

FROM  
GROANING TO

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GLORY

ROMANS 8:18-27



My head is spinning and  
feel like bursting, severe  
headache and body ache  
... feel sleepy, weak and  
fatigued. No energy,  
sorry.

# SUFFERING & GROANING





## Sonship & Suffering

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8

# YOUR PAIN HAS PURPOSE!

PHILIPPIANS 1:29

FOR IT HAS BEEN  
GRANTED TO YOU  
ON BEHALF OF CHRIST  
NOT ONLY TO

*believe in Him*  
BUT ALSO TO  
*suffer for Him*



ROMANS 8:18

# It's Worth It

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18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. *(Romans 8)*

## 2 CORINTHIANS 4

17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.



LOOK PAST THIS SEASON TO  
**THE UNSEEN  
AND ETERNAL.**  
-2 CORINTHIANS 4:17-18



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## BOB DEFFINBAUGH

**Now, that statement would be just so much hot air if it didn't come from a man like Paul. Here is a man who suffered intensely. No one in this room has gone through even a fraction of the suffering that Paul endured. He was beaten, he was stoned with rocks, he was chained, he was imprisoned, he was shipwrecked, starved, often hungry and naked and cold. He himself tells us this. And yet it is this apostle who takes pen in hand and says, "Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that shall be revealed in us." The glory that is coming is incomparable in intensity.**





CREATION

CHRISTIAN

HOLY SPIRIT

GROANINGS



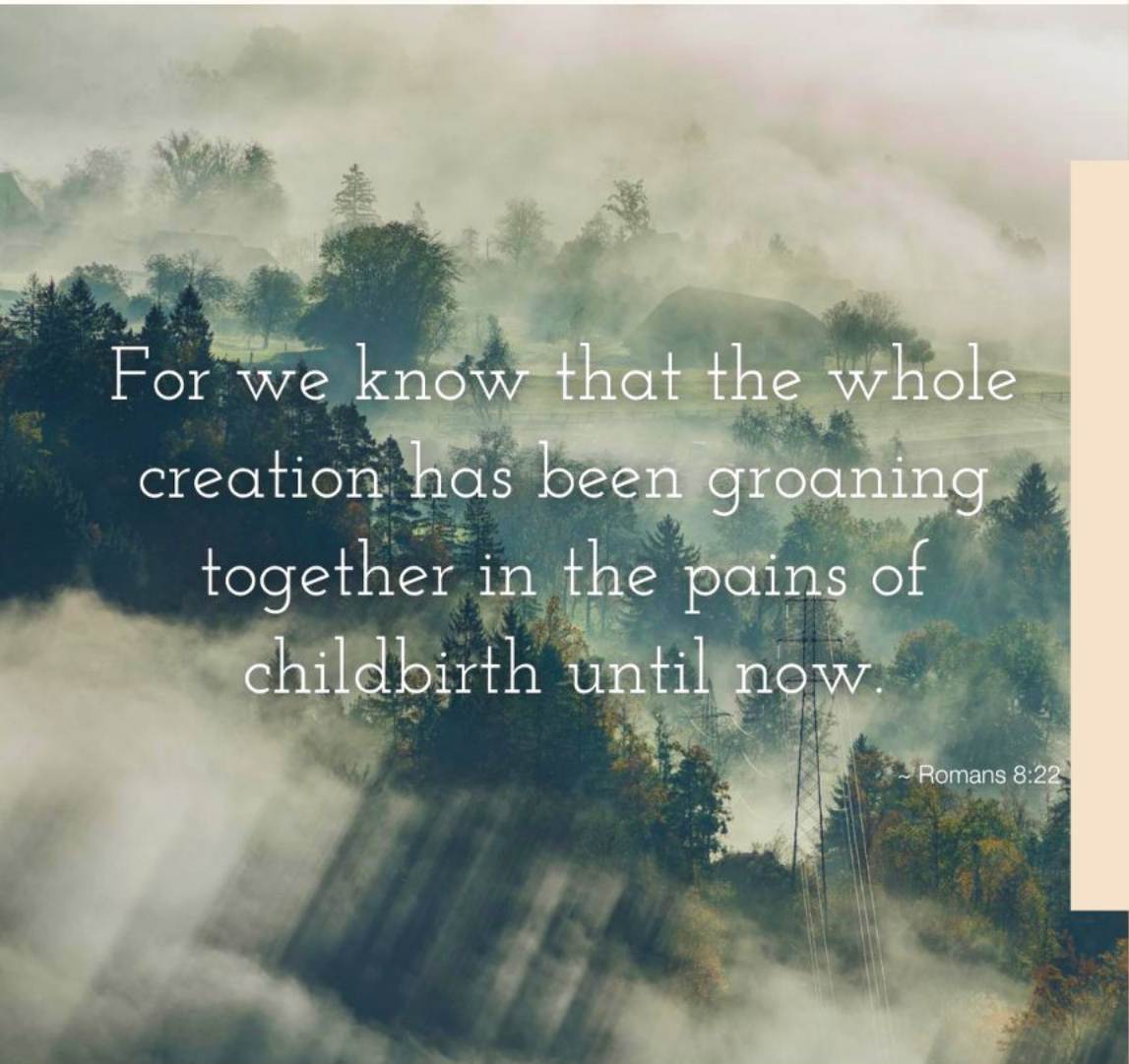
**We live in the midst of a creation that is groaning.**

