



"Our weights vary. Our heights vary. So does the colour of our skin. But there is one thing we all have in common. We all know what it means to hurt. Suffering is a universal language... When life hurts and our dreams fade, we may express our anguish in different ways, but each one of us knows the sting of pain and heartache, disease and disaster, trials and suffering." (Charles Swindoll, Hope Again. P.11)

To get through your **groaning**, focus on the **glory** to come

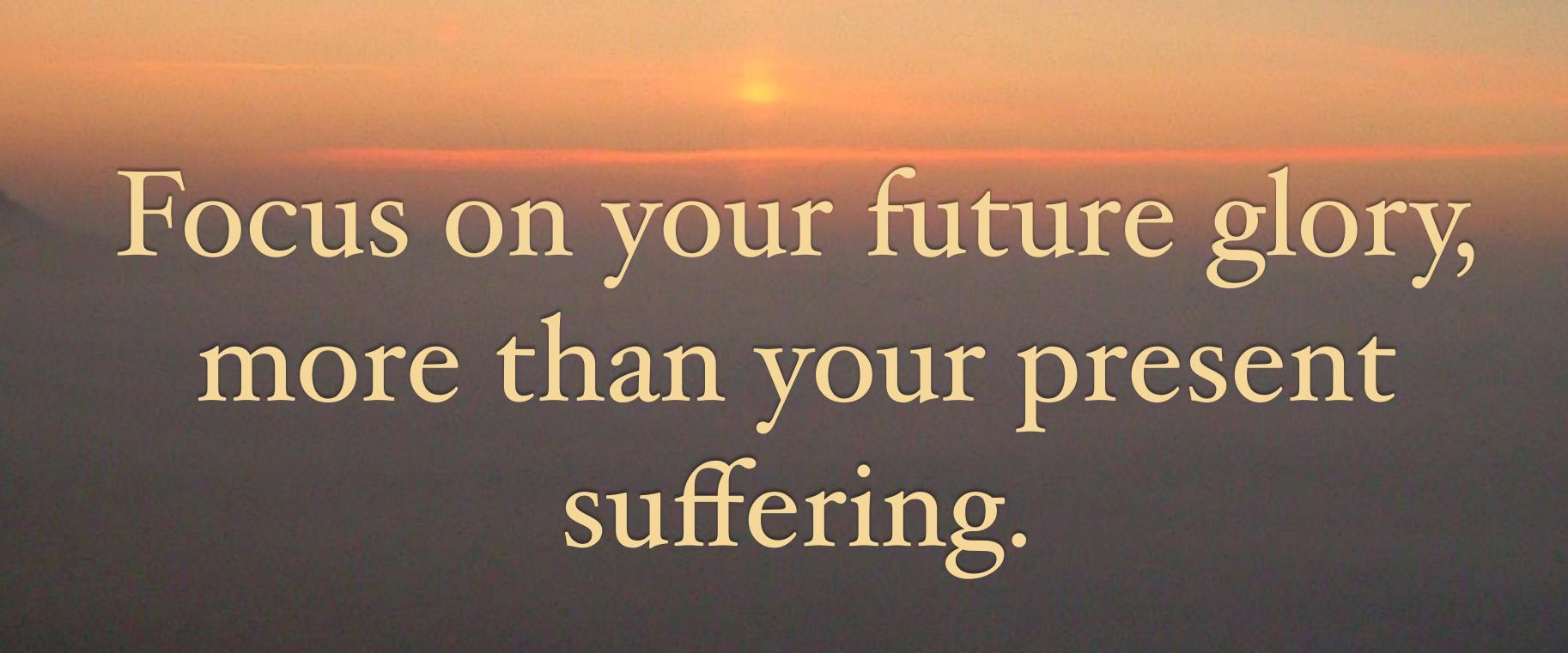
Big Idea

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 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. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

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. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.



ERRONEOUS BELIEFS ABOUT SUFFERING

- Godliness prevents suffering
- Suffering is always a punishment for sin
- Suffering is only about this life
- God's will is always about my immediate comfort
- Suffering indicates God's wrath

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."

2 Corinthians 4:17

"Sufferings are to be associated with glory. The passage dealing with suffering (17b-30) begins with glory and ends with glory. Thus, the believer in his suffering is hemmed in by glory"

Dr.Charles Ratz

Recognize the curse on creation will be reversed.

"The whole world is on <u>tiptoe</u> to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own."

J.B.Philips

"But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

2 Peter 3:13

"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."

Isaiah 11:6

Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens, and even the fish of the sea are taken away."

Hosea 4:3

Wait with hope & patience

"During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel and God knew."

Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

The Spirit HELPS you in your WEEKNESS

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 John 5:14-15

"When you're tempted to ask God, 'Why did you do this TO me?' Look at the cross and ask, 'Why did you do that FOR me?"

Randy Alcorn

