

May12: Hope: Waiting for Adoption  
MOTHER'S DAY & BABY DEDICATION  
Romans 8:22-25

I. WE HURT: Pain is our common Plight: *We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time* (Romans 8:22).

- A. Pain is unbidden. We do not choose it.
- B. Pain is unpleasant. We do not want it.
- C. Pain is universal. Everybody has it.
- D. Pain is unsettling. Why do we have to hurt?
- E. Pain produces hope. We want to reach some level of living where we do not hurt anymore.

II. WE WAIT: Delayed but eager: *We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons* (Romans 8:23).

- A. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit.
- B. Still we groan inwardly. The worst of all groans is the one nobody hears—the inward groan. It is the response to the news that it will be a while longer, that the promise has not yet come.
- C. We are waiting for ADOPTION. This is the hope that we have in the future—our full and complete adoption as the sons and daughters of God including the redemption of our bodies.

\*\*\*Despicable Me includes a scene where three little orphan girls come in from trying to sell candy. They haven't done very well, and their cruel guardian, the director of the orphanage, mocks them for thinking they will ever be adopted. They pray for someone to adopt them each night. They wake up every morning hoping to be adopted that day.

III. WE HOPE: We never give up: *But if we hope for what we do not have, we wait for it patiently* (Romans 8:25).

- A. Waiting without hope is pure defeat. When we wait without hope, we are experiencing daily death and loss.
  - B. Hope changes all waiting.
    - 1. If you are in a holding pattern, you need to clearly identify the hope that lies before you.
    - 2. This hope should be on the your mind continually as you wait for it come.
  - C. Hope creates Patience. This is the word *hupomone*, "to remain under."
    - 1. Hope steadies you. It keeps you from doing something foolish in the midst of your painful interlude, your waiting.
    - 2. Hope strengthens you. It allows you to remain under the pressure or stress or distress without breaking.
- \*\*\*Prisoners of war who lose hope are more likely to die in captivity. Hope keeps them alive.
- D. Hope reaches into eternity: *Our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in us* (Romans 8:18).