Rob Bell

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**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.**

**(Romans 8)**

A misty, forested landscape with a power line tower in the foreground. The scene is hazy and atmospheric, with trees and hills visible through the fog. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

For we know that the whole  
creation has been groaning  
together in the pains of  
childbirth until now.

~ Romans 8:22


RAY STEDMAN

Creation fell with man, the apostle declares. Not only did our whole race fall into the bondage of sin and death, as the earlier chapters of Romans explain, but the entire physical universe fell as well. It was man's sin that put thorns on roses. It was man's sin that made the animals hate and fear each other and brought predators and carnivores into being. With the fall of man came the spreading fear, hostility, and hatred in the animal world, and the whole of nature testifies to this fact. It is, as Paul describes it here, subjected to frustration.



# SUBJECTED TO FRUSTRATION

**ADAM'S INITIAL SIN  
MAN'S ONGOING SINS**



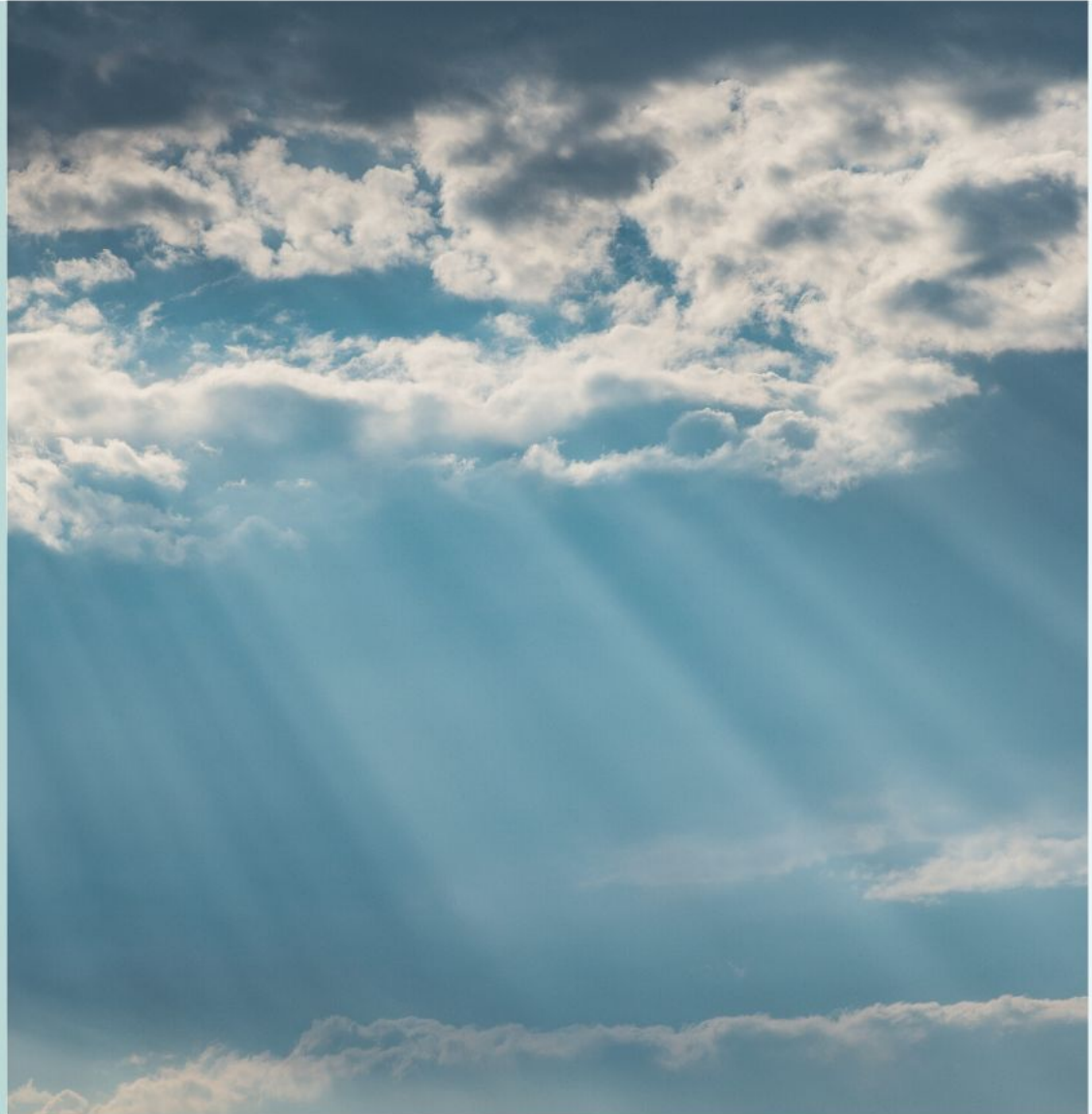
19 For the creation  
waits in eager  
expectation for the  
children of God to be  
revealed.



