



FREEDOM & FULFILLMENT Part 2

Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 540–541.



FearLESS

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 firstfruits 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.

Romans 8 is the Christian's "Declaration of Freedom," for in it Paul declares the four spiritual freedoms we enjoy because of our union with Jesus Christ.

A study of this chapter shows the emphasis on the Holy Spirit, who is mentioned nineteen times.

1. Freedom From Judgment - No Condemnation Rom. 8:1-4
2. Freedom From Defeat – No Obligation Rom. 8:5-17
3. Freedom From Discouragement – No Frustration Rom. 8:18-30
4. Freedom From Fear – No Separation Rom. 8:31-39

**Freedom from
Discouragement
- No Frustration
(Rom. 8:18–30)**

Let's Get To Root Of The Issue.

- Paul in this section dealt with the very real problem of suffering and pain.
- Perhaps the best way to understand this section is to note the three “groans” that are discussed.

Creation groans (vv. 18–22)

- When God finished His Creation, it was a good Creation (Gen. 1:31); but today it is a groaning Creation.

Creation Groans

There is suffering and death; there is pain, all of which is, of course, the result of Adam's sin.

It is not the fault of creation.

Note there are 5 terms that Paul used to describe the plight of creation:

1. Suffering (Rom. 8:18)

Romans 8:18 (NKJV) 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.

- Suffering - πάθημα [*pathema* /*path·ay·mah*/]
- *1 that which one suffers or has suffered. 1a externally, a suffering, misfortune, calamity, evil, affliction.*
- *1a1 of the sufferings of Christ. 1a2 also the afflictions which Christians must undergo in behalf of the same cause which Christ patiently endured. 1b of an inward state, an affliction, passion.*
- *2 an enduring, undergoing, suffering.*

2. Futility (Rom. 8:20)

Romans 8:20 (NKJV) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;

2. Futility (Rom. 8:20)

- ματαιότης [*mataiotes /mat·ah·yot·ace/*] *n f.*
- *1 what is devoid of truth and appropriateness.*
- *2 perverseness, depravity.*
- *3 frailty, want of vigor.*

3. Bondage (Rom. 8:21)

Romans 8:21 (NKJV) because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

3. Bondage (Rom. 8:21)

δουλεία [douleia /doo·li·ah/] n f.

1 slavery, bondage, the condition of a slave.

4. Corruption (Rom. 8:21)

Romans 8:21 (NKJV) because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

4. Corruption (Rom. 8:21)

- φθορά [*phthora /fthorah/*] n f.
- *1 corruption, destruction, perishing. 1a that which is subject to corruption, what is perishable. 1b in the Christian sense, eternal misery in hell.*
- *2 in the NT, in an ethical sense, corruption i.e. moral decay.*

5. Pangs (Rom. 8:22)

Romans 8:22 (NKJV) For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

5. Pangs (Rom. 8:22)

συνωδίνω [*sunodino /soon-o-dee-no/*] v.

1 to feel the pains of travail with, be in travail together.

2 metaph. to undergo agony (like a woman in childbirth) along with.

- However, this groaning is not a useless thing: Paul compared it to a woman in travail.
- There is pain, but the pain will end when the child is delivered.
- One day creation will be delivered, and the groaning creation will become a glorious creation!

- The believer does not focus on today's sufferings; he looks forward to tomorrow's glory.

Romans 8:18 (NKJV) 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.

2 Corinthians 4:15–18 (NKJV)

15 For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Today's groaning
bondage will be
exchanged for
tomorrow's glorious
liberty!

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We believers groan (vv. 23–25).

Romans 8:23–25 (NKJV)

23 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.

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?

We believers groan (v. 23–25).

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

We believers groan (v. 23–25).

- The reason we groan is because we have experienced “the firstfruits of the Spirit,” a foretaste of the glory to come.
- Just as the nation of Israel tasted the firstfruits of Canaan when the spies returned (Num. 13:23–27), so we Christians have tasted of the blessings of heaven through the ministry of the Spirit.

Numbers 13:23–27 (NKJV)

23 Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs.

24 The place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the men of Israel cut down there.

25 And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.

26 Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

27 Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.”

This makes us want to see the Lord, receive a new body, and live with Him and serve Him forever.

We are waiting for “the adoption,” which is the redemption of the body when Christ returns (Phil. 3:20–21).

Philippians 3:20–21 (NKJV)

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

This is the thrilling climax to “the adoption” that took place at conversion when “the Spirit of adoption” gave us an adult standing in God’s family.

When Christ returns, we shall enter into our full inheritance.

Meanwhile, we wait and hope. “For we are saved by that hope” (Rom. 8:24, literal translation).

What hope? “the blessed hope”

Titus 2:13 (NKJV) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

- The best is yet to come!
- The believer does not get frustrated as he sees and experiences suffering and pain in this world.
- He knows that the temporary suffering will one day give way to eternal glory.

The Holy Spirit groans (vv. 25–30)

Romans 8:25–30 (NKJV)

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.

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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.

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The Holy Spirit groans (vv. 25–30)

God is concerned about the trials of His people.

When He was ministering on earth, Jesus groaned when He saw what sin was doing to mankind.

The Holy Spirit groans (vv. 25–30)

Mark 7:34 (NKJV) Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, “**Ephphatha**,” that is, “Be opened.”

John 11:33 (NKJV) Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.

John 11:38 (NKJV) Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

The Holy Spirit groans (vv. 25–30)

- Today the Holy Spirit groans with us and feels the burdens of our weaknesses and suffering. But the Spirit does more than groan.
- He prays for us in His groaning so that we might be led into the will of God.

The Holy Spirit groans (vv. 25–30)

- We do not always know God's will.
- We do not always know how to pray, but the Spirit intercedes so that we might live in the will of God in spite of suffering.
- The Spirit "shares the burden."

God has a
perfect plan for
the believers.

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God has a perfect plan for the believers.

- The believer never need faint in times of suffering and trial because he knows that God is at work in the world (Rom. 8:28), and that He has a perfect plan (Rom. 8:29).

God has a perfect plan for the believers.

- God has two purposes in that plan: our good and His glory.
- Ultimately, He will make us like Jesus Christ! Best of all, God's plan is going to succeed! It started in eternity past when He chose us in Christ (Eph. 1:4–5).
- He predetermined that one day we would be like His Son. Predestination applies only to saved people.

Nowhere are we taught that God predestines people to be eternally condemned.

If they are condemned, it is because of their refusal to trust Christ.

John 3:18–21 (NKJV)

18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 3:18–21 (NKJV)

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Those whom He chose, He called; when they responded to His call, He justified them, and He also glorified them.

2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (NKJV)

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This means that the believer has already been glorified in Christ (John 17:22); the revelation of this glory awaits the coming of the Lord (Rom. 8:21–23).

How can we Christians ever be discouraged and frustrated when we already share the glory of God?

Our suffering today only guarantees that much more glory when Jesus Christ returns



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