



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Romans 8:23-27
- I Corinthians 2:11-12
- John 16:12-14

## THE MIND OF GOD

- It Groans
- We Groan
- She Groans

## SEED:

"Not only that, but we also who have **the firstfruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves **groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting** for the **adoption, the redemption of our body.**" Romans 8:23 NKJV

"**Likewise the Spirit** also helps in our weaknesses. For **we do not know what we should pray** for as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself makes intercession** for us with **groanings** which **cannot be uttered**. Now **He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit** is, because **He makes intercession** for the saints **according to the will of God.**" Romans 8:26-27 NKJV

## FRUIT:

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, **that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**" I John 5:14 NKJV

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, **when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.**" John 16:12-14 NKJV

"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know** the things that have been freely given to us by God." I Corinthians 2:11-12 NKJV

"Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, in everything give thanks; for **this is the will of God** in Christ Jesus for you." I Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV

## **NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS**

**Last week in [The Unveiling](#) (Romans 8:18-22)...**

As mind-blowing is the idea of sonship and our firstborn position with Christ that was just introduced, equally as daunting is the presentation that this inheritance comes with a price. To become a child of God was free, while it cost Christ everything. To

become a joint-heir with Christ, a partaker in the magnitude of His glory, that is anything but free. Paul previously placed a mandatory stipulation on that level of bequest. He said, “If?” And then the qualifier, “If indeed you suffer with Him.”

Here, Paul extols the virtues of such a monumental decision. There is no comparison when you do the cost-benefit analysis. No manner of suffering today could measure the exponential payoff. If mankind could reach the level of the glory of Christ, any level of distress, hardship and pain—even a Job-like measure of torture is worth it. If you place the numbers into a balance sheet, all you need to consider to make the right investment is to add the element of time. In this column, on this side of eternity, the suffering no matter how intense, is finite. In the other column the profit is calculated and that glorious endowment is infinite! When posed with the option, remain just a convert or pay the cost of discipleship, Y’shua also indicated that there was just no comparison. Sure one is free and the other has a price-tag that might include your very life. And yet the decision should be easy, although dramatic, as if you are comparing your love for God to your love for your immediate family. In human terms, again, it is just not worthy to be compared; it should be as if you hated your family when your love for them is measured against your love for

God. And that is what you are required to choose, if the way of the disciple is for you.

And then comes arguably the most prophetic verse in the entire Bible. Most would contend with such a claim, which also then makes this possibly the most misunderstood verse in the Bible. If one-thousand Christians were surveyed and asked to identify the next great event we are looking for on God's prophetic calendar, the vast majority would agree and offer the same answer. And maybe you would as well. "The return of Christ," would utterly dominate the landscape. And yet, it would be utterly incorrect. Here we are taught that all of creation is waiting for something and it is not the return of Christ. Sure, at some point that answer will be correct, Christ's second coming will be next on the calendar, but not yet. You might proffer the thought that creation was still waiting then, in the first century when it was written, but is no longer true now. However, the only way to prove that is if what it asserts has already happened. So, I ask, "If so, when? If so, what did it look like?"

To support the idea that it has not yet occurred, let's consider the state of creation itself. To do so, we must briefly fast-forward a few verses. The perfection of creation was damaged by the sin in the Garden and fell into decay at that moment. It became corrupt, as death and chaos entered. Now look around. Has that been

corrected? Does creation seem restored to you? You have your answer. Creation remains in the bondage of corruption even now, and God promises that it will be restored someday, but it seems possible only when the sons of God are revealed. As such, precisely what that means should be of great interest to every child of God.

And let's go there for a moment. It logically follows that the revealing of sons must be a different event than the right to become sons, as the latter happens the moment one becomes a Christian. "As many as received Him and believe in His name, to them He gave the right to become children of God." That is why the return of Christ is not the next event on God's prophetic calendar, and the revealing of sons is! As such, we must know what that means, and define what that will look like. And that is the intention for rest of the narrative on this single verse, and why it just may be the single most prophetic verse in the entire Bible.