Romans 8

23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits 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.

Romans 8



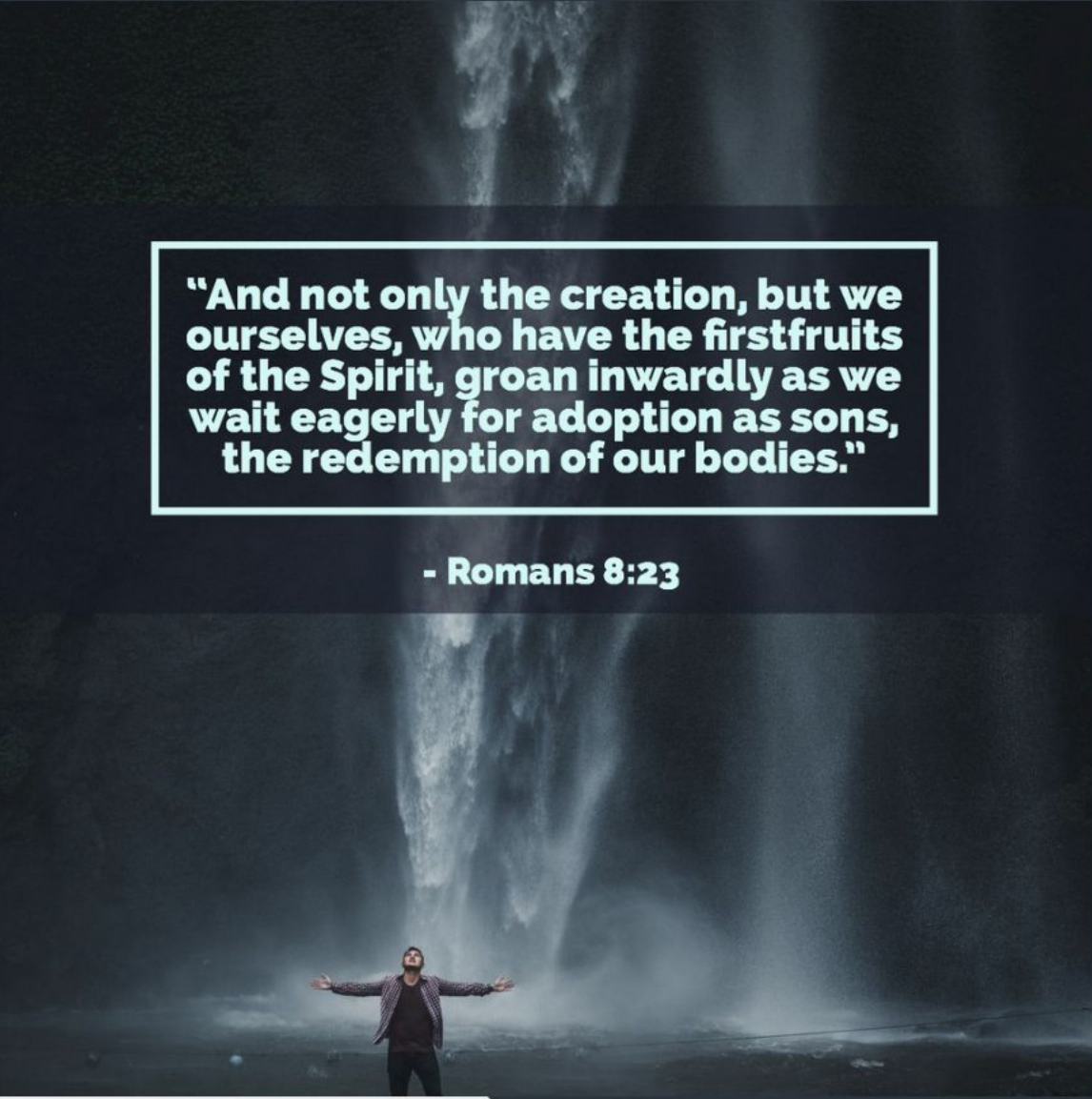
# SIN & CORRUPTION

## THE STRUGGLE



WITHOUT

WITHIN

A man with a beard and long hair, wearing a dark jacket, stands with his