



NOT YET - ROMANS 8:22-25

Before "true" labor begins, there might be "false" labor pains, also known as Braxton Hicks contractions

- They are your body's way of getting ready for the "real thing."
- Paul used this analogy to help us understand our position in Christ Jesus in the here and now

What have we learned in Romans 8?

- **Romans 8:1 NLT** So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.
- **Romans 8:4 NLT** The just requirement of the law has been fully satisfied for us.
- **Romans 8:9 NLT** You are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you.

What have we learned in Romans 8?

- **Romans 8:15 NLT** So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."
- **Romans 8:17 NLT** Since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory.

What have we learned in Romans 8?

- **Romans 8:18 NLT** Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.
- There is still suffering in our lives even though we have been forgiven, adopted and made heirs with Christ Jesus
- The question today is, “What should be my response to suffering?”

- **Romans 8:22-25 NIV** 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In speaking of the Devil in **John 8:44 NLT**

- He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

In speaking of the Devil in John 8:44 NLT

- I do not believe he can rip your salvation from the hands of the Father, but he can harass the new life right out of you with lies and deceit
- Just like in the garden with Adam and Eve he attempts to have you question everything about your salvation and God's Word

Especially when suffering comes into our lives

- If I am really saved, why God?
- Just like with Jesus in the Garden, God is silent because there are no answers that would allow you to understand
- He says with His silence, “Trust me.”

Especially when suffering comes into our lives

- Then you turn on the TV, radio or some well meaning friend will enlighten you with their understanding of salvation known as the Prosperity Gospel
 - A modern perversion of the gospel that teaches the full blessings of God are available to those who approach Him in faith and obedience include wealth, health and power

Especially when suffering comes into our lives

- It usually starts with, “If you have enough faith then....”
- Or “There must be some sin in your life because....”
- Paul desires us to have a clear understanding of our present condition especially when suffering comes into our lives

Vs. 22 NIV We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

- **Vs. 21 NIV** The creation itself will be liberated (glorious freedom) from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.
 - Creation will not be redeemed first then we move into it
 - Creation's glory is tied to our glory received in Christ Jesus

Vs. 22 NIV We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

- Creation was cursed because of our sin and it will be blessed flowing from our full redemption
- But we are not there yet thus creation fights against us
- There will continue to be fires, floods, hurricanes, drought, tornadoes, tsunamis, plagues, wars, earthquakes....

Vs. 22 NIV We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

- **Matthew 24:7-8 NIV** 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Vs. 22 NIV We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

- Hear Jesus say, “There will be suffering but don’t lose hope.”
- These are just pains before the revealing of something marvelous because we are not fully there yet

Vs. 23a NLT We believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us

- Even though we have the Holy Spirit within us, we stand justified before God, promise of heaven
 - There will still be cancer, loss, failures, times that appear hopeless, death....
- We will suffer in the here and now, but we do not suffer without hope
- Even though we have the Holy Spirit

Vs. 23a NLT We believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us

- Our groaning is different than those who have rejected the Gospel of Jesus
 - We have the Holy Spirit walking along with us
 - Their groaning is in response to the sorrow of loss without any true hope
 - Our groaning is in response to the anticipated glory to be received

Vs. 23a NLT We believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us

- If you have not experienced it, you have seen it on TV, the scream of a mother after loosing a child to death – the scream of loss
- If you have not experienced it, you have seen it on TV, the moan or scream of a mother giving birth – the scream of an anticipated blessing
- Both are suffering but the mindset is vastly different

Vs. 23a NLT We believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us

- **John 16:33 NIV** “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Vs. 23b We wait eagerly (patiently) for our (full) adoption to sonship, the redemption of our (glorified) bodies

- **Vs. 24 NIV** For in this hope we were saved. What hope?
 - Our Glorified, Redeemed, Eternal bodies
- At the gravesite of a believer I'm able to say faithfully, "This is not it."
- The grave does not have the last word

Vs. 23b We wait eagerly (patiently) for our (full) adoption to sonship, the redemption of our (glorified) bodies

- **1st Corinthians 15:42-44 ESV** So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Vs. 23b We wait eagerly (patiently) for our (full) adoption to sonship, the redemption of our (glorified) bodies

- But we can wait patiently, eagerly, expectantly for this promise to be fulfilled in us and our loved ones.
- We don't get off-track because of the suffering in this world or in our lives
- We will cry, weep, feel loss, groan – but never without hope

Vs. 23b We wait eagerly (patiently) for our (full) adoption to sonship, the redemption of our (glorified) bodies

- Think of Abraham and Sarah looking expectably for the birth of Isaac all those years with God's promise
- There is coming a day

That is why Paul says in **2nd Corinthians 5:7-8a NIV** 7 For we live by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident.

- Confident faith is expectant faith
- We can endure even death when we know what is waiting for us in God's glory
- **Philippians 4:13 ESV** I can do (endure) all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Abraham had an expectant faith

- **Genesis 22:6-8 NIV** 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering

Abraham had an expectant faith

- **Genesis 22:6-8 NIV** 8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

Satan tried to disrupt the believers in Thessalonica about the death of their loved ones

- **1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 NLT** 13 And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.

Satan tried to disrupt the believers in Thessalonica about the death of their loved ones

- **1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 NLT** 15 We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.

Satan tried to disrupt the believers in Thessalonica about the death of their loved ones

- **1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 NLT** 17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18 So encourage each other with these words.



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