

# **The Workings of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:18-30)**

# I. The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Yearning (Romans 8:18-25)

## A. The Suffering and Glory of God's Creation (8:18-22)

- <sup>18</sup> For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worth comparing with the **glory** that is to be revealed to us.
- <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.
- <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope
- <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to **corruption** and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
- <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been **groaning** together in the pains of **childbirth** until now.

# Creation is Cursed Because of Human Sin

- cursed is the ground because of you;  
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you (Genesis 3:17b-18a)
- Something is “cursed” when God withdraws His sustaining grace.
- “Entropy”: “Inevitable and steady deterioration of a system of society” (Everything breaks down on its own unless outside energy is supplied to build it up. Example: wooden buildings)





# Nature Corrupted





# Jan Bruegel

## “Earth, or The Earthly Paradise” (1621)



# A New Earth

- Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, (Revelation 21:1)
- No longer will there be anything accursed (Revelation 22:3)
- The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (Isaiah 11:6-7)

I. The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Yearning (Romans 8:18-25)  
**B. The Suffering and Glory of God's Children (8:23-24)**

- <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have **the firstfruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
- <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?



# A “Down Payment” of the Holy Spirit

- “*Aparche*, the firstfruits, was both the beginning of the harvest and the pledge that the full harvest would follow in due time. Perhaps Paul had in mind that the Feast of Weeks, which celebrated the reaping of the firstfruits, was the very festival (called in Greek ‘Pentecost’) on which the Spirit had been given” (p. 242).

--John Stott, *The Message of Romans*

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# **“Amazing Grace” by John Newton**

- 1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!
- 7. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

# **“Amazing Grace” by John Newton**

- 5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.



# Resurrection Bodies

- <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:3-4)
- <sup>42</sup> So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

## I. The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Yearning (Romans 8:18-25)

### C. **Waiting Eagerly and Patiently (8:23-25)**


- <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as **we wait eagerly** for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, **we wait for it with patience.**
- “A coiled contentment”
- “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1 KJV)
- God’s restoration of humanity: “The already and not-yet”

# Takeaways

- Though we are mortal, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit creates a longing in us for the immortal
- The present is always preparing the future. (“It is not only just about what you think it’s about.”)
- The future is better than you can think:  
“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20)



**Let Us Pray**

A photograph of two hands raised in prayer, holding a glowing white cross. The hands are silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset sky with clouds. The sun is visible through the cross, creating a lens flare effect. The background shows a horizon line over water.