arms outstretched in front of a large, powerful waterfall. The scene is dark and atmospheric, with the water cascading down and creating a misty spray. The overall mood is one of awe and surrender.

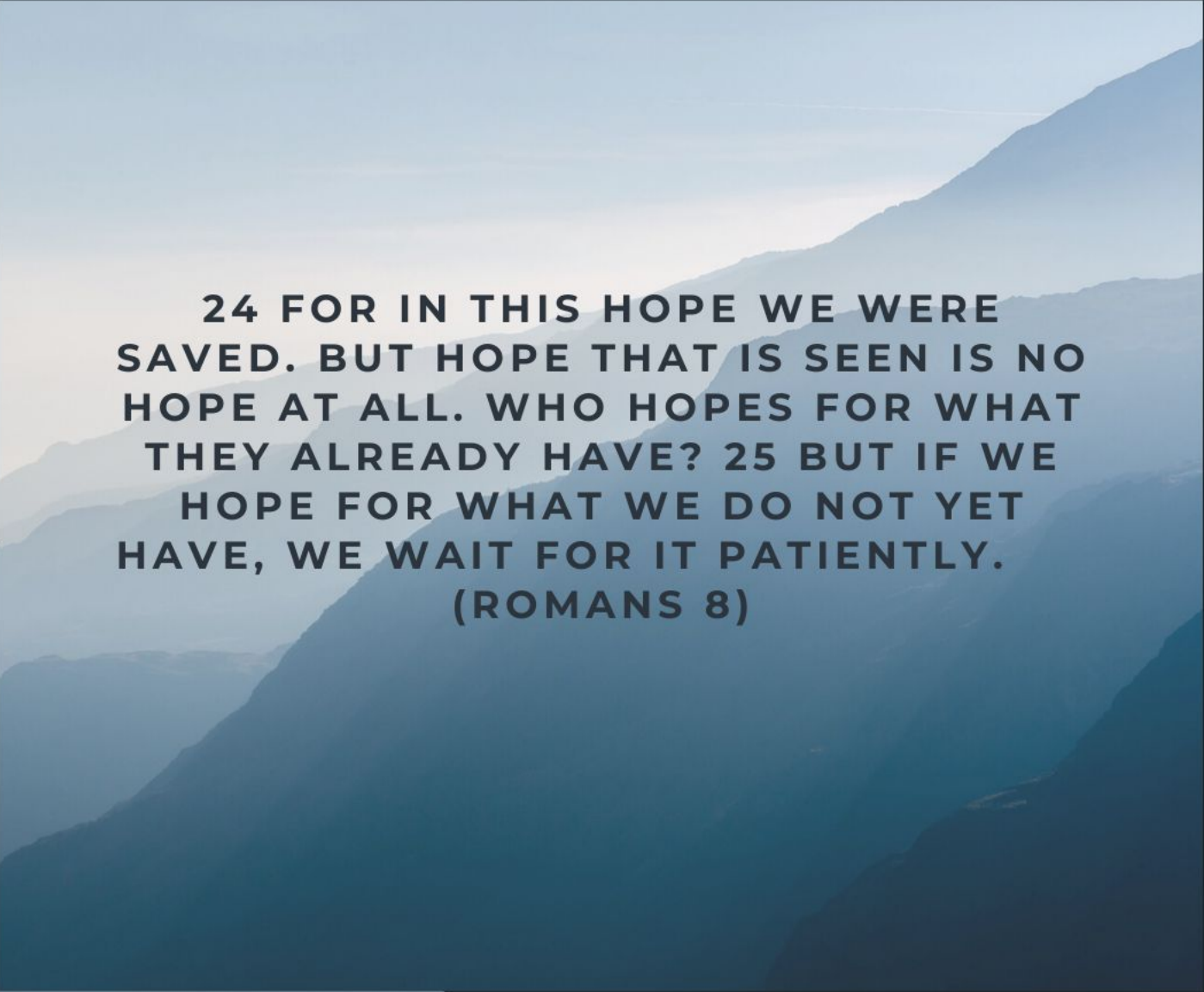
**“And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”**