We have determined that creation is still eagerly waiting to be delivered from the bondage of corruption, and agree it is a future prophetic event. Now we must introduce three new ideas before we can move on. In a prophetic sense, the revealing of the sons of God is related to: the restoration of all things, the Passover, and a Bar-Mitzvah.

The Restoration of All Things: The revealing of sons is a prerequisite to the restoration of all things. That is for what creation

is eagerly waiting. It's currently in a state of corruption and a restoration would return creation to its garden-like condition, before sin and decay entered the world. Man caused it, and in a very real sense man is required to restore it, which means it must occur before the return of Christ. Probably the best way to introduce this idea is to visit the question asked of Y'shua when He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration, where Peter, James, and John witnessed Y'shua transform into a glorified being, and they were visited by Moses and Elijah. They recognized from their childhood training as Jewish men that there was a necessary prerequisite, before what they previewed up on the mountain could be fulfilled. So, they intelligently asked, "Why do the scribes say Elijah must come first?"

They knew that Elijah would come first, but they did not know why. How did they know? Prophecy said so! "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord—His second coming." But why? The prophecy indicates it is to remind mankind to obey God's laws and restore the broken family; the restoration of the family is a microcosm and prophetic picture of the restoration of all things. The destruction of the human family depicts the single most egregious sign of a corrupted creation, as the family is the expressed image of God. As long as the restoration of the family remains pending, so too is the

restoration of creation delayed because, as such, the curse levied in the Garden, on mankind and creation, is still in full effect.

Y'shua affirms their suspicion about Elijah; "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things." There's the answer; Elijah comes to restore creation before Christ can come again. Yes, you were shown the foreshadow of Elijah already, and they understood that to be John the Baptist because all the prophecy about the final ministry of the coming Elijah was prophesied about John, who would come first in the spirit and power of Elijah to prefigure the final return of Elijah, before Christ's second coming. In the man of John the Baptist, Elijah came first before Christ's first coming as a suffering servant, and Elijah will come first again before Christ returns as the Reigning King. Even today, an empty chair is preserved at every Passover table, awaiting the return of Elijah.

Finally, the need for the restoration to occur prior to the return of Christ is later affirmed by Peter, one of the first-hand witnesses of the events on the Mount of Transfiguration. He describes how Jesus Christ must remain in heaven until the times of the restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets—the very prophecy from Malachi that prompted the question at the base of the mountain, "Why do the scribes say Elijah must come first?" Now we know, and that is why all of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.

The Passover: The revealing of sons is a main component of Passover. Jesus is our Passover Lamb—such is not in doubt by any Christian. It makes perfect sense if you think about it, but really only if you understand Passover completely will you fully appreciate the deepest revelation of that truth. The idea of sonship is not original to Christianity. It was paramount for God's chosen people, Israel, and the practice of their given faith. When we revisit what it meant for Israel, which is the root of your faith as a Christian, we can recognize that the entirety of God's plan for humanity is to separate true sons from false sons—firstborn sons, from non-firstborn sons, from those who are not true sons at all... illegitimate sons. So, God makes the life-defining distinction between three types of sons: firstborn sons of God, firstborn sons not of God, and non-firstborn sons! This separation of sons into three groups comes down to us from the depths of the Passover story, as we consider what transpired with the Angel of Death and the death of the firstborn, or might we say "the risk of firstborn." Firstborns who applied the blood to the doorposts lived and were separated from firstborns who did not, as they all died. All other sons in the historical event were, in fact, non-first borns, and they were never at risk of dying in the plague. Thus we distinguish three eternal people groups: firstborn sons of God, from firstborn sons not of God, from non-firstborn sons. Unfortunately, Christian tradition



has only ever considered two eternal people groups, never identifying the elusive third group as revealed in the Passover story.

