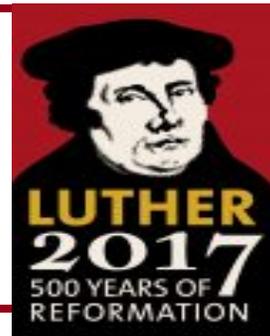


## *Patient Endurance*

Romans 8:18-30 Rev 21:1-7 John 14:15-27

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The word “**suffer**” means “**to endure, to undergo, and to experience.**” The word is usually used in terms of something **unpleasant**: we “suffer” in pain, disappointment, hardships, or grief. We can suffer physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Suffering occurs with our health, in relationships, because of finances, or with pain, stress and changing circumstances. Sometimes we suffer because of things we have done, sometimes we suffer because of things other people have done, and sometimes there is just no explanation, we suffer just because we are part of this broken, sinful world. In addition to all of this, for us as Christians, sometimes we suffer simply because we are Christians as we face persecution, bias, and exclusion for the sake of Christ.

**We suffer with all kinds of pain, difficulties, and hardships in this life.**

As believers in Christ, our stance towards suffering is to “*patiently endure*”. *Patient endurance* does not mean that you close your eyes and hold your breath and hope it goes away. Biblically, “*patiently endurance*” is the **posture of faith** in the midst of suffering. *Patient endurance* is holding on to God and His promises through the hardship. *Patient endurance* is looking to God for all good things and turning to Him in times of trouble. The Bible teaches us that God works through suffering for our good. **SUFFERING HAS A PURPOSE!** “*Patient endurance*” is the **posture of faith** in the midst of suffering.

In Romans chapter 8, St. Paul teaches us about *Patient endurance*: He gives 4 truths that will build you up and strengthen you when suffer. **If you are suffering, these 4 things, He will strengthen you so that you can *patiently endure* whatever hardship you are facing.**

**The First is “Hope”.**

Hope is confident faith in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. You know and believe that there is more to life than what you can see and what you are

experiencing. **God has promised you a glorious future that does not include pain, suffering, stress, or problems.** That is why St. Paul can write this:

I consider that our present sufferings are **NOT WORTH COMPARING** with the glory that will be revealed in us. ROMANS 8:18

Because you have hope you can *patiently endure*. Hope knows and believes that there is more to life than what you can see and what you are experiencing. The only way we have this hope is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. **This is distinctively and exclusively Christian hope.** This kind of hope comes from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **God has promised you a glorious future in the Kingdom of Heaven that does not include pain, suffering, stress, or problems.**

Jesus faced the worst suffering of all when He faced the wrath of God with our sins. He was abandoned by God the Father in the darkness of our rebellion and immorality. He suffered and died in our place on the cross. He was buried. On the third day, He rose from the dead and gives life to the world. Because of His death and resurrection, we have hope. **We have confident faith that God will also bring us through all of our suffering and hardships --- and finally through death itself.** He will raise and glorify our bodies, and we will live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven, where God Himself will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. We live in eager anticipation of this --- and that eager anticipation is our HOPE. Hope strengthens us so that we *patiently endure* any suffering that we must face.

**A second truth** that supports you and enables you to *patiently endure* is that **the Holy Spirit** Himself lives in you and He prays for you! ***His presence in your life now is the guarantee, the “down payment”, that you have a home in Heaven later!***

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity comes to you, and His power is at work in your life. In Romans, St. Paul specifically highlights that the Holy Spirit prays for you!

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. ROMANS 8:26

**God the Holy Spirit PRAYS PERFECT PRAYERS on your behalf!** He knows exactly what you need, and so He prays for you, asking God the Father to help you in your time of need.

In the Old Testament, Psalm 46 had already taught us that *God was our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble*. Now in the Book of Romans, we learn that it is the Holy Spirit Who is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in our times of suffering as He prays for us in our weakness and troubles!

A second truth that supports you and enables you to *patiently endure* is that **the Holy Spirit** lives in you and He prays for you!

You have hope, and the Holy Spirit. **A third truth** that supports you and enables you to *patiently endure* is God's promise to make **all things work for good** in your life.

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

This is a fascinating promise! The Lord teaches us that nothing can seriously threaten your spiritual well-being! **God promises to make EVERYTHING --- including your suffering, your pain, your stress --- all the unknowns and all the unexplainable - EVERYTHING is made to work for your eternal well-being!**

This is a blessing that comes only through faith in Christ. Unbelievers do not have **this promise** --- just as they do not have **hope** nor do they have the **Holy Spirit**. This is a unique blessing that God gives only to His people – to those who trust His Son Jesus Christ for salvation!

The Lord promises to watch over your life in such detail that **EVERY SINGLE THING** will be made to work for your good and eternal well-being. This is God's surpassing power being used on your behalf and for your good! It reminds us that God is ultimately in control of all things; even your suffering, pain and hardships. Your pain, suffering and hardships do not catch God by surprise; nor are they outside of His power and control. God is ultimately in control of all things; even your suffering, pain and hardships. He promises to make **EVERYTHING** work for good in your life!

#### Catena for Suffering

(A "chain" of verses)

Romans 8:18

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the future glory that will be revealed in us.

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose.

Romans 5:3-4

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 8:38

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

2 Corinthians 4:7

1 Peter 5:10

Psalm 34:10

Nahum 1:7

Psalm 46:1

Finally, **the fourth truth** that supports you as you *patiently endure* is that **God is working a grand plan in your life** that started before the creation of the world and ends with you safe and sound in the Kingdom of Heaven!<sup>1</sup>

For those God **foreknew** He also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestined, He also **called**; those He called, He also **justified**; those He justified, He also **glorified**. ROMANS 8:29-30

Before the creation of the world, God **FOREKNEW** you --- He **PREDESTINED** you to eternal life through grace in the Lord Jesus Christ. During your lifetime, He brought you to the waters of Holy Baptism, **CALLED** you by name to be His very own, **JUSTIFIED** you and declared you “not guilty!” of your sins through faith in Jesus Christ! On the Last Day God will raise your body from the dead and **GLORIFY** it so that you will live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven.

**God is working a grand scheme in your life that began BEFORE the creation of the world and will take you INTO ETERNITY to live with the Lord forever in the Kingdom of Heaven forever!**

Anything and everything that happens in your life --- even any suffering, pain or hardship you may have to face --- **is accounted for** in God’s plan. Nothing happens by accident; nothing takes God by surprise. There are no mistakes. **God is working a grand scheme in your life that began before the creation of the world and will take you into eternity with Him in Heaven forever!**

Romans 8 is considered the mountain top of the book of Romans. One of the things that Romans chapter 8 teaches us is how to face suffering, pain and stress in our lives.

**Suffering** means that you may have to **endure, undergo, and experience** various hardships, troubles, and difficulties in life. But as Christians, those who trust in Christ for salvation, we face all **suffering** with *Patient Endurance*. AMEN.

Hope Romans 8:24-25  
+ Holy Spirit Romans 8:26-27  
+ Goodness Of God Romans 8:28  
+ God At Work w/Purpose Romans 8:29-30  
= **PATIENT ENDURANCE**

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<sup>1</sup> **Amazingly**, by the grace of God in Christ Jesus alone, God is working in your life “pre-Creation to post-Parousia” and everything in-between! Now *that is something to meditate on!*