**- Romans 8:23**

## **Ray Stedman**

Nature groans, we groan. And yet the groan is producing the glory... Every time we groan, it is a reminder to us of the promise of glory. I do not think anything will transform our sufferings more than remembering that.





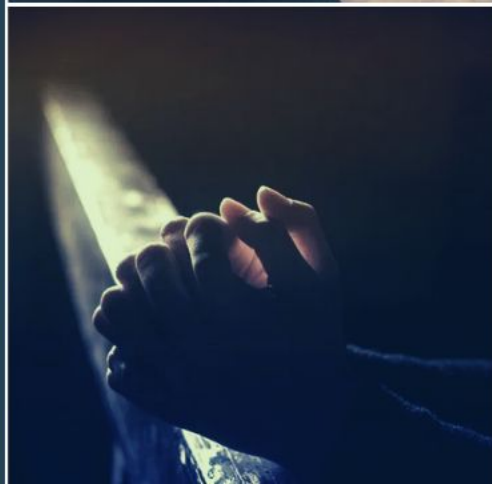
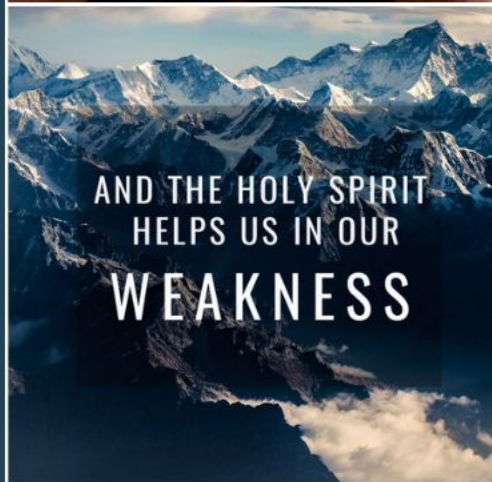
**24 FOR IN THIS HOPE WE WERE  
SAVED. BUT HOPE THAT IS SEEN IS NO  
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HOPE FOR WHAT WE DO NOT YET  
HAVE, WE WAIT FOR IT PATIENTLY.  
(ROMANS 8)**

God causes us to groan over the present conditions under which we now live so that our hope will be directed toward God's coming Kingdom.

BOB DEFFINBAUGH

# The Groaning of The Spirit

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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.

