

Present Sufferings and Future Glory
Romans 8:18-25

God is in control and you are not.

You live in the context of earthly time while God works in the context of eternity.

God's ability to work in eternity and your desire to see God work in your life right now will be a common source of struggle in your life.

God's remedy for your struggles is the Holy Spirit.

Paul says it this way:

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

There is no comparison between suffering and glory.

Suffering is very real. So is glory.

Suffering is very personal. So is glory.

There is an aspect of God's glory that is revealed in His person.

There is also an aspect of God's glory that is revealed in His work.

For example...

Jesus lived here and He put the glory of God on display, John 1:14.

Jesus also put the glory of God on display through His perfect life, miraculous deeds, death on a cross and resurrection from the dead.

This is also why in Revelation 5 when Jesus, as the newly arrived recently slaughtered lamb of God, makes His appearance - every creature on heaven and earth sing: Praise, honor and glory to the Lamb. They are moved to recognize the glory of God revealed in Jesus because of who He is and what He has done.

The clearest display of God's glory in your life is in eternity when you join the company of the redeemed and are able to sing - praise, honor and glory to Jesus. Your presence in eternity will be evidence that God's plan of salvation in Christ was victorious. There's also your presence on earth now...

Your commitment to follow Jesus now through the suffering of this world demonstrates that God is worthy to be worshipped, that Jesus is worth following, that the Holy Spirit can change lives. You demonstrate all of that most clearly when you suffer.

Jesus was not protected from suffering. Jesus came here for the purpose of suffering.

Jesus exposed Himself to the sinfulness of people simply by living here.

Jesus became vulnerable to dangers of a world impacted by sin.

Yet Jesus understood that the glory to be revealed in Him was far, far greater than His suffering.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)