

Romans 8:22-23 (NIV)

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ 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.

Romans 8:24-25 (NIV)

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.

Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)

²⁶ 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.

**In HARMONY with
God's WILL**

Romans 8:26-27

8:22 We know that the **whole creation**
has been **GROANING** as in the
pains of childbirth right up to
the present time.

8:23 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.

One **groans** not just because of persecution, but because one is **not yet FULLY redeemed**. Believers' **bodies** are still **subject** to **weakness, pain** and **death**. The believer therefore **longs** for the suffering to **END** and for **the redemption of the body to be complete**.

Message of Paul

8:24 For in this **HOPE** we were saved.
But **HOPE** that is seen is **no hope** at all.
Who **HOPES** for what he already has?

We HOPE and Long to be Free FOREVER from the..

- **PENALTY** of sin
- **POWER** of sin
- **PRESENCE** of sin

8:25 But if we **HOPE** for what we
do **NOT** yet have, we **WAIT** for
it **PATIENTLY**.

In one sense Christians are **already adopted children of God**, but in another sense they have yet to **FULLY** experience their **Inheritance**. Message of Paul

Does prayer get God to change his mind?

NO, it does not. Does prayer change things?

YES, it does because **God has ORDAINED**

that it should be this way. Boice

Thoughts on PRAYER... Boice

- We are **SUPPOSED** to pray
- Do **NOT** expect prayer to be **EASY**
- Realize **WHAT** we are doing **WHEN** we pray
- Find **ENCOURAGEMENT** in these verses
- Prayer helps us **CHANGE** our **FOCUS**
- In Prayer we **POUR OUT** our hearts to God

²⁶ ...the **Spirit helps us**
in **our** weakness.

WE do not **know** what we
ought to **pray** for...

**→ Because we are WEAK we Always
NEED the HELP of the Holy Spirit**

²⁶ In the same way, the **Spirit HELPS** us
in **OUR weakness...**

John 16:6-7 (NIV)

Because I have said these things,
you are filled with grief. ⁷ But I tell you
the truth: It is for **your GOOD that I am
going away.** Unless I go away,
the **COUNSELOR** will not come to you;
but **IF I go,** I will send **Him** to you.

Because of our remaining humanness and susceptibility to sin and doubt, **the Holy Spirit also helps us in our weakness.**

The point is that, **even after salvation,** we are **characterized BY spiritual weakness.**

Acting morally, speaking the truth, witnessing for the Lord, **or doing any other good thing**

happens **ONLY by the power of the Spirit**

working in and through us despite our

human limitations. MacArthur

**→ God DISPLAYS His Power through
our WEAKNESS**

²⁶ In the same way, **the Spirit helps us
in our WEAKNESS...**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NIV)

⁷ To keep me from **becoming conceited** because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was **given me a THORN in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.**

⁸ Three times **I PLEADED** with the **Lord**
to take it away from me.

⁹ But **He said** to me, **MY grace is**
sufficient for **you**, for **MY power**
is made perfect in **weakness**.

⁹...Therefore **I will boast** all the more gladly about my **WEAKNESSES**, so that **Christ's POWER** may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, **I DELIGHT in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.**

For **WHEN** I am **WEAK**,
then I am **STRONG**.

In the area of our **sanctification** we expect immediate victories either by a formula or spiritual experience. But God does not work that way. **We are called to a struggle,** and our **perseverance IN that struggle is itself a VICTORY,** even if the results are not visible or spectacular. Boice

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we do **NOT** yet have,
we **WAIT** for it **PATIENTLY**.

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in our **WEAKNESS...**