

WILL THE STRUGGLE BE WORTHWHILE?

ROMANS 8:20-28 | ERIC SIMPSON | OCTOBER 30, 2022

➤ **A Future Hope – the ways things are is not the way it will always be**

Romans 8:20-21

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 glorious freedom of the children of God.

"[It will feel]...like a ten-ton weight being lifted off my being...to be utterly free from accusation; to look in the mirror and hear no accusing thoughts or voices. To be completely free of all temptation and the sabotage of your character—not because you are successfully resisting it in a moment of great resolve, but because it is no longer in existence, anywhere in the world. What will it be like to have the dark clouds lifted between us and our beloved Jesus, that veil that so often clouds our relationship with him? Imagine when all the physical affliction, emotional torment, abuse—all the evil in this world has vanished." – John Eldredge

➤ **The Spirit's Help – the Holy Spirit intercedes for us**

Romans 8:26-27

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 with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

"In this life, all of our symphonies remain unfinished." – Karl Rahner

➤ **A Sovereign God – the Lord is working out His purposes**

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

"If you love God for who he is in himself, you make a commitment and you endure difficulty. But if you are using God for what he gives you, you bail out when suffering comes."

– Timothy Keller

Isaiah 43:2-3

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me

Matthew 26:39

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."