Passover is also indicative of the end of one era and the beginning of another. Originally it was the end of Egypt because of the death of every firstborn son. Firstborns are symbolic of propagation for the future—the survival of a nation. Passover was the end of Egypt and the beginning of Israel as a new nation of God's chosen people. Y'shua said it like this in His great dissertation about the end-of-the-age. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." It creates such a beautiful picture. In order for the end to come—the ultimate prophetic Passover, the gospel of the kingdom must have been presented to the whole world—as a witness. Don't be surprised if that witness includes similar events in the earth, the plagues that preceded the first Passover—and the mandate that God insists His people separate from the pagan world. "Let My people Go!" This should stimulate crucial questions; what is the gospel of the kingdom? What is the kingdom of heaven and what ministry might be responsible for such a gospel message? It seems we have already laid the foundation for such answers. In the end, Elijah comes and sits at the Passover table first, to restore all things—and those who join him will preach the gospel of the kingdom to the whole world, to perfect God's ways and restore the

family and thus all of creation—the restoration of all things is at hand. All of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.

A Bar-Mitzvah: The revealing of sons is the image of a prophetic Bar-Mitzvah—a coming of age ceremony. It marks the moment of transition from childhood to adulthood. It is the age of accountability without accommodations. A mature son is now responsible for his own actions. Even consider the language used in Christianity to describe the moment of your salvation—you were born-again. It's a picture of infancy and childhood. Childhood is loaded with accommodations; the younger you are the more accommodations there are. No newborn is expected to care, in any way, for themselves and is accountable for zero personal responsibilities; every vulnerability is overlooked with an accommodation. It is perfectly natural for an infant to be one-hundred percent self-focused; “My needs are all that matter!” That is what you became spiritually at your born-again moment. Yet, you are not to remain as such. Just as a human infant grows up and at each stage of development is expected to become more responsible, you too are instructed to grow up and become a mature adult in the faith—eventually not focusing on yourself at all; “Your needs are all that matter!”

Corporate Christianity must come of age, become a bonafide adult, accountable with no further accommodations—completely transformed away from self-centeredness to, instead, look outward in the service of others. That is what we are seeing here. God the Father is announcing, “May I present to you My mature son, who today is recognized as an adult. Sure when he was born (again), he instantly had all the rights and privileges as My son, but today I am unveiling, announcing publicly for the first time, the mature son for whom I’ve been waiting.” All of creation is still eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.

With all these details floating in your mind, now consider again what is the next major event for which we have eager expectation. In other words, what comes next? It’s one of mankind’s most anticipated events, three of which include: Christ’s first coming; the revealing of the Sons of God; and the return of Christ. Now you know what is next. And is this not the reality casting the shadow of your very walk of faith. What are the three most critical milestones in the life of a man of faith? His adoption into the family of God; his development into a mature son of God; and then his transformation into the image of Christ.

Creation was not the cause of its own fall; it was not even a guilty accomplice. At worst it was an innocent bystander, which became collateral damage. And yet we learn that in God’s economy

nothing is wasted. God permitted the whole of creation to become liable for man's error, not because He is unjust, but because He had a plan, a way for mankind to remedy the problem, and that brings hope.

You see, creation will be restored from its fallen state when mankind steps into his glorious freedom. This speaks of human initiative. We were responsible for losing the title deed to the earth and the subsequent contamination of creation, and we are responsible to participate in its restoration. God needs us to do our part because He designed it that way. We cannot do God's part and He won't do our part. We are His human initiative partners. And our duties include the restoration of creation and active participation in establishing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Remember, our Savior and King does not return to establish His kingdom; He remains in heaven until He can return to His kingdom that is already established—and that's our part. All this and we must keep in mind what we already learned a few verses back; we must be willing to suffer on our way to our glorious transformation.

Finally, we must end with the critical concept we established earlier. In the first century it was clear that creation was still waiting. Today, as you read this statement, it is still groaning and laboring, even at this very moment. And now you know for what it is waiting.

All of creation is eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God! The question you should be asking yourself is simple. “Do I want to participate in the process?”

**This week in Romans 8:23-27...** We’ve previously established that creation is suffering the immense cost for human sin! Man’s pointless behavior subjected all of creation to a fruitless penalty, resulting in an ongoing systemic deterioration, from which now it awaits eagerly to be restored. We learned that creation was an innocent victim and played no role in its own demise. The entirety of creation is currently participating in a common calamity—a mutual experience of chaos and decay. If it could speak it would echo the words of the son of David, “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

As such, creation is in utter anticipation like an expectant mother, at the peak of labor, to whom the birth of her child is imminent. Imagine the deep inarticulate sounds she makes at the very height of her contractions, as her child passes into the birth canal and begins to emerge, and then multiply those guttural sounds by the size of the universe. Do that and you might just begin to personify what creation is experiencing.

