**Romans 8:16-27**

The Passage

I. The Spirit and our sonship (v. 16-17)

 A. The Spirit testifies with our spirit

1. The Spirit = 3rd Person of the Triune God

 2. spirit = a space deep inside us that may be dormant (like a seed)

3. “testifies” = a legal term = to prove/justify what one has seen or heard. The Spirit convinces our spirit that we’re God’s children

 B. If we are children, then we are heirs

1. “Heir” = a legal term = entitled to an inheritance (and the inheritance is God himself and all he give in eternal life)

2. If we share in his suffering

Suffering = the pains and trials that come with life (sometimes we disqualify our own sufferings as not significant but we should include them in Paul’s word “suffering”)

II. Hoping and Groaning

A. There is a glory coming that will far surpass our present sufferings (v. 18)

1. Heaven will be a great “redemption center” where we will “cash in” on all the suffering we’ve had in this life

2. One day we will be “revealed” (Greek: apocalypse)

Like an extreme makeover where they do the “reveal” and it’s better than the person ever imagined

 B. The Creation groans (v. 19-22)

1. The creation was subjected to frustration (God put the creation under a curse because of Adam’s sin—see Gen 3: thorns, earthquakes, tornados, etc.)

2. The creation is groaning (like in the pains of childbirth)

3. The creation waits with eager expectation

 C. We groan (v. 23-25)

 1. We have the “firstfruits” of the Spirit

The Spirit is the 10% downpayment now guaranteeing our future inheritance (eternal life)

2. We’ve tasted eternity (through the Spirit), but we’re currently sinners living in a sinful world, so in the meantime we groan

3. In fact, once we’re saved, we might groan more because now we are actually forced to lean into our sin like never before

4. But we also hope = a confident and eager expectation

 D. The Spirit groans (v. 26-27)

 1. He groans “in the same way”

2. He “intercedes” = legal term = to plead on someone’s behalf. So the Spirit groans with us in the midst of our brokenness.

3. The Spirit intercedes in the little courtroom He of our hearts. He carries the weight and burden of our prayers up to God and pleads on our behalf.

4. So we simply go to God with what we’ve got without worrying about cleaning up our prayers

5. We are called to yield, surrender, and trust God

Conclusion

I. Pray constantly

II. Pray boldly—go big

III. Repeat

**Discussion Questions**

1. Read v. 21. Explain what Paul means in that verse. How do you understand the idea of the creation being liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into glorious freedom?

2. On Sunday we talked about the sufferings of this present age. It was suggested that many Christians disqualify their own experience of suffering in terms of it not being the kind of suffering Paul talks about. How do you connect with that idea personally? How should we think about our daily trials from a biblical perspective?

3. Romans 8 speaks of hoping and groaning. Where are you experiencing hope and where are you experiencing groaning?

4. When you consider the idea that the Spirit himself intercedes for us in our prayers, how does that affect your own approach to prayer?