The Spirit Helps Us

Brent Moody · Romans 8:18–30

INTRODUCTION

- It's okay to grieve, it's okay to groan, it's okay to rejoice and to celebrate.
- Because God is God, he wants us to be faithful. And being faithful means hanging in there in the dark as often as not.
- The hope in which we are saved … is that our bodies will eventually be redeemed.

1 The Whole Creation Has Been Groaning

Romans 8:18–23; Romans 8:17; Ephesians 1

- We know that the whole creation has been groaning together. And it's not just creation that's groaning, we are groaning.
- This world is subjected to futility because of what happened in the garden, because of sin.
- It's not something to pretend doesn't exist or to ignore, but to realize that in the midst of this suffering, God has a plan.
- There's going to be suffering before glorification, but in all of this, we're going to be adopted and be heirs, fellow heirs with Christ.

2 It Is Okay to Sorrow

Romans 8:23

- It is okay to sorrow. It's actually part of our weakness. I don't think weakness here means that we lack faith … It's just we exist in an unredeemed body.
- This theology of retribution is false. The idea that if I'm going through problems and difficulty, well, that means I've done something wrong or I'm not right with God.
- It's okay to admit you're sad. … It's not a weak faith to say that you're not happy with your circumstances at the moment.
- We have an entire book of the Bible about lament and quite a few psalms. And they're there for a reason.

3 The Spirit Helps Us in Our Weakness

Romans 8:26–27

- Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
- The weakness that I think he's referring to here is in the moment, we're groaning inwardly in our unredeemed bodies.
- The times you feel most confused and lost for words or in your deepest grief is when Paul says the Spirit is most clearly active and working in your life.

- But God understands, and God knows. God can translate all of that because He's all-knowing and He's all-powerful.
- And so sorrowing is not the problem. It's understanding how to do it well.

4 In Everything God Works for Good

Romans 8:28

- I think the right idea here is in everything, God works for good with those who love him.
- The all things aren't working. It's God who works.
- God is on the side of good.
- Life is hard. And God doesn't try to hide that. And neither does Paul.
- God certainly can take horrible and terrible things and make good things come from them. But that doesn't suddenly make those things good now.

5 Conformed to the Image of His Son

Romans 8:29–30; Romans 8:17

- What we really need is God's plan of redemption. In which he will redeem my body and your body.
- He doesn't minimize the pain and the suffering that you have gone through in this life, but he does promise glory in the end.
- This idea of foreknowledge or predestination really doesn't have to do with your personal salvation.
- We're going to be like his son, so that his son may be the firstborn among many brothers. And then all things will be made right.

THE CHALLENGE

If God is for us, who can be against us? Is God for you this morning? That's the question.

MY NOTES