



Pastor Shane Koehler

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Read the **Sermon Summary** before each **Devotion** and then use the **Discussion Questions** to think through implications and application of what we have heard. **Further Reading** provides additional Biblical truth to enhance your devotional time. Sing the **Weekly Song** in together to worship the Lord in response to His truth.

Sermon Summary:

As we suffer in this present age, we must always remember that our Lord works all things together for the good of His children and the glory of His Son, Jesus Christ. Even while we live through trials, loss, persecution, and suffering, our Father is changing us more and more into the image of Christ. The pathway to holiness is submission to Christ in suffering. So how do we live in our present circumstances? How do we shepherd our families through times of trial and suffering? How do we glorify Christ and grow in holiness while suffering?

Devotion #1

We Must Maintain the Right Perspective in our Suffering (Romans 8:18–22)

*For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are **not worth comparing** with **the glory that is to be revealed** to us. For the **creation waits** with eager longing **for the revealing** of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the **creation itself will be set free** from its bondage to corruption and obtain **the freedom of the glory of the children of God**. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.*

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the glory that is to be revealed or the freedom of the glory of the children of God?
2. Why is all of creation eagerly waiting and longing for this day of freedom and glory?
3. Why/when was creation subjected to decay and destruction (Genesis 3)?
4. How is the COVID-19 virus simply one of many examples of the effects of sin?
5. When will creation be set free from the corruption of sin? Who is our only hope?
6. How is our present suffering, including the COVID-19 pandemic, not even comparable to the glory that will be revealed to us?
7. How does suffering increase our longing and desire for the return of Christ?

Further Reading:

- Isaiah 65:17-25
- Revelation 21-22

Devotion #2

We Must be Patient through our Suffering (Romans 8:23–25)

*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**. For **in this hope we were saved**. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, **we wait for it with patience**.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do we eagerly wait for our physical adoption, being physically present together with Christ?
2. How do our battles with sin, sickness, and weakness make us long for the redemption of our physical bodies?
3. How does trusting the Lord with the outcome of our redemption (freedom from sin, glorified bodies), also help us to trust the Lord with the process of our redemption (progressive holiness through suffering to produce Christ-likeness)?
4. Why do we need to be patient while suffering?
5. How is patience in suffering causing us to trust God and become more like Christ?

Further Reading:

- James 5:7-11
- 2 Peter 3:8-13

Devotion #3

We Must Pray during our Suffering (Romans 8:26-27)

*Likewise **the Spirit helps us** in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words. And **he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit**, because **the Spirit intercedes** for the saints **according to the will of God**.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is keeping us, sustaining us, and praying for us while we suffer?
2. Who is the one who searches the heart and knows the mind of the Spirit of God?
3. Who is the one that informs the Spirit of God, to pray for the children of God, according to the will of God?
4. Why should it bring us comfort and joy to know that Jesus Christ is always praying for the children of God, according to His Father's will, while we suffer?
5. If we know that the Spirit of God within us is keeping us bound to Christ, and the Son of God is interceding that His Father's will be accomplished in and through us, AND the Father Himself is loses none of His children and guarantees they become like Christ, then why should we rejoice in our present suffering?
6. If His Spirit helps us to pray, why must we be diligent to pray while suffering?

Further Reading:

- John 17
- John 10:27-30

Devotion #4

We Must Trust the Lord in our Suffering (Romans 8:28-30)

*And **we know** that for those who love God **all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.** For those whom **he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,** in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined **he also called,** and those whom he called **he also justified,** and those whom he justified **he also glorified.***

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do we know that our Father works all things for the good of His children?
2. Why do we know that our Father will undoubtedly conform all of His children into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ?
3. If all things are working towards our becoming more and more like Christ, then why should we trust the Lord in our suffering?
4. If the only outcome of our faith is glorification, then why should we strive to be submissive, obedient, and holy in our suffering?
5. How is our present suffering producing holiness, the fruit of the Spirit, Christ-likeness in our minds, words, actions, relationships?

Further Reading:

- Philippians 1:6
- Romans 8:31-39

Weekly Song:

It is Well with My Soul

by Horatio Gates Spafford

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul) It is well, it is well with my soul*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul) It is well, it is well with my soul*

*My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul) It is well, it is well with my soul*

*And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul) It is well, it is well with my soul*