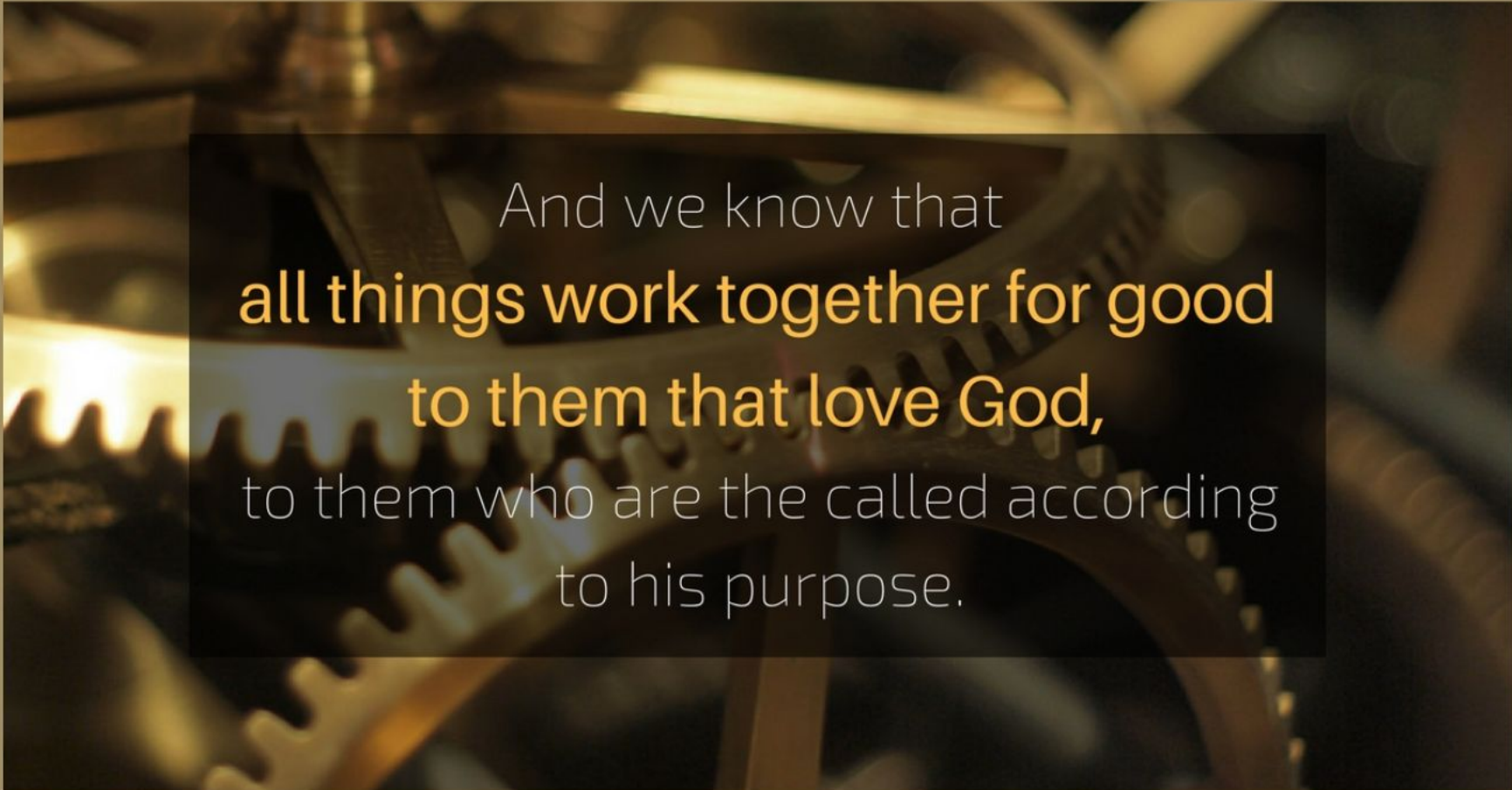
(Romans 8)



# God's Will

**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.**

**(Romans 8)**



And we know that  
**all things work together for good**  
**to them that love God,**  
to them who are the called according  
to his purpose.

