

From Groans To Glory

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Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (COLOSSIANS 3:1-2)

Three reasons to have hope in the midst of hardships:

I. The Creation will be _____.

ROMANS 8:18-22 (NIV84) I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

A. God's plan is to _____ heaven & earth into something new.

ISAIAH 65:17 Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.

ISAIAH 66:22 As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure."

2 PETER 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

REVELATION 21:1-5 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...

B. Are you suffering? Get your mind on _____.

II. Our bodies will be _____.

ROMANS 8:23-25 (NIV84) Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

A. Transformed bodies, but same _____ (continuity).

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NIV84) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

B. Our new bodies will be _____.

PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21 (NIV84) But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

1 JOHN 3:2-3 (NIV84) Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:49 (NIV84) And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

LUKE 24:36-49 (NIV84) Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.

III. The Holy Spirit will _____ us.

ROMANS 8:26-27 (NIV84) 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.

A. The Holy Spirit can help us in the _____.

1. **Counsels us** (John 14:16)
2. **Speaks to us** (Acts 8:29)
3. **Guides us** (John 16:13-14)
4. **Sanctifies us** (1 Peter 1:2)
5. **Intercedes for us** (Rom 8:26-27)
6. **Empowers us for ministry/spiritual gifts** (1 Cor. 12:4-11)
7. **Convicts world of sin** (John 16:18)

B. The Holy Spirit can help us in the _____.

EPHESIANS 1:13 (NIV84) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

C. Do you have the _____? Are you born-again?

ROMANS 8:9 (ESV) You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn from this message? Share one point that stood out to you.
2. Have you ever been disappointed in someone or something? Share it with the group.
3. Read Colossians 3:1-2. In this message, we learned that keeping a heavenly perspective could help you during times of difficulty. Explain why this makes sense.
4. The Bible says the earth will be recreated and we will live there. Talk about why that should excite you.
5. In heaven, our bodies will be like Jesus' glorious body. Discuss attributes of the resurrected Christ's body and how that applies to your future in heaven.
6. Do you have the Spirit of God living in you? How can you know for sure (1 John 5:13)?

Next Week: Romans 8:28-39