even know what to pray for or how to pray. Your words are not enough and can’t articulate what you inwardly groan for. The Spirit of God understands the language of groans and speaks that language more deeply than we do and He intercedes for us.

Not only does He pray for us, but He prays for us according to the will of God.

- this is key and is expressly why Jesus taught us to pray “Thy Kingdom come and Thy will be done.”
- When we pray according to our will when we’re in tribulation, we can feel as if our prayers are going nowhere. Why? Because the Spirit of God is praying according to the Father’s will and not ours.
- So our prayers have to shift in the direction that the Spirit of God is interceding for us.

How do we connect with how the Spirit of God is praying?

- we become filled with the Holy Spirit
 - through sincere repentance
 - through the hearing believing and obedience to the Word of God
 - through surrendered worship and prayer—immersion in the Presence of God

- through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit—purifying the heart and mind and preparing you as a vessel
- through faith and receiving of His Power

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All Things Are Working Together

Romans 8:28-30 (NKJV)

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

This is a well known passage and even unbelievers often quote it. But it's important to understand "who God is cooking for." He's cooking for:

- those who love God
- those who are the called accordance to His purpose
- those he's foreknown and predestined
- the brethren
- the justified
- the glorified

Close

- Are you seeing God cook in areas of your life?
- Where is He working?
 - Your patience
 - Your temperament
 - Your discernment
 - Your choices
 - Your relationships
 - Your stewardship
 - Your family

Whatever area seems to be under the most tension, allow God to show you what He needs to show you. Let Him cook. Even if it seems as if this is the area that's uncomfortable. Resist the devil  but submit to God.  Trust Him with what He's stirring.