And now we learn that it is not just creation standing by, anxiously optimistic that the birth of something new is at hand—or might we say the rebirth! Mankind is also expectant, experiencing

the same type of labor pains, but only those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. All others aren't even aware that they are pregnant. Yes, God's people should be equally expectant, optimistically desperate for this new creation, this re-creation, this restored creation to arrive. And as previously explored, it is literally our responsibility to make it happen. However, that for which God's people anxiously labor goes beyond the restoration of broken creation. We know what comes afterwards—the ultimate expression for why God adopted us into His family—the receipt of our new permanent, immortal, incorruptible, glorified bodies.

That is the ultimate outcome of the entire redemptive story of mankind. It is why the Father sent His Son to save us. It is literally the only reason we have hope. And at times it is judicious to state the obvious, and not because somehow the obvious is not obvious. Instead, it's because the obvious sometimes has hidden layers below the surface of what is so apparent. If these prophetic events had taken place already, then we could not use hope to describe how we feel about them. No one hopes for something to happen if it already happened; that would be ridiculous. We might revel in the outcome, like a mother nursing her child born minutes ago. But we wouldn't feel the emotions of hope, if the birth had already occurred, as if worried over pending complications. No, these intense emotions of hope that we feel, at this very moment, are

because we are still waiting—we still have work to do! And that is where persistent resolve enters. No matter what it looks like right now, even when it appears that what we anticipate is unlikely or impossible, we can be one hundred percent assured. Keep moving forward; it is certain to happen.

And if hope itself is not comforting enough, there is even better news. We are not laboring alone. The Holy Spirit is interceding on our behalf. It's as if the Holy Spirit is in labor with us and when we are too exhausted to keep pushing, so emptied of strength that we can't make another peep, those deep inarticulate sounds continue to pour forth from our weakness. But this time they emanate from the Holy Spirit within us, powerful sounds that couldn't possibly come from anything human.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to do the Father's bidding—to carry out God's will. Never will the Spirit take action or speak a word beyond the Father's instructions. Can you wrap your mind around how enormous this is? Maybe if it's worded differently you will appreciate the magnitude. The Holy Spirit knows precisely what God wants to say and speaks those very words on your behalf. And what is even more outrageous is that it happens through your mouth! The very thing that is on God's heart in the moment, the top priority in His mind, flows from your lips. You are speaking the

mind of God. Now, there is nothing in the universe that can inspire more hope than that!

“Think in Bible.” DJH

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY’S MESSAGE:**

*At times there are just no words. Have you ever felt that way: when your experience exceeds explanation; when the circumstance defies any useful description; when the strength required to speak is altogether gone and you cannot even formulate a single word to express your desperation? If words were dollars you’d be living in abject poverty. And yet this is not a bad place to be because it is here where the Holy Spirit takes over.*

*There is an obvious stipulation that should govern your prayer life at all times, and that is to seek first the will of God. Minimally, if you can’t quite discern God’s will, you should offer to abdicate your will in favor of His, and that sometimes is enough to render you speechless. “I just have no words; I don’t know what to pray.” And suddenly sounds pour forth—unintelligible, inarticulate sounds; deep guttural groans that are not human in origin. We find the Holy Spirit at work and this we know. The Spirit never speaks a word that did not originate from the Father’s heart, His mind—which might be the perfect definition of God’s will. But what is most extraordinary is that these unintelligible, inarticulate sounds; deep guttural groans*



*form through your mouth! And that means what is coming forth from your very lips is the mind of God.*

## IT GROANS

### 1. Creation Groans

#### A. Groans, Groans, Groans

(1) It Groans, We Groan, She Groans

(a) All of Creation, the Church, and the Holy Spirit

1. It (Creation) Groans

a) All of creation groans together: to moan jointly; to experience a common calamity; to lament.