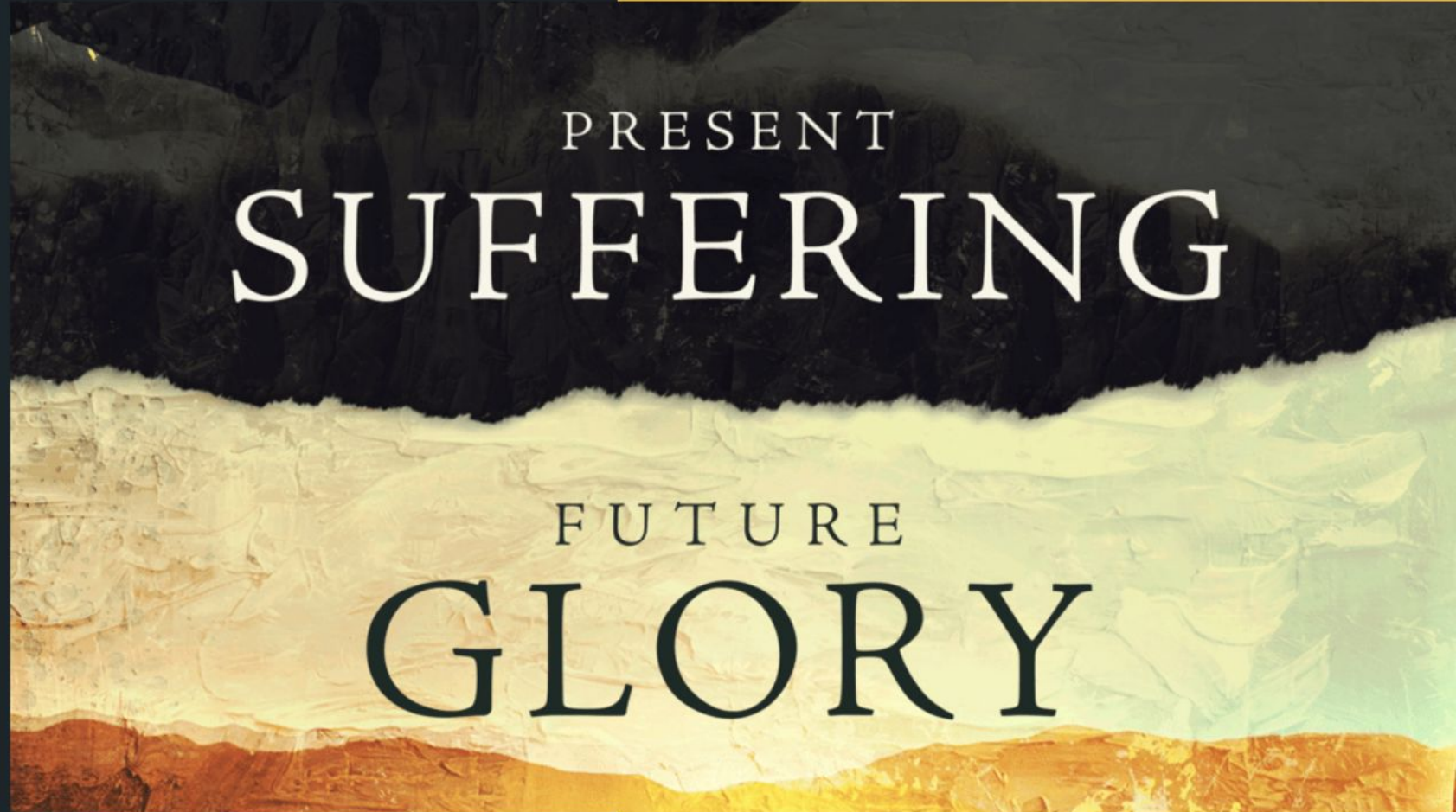
**ROMANS 8:28**

# Groaning characterizes the Spirit-filled Christian

BOB DEFFINBAUGH



# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE



PRESENT

SUFFERING

FUTURE

GLORY

——— *& those whom* ———

HE PREDESTINED HE ALSO CALLED

——— *& those whom* ———

HE CALLED HE ALSO JUSTIFIED

——— *& those whom* ———

HE JUSTIFIED HE ALSO GLORIFIED

——— *Romans 8:30* ———

29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Romans 8)