

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY

Rom. 8:16-28

Pt. 13

1. The whole creation groans in hope because it is in pangs of childbirth, in bondage to corruption, eagerly awaiting its deliverance into God's glorious liberty that is revealed in His sons and daughters. (8:21-22).

2. We groan because, having been brought into the Father's business, we recognize how far fallen creation is from God's ultimate plan for it.
 - a. We groan that God might use us to close that gap.
 - b. And what will close the gap is the bodily resurrection of the members of the Body of Christ.
 - c. Then God will deliver creation and re-establish His Glory.

3. Believers groan not because they are in bondage to corruption (Rom. 6 freed us from that) but because they have the first-fruits of the Spirit that brought them into the presence of the Father where they learned:
 - a. In Grace all that the Father is pleased to be towards us in Love in Christ.
 - b. The councils and will of the Father.

4. We appreciate that in sufferings, God hasn't abandoned us but that He is letting creation go on in vanity while He calls out a group of believing sons and daughters, who freely cry Abba Father, through whom He will restore creation to His Glory.

5. We are already glorified (Rom. 8:30) but now that glory is covered, releasing His power under weakness and suffering.
--We groan or long for the time when that glory is uncovered and manifested for all to see in us, releasing His power in glory.

6. 8:24-25: If we are operating based on God and His Word in faith, which the Holy Spirit teaches our inner person, this is “in hope” and suffering/tribulations will result in Patience, Experience, Hope that flows out of Agape Love (Rom. 5:3-5).

7. If we are operating without faith based on sight and external appearances, however, it is not “in hope,” therefore, suffering and tribulations will result in panic, fear, defeat and despair.

8. Rom. 8 groaning is completely different from Rom. 7 groaning.

9. Rom. 7 groaning is due to the believer who, in self-reliance under a law system, looks on himself rather than Christ and His Cross, and thinks based on what he is in himself toward God, always resulting in defeat and despair.

--the result of this is always O wretched man that I am!
Carnal, sold under sin.

10. Rom. 8 groaning, however, is due to the believer who, in reliance on the Spirit under God's Pauline Grace System, looks at Christ and His Cross, and thinks based on what God is toward him in love, always resulting in peace and joy, which produces patient endurance.

11. When the Spirit bears witness with our spirit through His Scriptures (esp. here Rom. 1-8!), He answers the question that asks: What is the extent of God's Grace toward us?

--It is the same portion that the Lord Jesus Christ has.

12. Grace not only sought us out in the depth of our sins and redeemed us from them but went on to bring us into the place of Christ Himself in perfect Love whereby we Joy in God! ABBA FATHER!

--Everything that belongs to Christ (of course, barring His essential glory as God!) belongs to us.

13. The more we know of the joy of dwelling in the Father's presence through the Spirit, the more we understand God's Love and Grace, the more we appreciate the glory to which we are participants: **AND THE MORE WE GROAN IN HOPE!**

14. Not only does the Spirit bring the Father's "heart" thoughts, motives and desires to us through His Word (8:16), He also brings the thoughts, motives and desires of our hearts re-created with Agape Love (Rom. 5:5) and renewed with the doctrine of Pauline Grace (Rom. 6:17), which is always in accord with His will.

15. Paul goes from the groanings of outer creation waiting for deliverance to the groanings of the whole believer waiting for the bodily resurrection to the groanings in the heart by the Holy Spirit in the presence of the Father.