2. We (the Church) Groan

a) Christians express grief, anger, or desire; to feel pressure from what is coming on, which can be intensely pleasant or anguishing (depending on the context).

3. She (the Holy Spirit) Groans

a) The Spirit is moaning, sighing, expressing with emotions, too deep for words, over what is coming!

b) Why She? The Holy Spirit when described in the Old Testament is done so always with feminine

attributes. (The Hebrew word is ruach: breath, wind, Spirit. Part of Speech: Noun Feminine)

- 1) It makes sense as the human family (father, mother, child) is the expressed image of God in the earth (Father—masculine, Spirit—feminine, Son—masculine).
- 2) Eve was drawn from Adam as the helper: *“And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him **a helper** comparable to him.””* Genesis 2:18 NKJV
- 3) Y’shua describes the Holy Spirit as the Helper: *“But **when the Helper comes**, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, **He [She]** will testify of Me.”* John 15:26 NKJV

## (2) A Step Back: Creation is Groaning

- (a) We’ve previously established that creation is suffering the immense cost for human sin!
  1. “For we know that the whole **creation groans [together] and labors** with birth pangs together until now.” Romans 8:22 NKJV
  2. Mankind is the guilty party...

- a) Man's pointless behavior subjected all of creation to a fruitless penalty, resulting in an ongoing systemic deterioration, from which now it awaits eagerly to be restored.
- b) Creation was an innocent victim and played no role in its own demise.
- c) The entirety of creation is currently participating in a common calamity—a mutual experience of chaos and decay.
- d) If it could speak it would echo the words of the Preacher:
  - 1) *"The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: **"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."** What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?"*  
Ecclesiastes 1:1-3 NIV
- e) As such, creation is in utter anticipation like an expectant mother, at the peak of labor, to whom the birth of her child is imminent.
- f) Imagine the deep inarticulate sounds she makes at the very height of her contractions, as her child passes into the birth canal and begins to emerge,

and then multiply those guttural sounds by the size of the universe.

g) Do that and you might just begin to personify what creation is experiencing.

1) *"For the earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits** for the revealing of the sons of God."* Romans 8:19 NKJV

## WE GROAN

### 2. The Church Groans

#### A. We too are eagerly waiting. For what?

(1) The the ultimate expression of our adoption!

(a) Those animated by the Holy Spirit...

1. "Not only that, but **we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves **groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption**, the **redemption of our body**." Romans 8:23 NKJV

2. It's not only creation that is eagerly waiting, we are groaning with creation!

a) It is not just creation standing by, anxiously optimistic that the birth of something new is at hand—the rebirth!

- 1) Mankind is also experiencing the same type of labor pains, but only those who are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 2) All others aren't even aware that they are pregnant.
- b) God's people should be equally expectant, optimistically desperate for this new creation (re-creation, restored creation) to arrive.
  - 1) As previously explored, it is literally our responsibility to make it happen.
  - 2) That for which God's people anxiously labor goes beyond the restoration of broken creation.
- c) What comes afterwards is the ultimate expression for why God adopted us into His family—the receipt of our new permanent, immortal, incorruptible, glorified bodies.
  - 1) *"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but **you received the Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father.""*  
Romans 8:15 NKJV (See: [Hand-Picked Orphans](#))
  - 2) *"So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is **raised in incorruption**. 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**. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. [53] For this corruptible must **put on incorruption**, and this mortal must **put on immortality**. So when this corruptible has **put on incorruption**, and this mortal has **put on immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “**Death is swallowed up in victory.**”” I Corinthians 15:42-44, 53-54 NKJV*

### 3) The Spirit of Adoption

- a) Sown in corruption: Raised in incorruption.
- b) Sown in dishonor: Raised in glory.
- c) Sown in weakness: Raised in power.
- d) A natural body is raised a spiritual body.
- e) The corruptible puts on incorruption.
- f) The mortal puts on immortality.

## (2) Hope

- (a) In that which you cannot see!

