

Romans 8:14-25

Walking in the Spirit through the valley of the shadow of death.

Walking in the Spirit means INTIMACY WITH THE CREATOR.

14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "**Abba! Father!**"

16 **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit** that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with {Him} in order that we may also be glorified with {Him.}

Walking in the Spirit means GROANING WITH THE CREATION.

18 For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with the **glory that is to be revealed** to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth

together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for {our} adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

A. INTIMACY WITH GOD

1. There are three signs of the Christian's **ASSURANCE** here.
 - a. God's children are **led by the Spirit** - they are going in a direction that is Christ like.
 - b. God's children **cry out "Abba"** (Aaramaic for Daddy).
 1. They sense a security, familiarity and kinship with God.
 2. The contrast between the OC and NC is dramatic. Slavery and fear verses Sonship and security.
 3. The children of God are not hired servants who live in fear but full heirs who live in hope and assurance.
 - c. There are two intimate expressions here.
 1. **Abba** - Daddy
 2. **Children of God (TEKNA)** - born children, kids.
 - d. God's children have a **witness deep in their lives which matches the Spirit of Christ**. A chip off the old block. A common spiritual genetic trait.
2. In vs.17 we read *"if (since) we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him."* What does this imply?
 - a. To receive our inheritance of glory with Christ we must be a part of Him by faith. That is going to mean suffering. We can't escape one without forfeiting the other.
 - b. This does not mean that our glory comes from suffering but that our union with Christ includes both.

B. GROANING WITH NATURE

1. There are four basic categories of suffering in the Christian's experience.
 - a. **Punitive** - The Law, wrath against sin. Christ bore this for us. Rom.1-7
 - b. **Tutorial** - Correction for growth. We often mistake this for punitive suffering. Heb. 12
 - c. **Heroic** - Consequences of values. Persecution I & II Pet.
 - d. **Pervasive** - Consequences of the Fall. This is what is in view here.
2. Notice the way the creation is described - anxious longing, eager waiting, futility, slavery to corruption, groaning and suffering.
3. We who have the first fruits of the Spirit are a part of that awful sound.
 - a. We hope but do not yet see.
 - b. We share the suffering of Christ
 1. As He wept over Jerusalem - We weep over our own blindness and the ignorance of those masses of image bearers who needlessly wander in darkness and despair.
 2. As He wept over Lazarus - We weep over
 3. As He wept in the Garden crying out "*Abba Father, if it be your will remove this cup from me.*" - We groan over the narrow path, the martyrs call, and the sacrifice of life, liberty and the pursuit of personal happiness out of love for God, His people and the truth.
 - c. But this agonizing groan will one day turn to a chorus of joy at a banquet of fulfillment in the company of saints made whole.
 - d. There will then be no tear or sorrow, no pain or fear, no loneliness or heartache. That is when the heirs fortune is restored as was Job's.

4. Verse 18 reminds us that the glory is to be revealed at Christ's return and that this present time will involve suffering.

Conclusion

A. Jesus offered intimacy with God and trouble in this life.

1 Pet.4:13 "to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation."

Phil3:8-10 "8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ. 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;"

B. The intimacy with God is our comfort in our groaning as well as our hope in our enduring.

APPLICATION:

1. We do great damage to ourselves and one another when we deny the pain that is inevitable for those who follow Christ in a fallen world. It has been said of the church that it is the only army that kills its own wounded.
2. We do not build the Kingdom of God by encouraging a demanding spirit among God's people with respect to the promises of fullness of life in this life.
3. We need to introduce people to an intimate, secure and personal relationship with God so that when put in the furnaces of life, like the Hebrew children of Daniel's day they will be able to stand firm with hope and joy.
4. There are two cries that come from those who walk in the Spirit of Christ.

- One is an intimate expression of security and love.
- The other is an agonizing groan of longing for hopes and not yet realized promises.

The Christian's
ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.

God's children

ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT

God's children

CRY OUT "ABBA"

God's children

**HAVE A WITNESS DEEP IN THEIR LIVES, WHICH
MATCHES THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST.**

**There are four basic categories of suffering in the
Christian's experience.**

Punitive -

God's wrath against sin. Christ bore this for us.

Tutorial -

Correction for growth.

Heroic -

Consequences of Christian values.

Pervasive -

Consequences of The Fall.

APPLICATION

1.

Don't deny the pain

but

comfort folks in it.

2.

Don't encourage a demanding spirit

but

encourage perseverance with patience.

3.

Don't seek to find life apart from God

but

***Introduce people to an intimate, secure and
personal relationship with God.***