

# Confident Faith: Expectancy Over Despair

Sermon Outline – May 7, 2017

Romans 8:17-30

In 'The Problem of Evil and Suffering', what is the difference between 'The Intellectual Why' and 'The Emotional Why'?

Three experiences we can expect when evil and suffering hit us:

1. I will \_\_\_\_\_.

- Now if we are (God's) children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and **co-heirs with Christ**, Romans 8:17a What does this reaffirm?

- if indeed we \_\_\_\_\_ in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:17b What does this teach?

- I consider that our present sufferings are **not worth** \_\_\_\_\_ **with the glory that will be revealed in us.** Romans 8:18  
What do we learn about comparing our sufferings?

- For the creation waits **in eager expectation** for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to be revealed. Romans 8:19  
What is the great testimony of followers of Jesus?

2. I will \_\_\_\_\_. What does it mean to groan and how does this overcome despair?

- \_\_\_\_\_ groans. We know that **the whole creation has been groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Romans 8:22

- \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus groan. And **we believers also groan**, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. Romans 8:23a (NLT)  
Why would followers of Jesus possibly groan even more deeply?

We, too, **wait with** \_\_\_\_\_ for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. Romans 8:23b (NLT)

Why can we wait with eager hope?

- \_\_\_\_\_ groans with us for that day. 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 through wordless groans.** (sighs too deep for words - RSV) Romans 8:26  
Why does this help us in our times of loss?

3. I will \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

- And we know that **in all things God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28  
How can we grow more confident in our faith in times of suffering?

**Next Step:** Honestly assess what happens to my faith when I suffer. If it is not growing, what change is needed for my faith to grow to be more confident so that I will know that in all things God is working for my good?  
Memorize Romans 8:28