

Life in the Spirit—Suffering and Hope
Study Questions
Romans 8:18-25

1. **[Romans 8:18]** Paul says our current suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory, but this doesn't mean our suffering is small. Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-29—what kinds of suffering do you see here? What other kinds of suffering have you seen or experienced?

What do you imagine the coming glory might be like, such that all this suffering will seem so insignificant?

2. **[Romans 8:19-21]** Genesis 3:17-18 describes the curse put on the land after the fall of Adam and Eve. Sin has since infused all of creation. Revelation 21:1-4 shows us a new creation, free from sin. In the meantime, though, how does creation *suffer*? Why does the state of creation matter to us? (Perhaps Genesis 1:28 and Ezekiel 47:9-12 can lend some perspective.)

3. **[Romans 8:22-23]** Groaning is a sound that is made in response to pain or despair, or when someone is exerting themselves under a heavy load. Paul is saying creation groans and we groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit. What do these groanings *look* like—how does creation “groan” and how do we “groan,” even when no sound is being made?

4. **[Romans 8:24-25]** How is your suffering transformed by the hope that Jesus has provided us?

What reminds you of your hope? How does this hope change the way you feel and the actions you take?