

Romans 8:18, “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”



♪ When your sufferings have you down and you're fighting deep despair, reflecting on this verse provides new hope and peace....Oh how sweet to know that this present world is not the end of our hope and peace. ♪

Have you ever noticed that the popular verse Romans 8:28 is only 10 verses away from this one? Romans 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

I was comforting another Christian friend having a difficult and stressful situation at work because of her Christian beliefs. In our conversation, she quoted Romans 8:28. And then she said these words, “I don't see the good in my situation. Why would God ask me to walk in these shoes?”

Our biggest struggle when suffering is the struggle within our minds. Without the right mindset, our sufferings become magnified.

- 1) All Christians experience suffering. There are no exceptions to the rule. A young Christian may not have experienced suffering, but they will in due time. 2 Corinthians 1:15, “For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation aboundeth by Christ.” Remember that as Christ suffered on this earth, we suffer because the world hates for whom we stand.
- 2) When we are enduring a suffering we are being handed a golden opportunity by Christ to allow His love to shine through us. How we view the opportunity given determines

how we respond. If we complain or allow ourselves to fall into depression, our example of Christ will be dull and cloudy to others. If we are full of the joy of the Lord during our sufferings, we demonstrate to others that NOTHING in this world can take away our joy. Suffering provides a great opportunity to spread the gospel. Who wouldn't want the joy we possess if nothing can take it away? 2 Corinthians 1:6, "And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation."

- 3) Sufferings we endure on earth are reasons for great joy in Heaven. 1 Peter 4:13, "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." Sufferings help us have a better appreciation for what Christ suffered for us. This greater appreciation causes our love for Him to blossom and provide inner joy.

This verse brings back fond memories of my childhood. I can almost hear my grandmother using this phrase: "Well, I reckon..."

When I am working on my inner mindset during a time of suffering, I remind myself suffering is only temporary and not worthy to be compared to eternity in Heaven! In Heaven, I will no longer remember any of the sufferings on earth. What seems so big right now is really very small, like droplets of rain on a cloudy day.

So the next time the blues have got you down, do some thoughtful reckoning. Image your grandmother encouraging you by saying: "Well love, I reckon Heaven will be better than anything or anyplace here. Don't lose hope and find your joy in this truth."