1. “**For we were saved in this hope**, but **hope that is seen is not hope**; for **why does one still hope for what he sees?** But if we hope for what we do not see,

we **eagerly wait for it with perseverance.**" Romans  
8:24-25 NKJV

2. Sight is the object of your eyes; Vision is the object of your hope.
  - a) The receipt of our new permanent, immortal, incorruptible, glorified bodies, and subsequently our marriage to Christ, is the ultimate outcome of the entire redemptive story of mankind.
    - 1) It is why the Father sent His Son to save us.
    - 2) It is literally the only reason we have hope.
  - b) At times it is judicious to state the obvious, because the obvious sometimes has hidden layers below the surface of what is so apparent.
    - 1) If these prophetic events (the restoration of creation and receipt of our glorified bodies) had taken place already, then we could not use hope to describe how we feel about them.
  - c) No one hopes for something to happen if it already happened.
    - 1) *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the **evidence of things not seen.**"* Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

d) We might revel in the outcome, like a mother nursing her child born minutes ago. But we wouldn't feel the emotions emanating from the hope that the birth that already occurred would be without complications.

1) Rather, these intense emotions of hope that we feel, at this very moment, are because we are still waiting—we still have work to do!

2) And that is where persistent resolve enters.

e) Five reasons to demonstrate persistent resolve:

1) **Testing:** It's all a test. God's promises come with a test to see what is really in your heart. *"Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers. And you shall remember that the Lord your **God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.**"*

Deuteronomy 8:1-2 NKJV



- 2) **Trust:** Learn to trust. Your job is to trust God no matter what: *“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**”* 1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV
- 3) **Character:** Build your character. God wants to strengthen your character so you never lose hope: *“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that **tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**”* Romans 5:3-5 NKJV
- 4) **Humility:** Practice humility. At crucial times you must be humble enough to admit to yourself you’ve made an error and that it’s time to change course! *“He who **covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.**”* Proverbs 28:13 NKJV

*“The humble **He guides in justice**, And the humble **He teaches His way**.” Psalms 25:9 NKJV*

- 5) **Patience:** Be patient. Things take time. Even if you’ve done everything right, things won’t always happen on your preferred timetable.

*“The end of a thing is better than its beginning; **The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit**.” Ecclesiastes 7:8 NKJV “**Whoever is patient has great understanding**, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.” Proverbs 14:29 NIV*

(3) Persistent Resolve (AKA **perseverance**)

- (a) If these things abound you will bear fruit!

1. “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue**, to **virtue knowledge**, to **knowledge self-control**, to **self-control perseverance**, to **perseverance godliness**, to **godliness brotherly kindness**, and to **brotherly kindness love**. For **if these things are yours and abound**, you will be **neither barren nor unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” II Peter 1:5-8 NKJV
2. No matter what it looks like right now, even when it appears that what we anticipate is impossible, we

can be one hundred percent assured it is certain to happen. The fruit is just around the bend!

- a) The Lord is directing our steps: *"A man's heart plans his way, **But the Lord directs his steps.**"*  
Proverbs 16:9 NKJV
- b) These are God's steps to practice your faith. Your faith as a Christian **MUST BE** the foundation of every decision you make, every conflict you wish to reconcile, and every problem you wish to solve!
- c) Add to your faith...
  - 1) **Virtue:** You must seek the voice of God first to know His heart on any matter!
  - 2) **Knowledge:** Once God tells you what to do, you must fill in any gap in knowledge you may have that might prevent God's desired outcome. Seek advice, information, council, and wisdom before you take action.
  - 3) **Self-control:** Once you know what to do and how to do it, don't just think about it; **DO IT!**
  - 4) **Perseverance:** If you are doing what the Lord has instructed you to do, then keep doing it as long as it takes to achieve what God has directed. Sometimes your actions are meant to

be permanent; sometimes it takes more time than you expect; sometimes you are being tested; sometimes a delay is a character-building exercise; and sometimes you've made a mistake by not starting with your faith in mind, or at any step between Virtue and Self-control. You must be humble enough to correct your error and change course.

- 5) **Godliness:** Pursue wholistic alignment with God's will by practicing your faith (from Virtue to Perseverance) in every area of life. Godliness is not perfection, but the pursuit of perfection.
  - 6) **Brotherly kindness:** Naturally, a fruitful balanced life becomes a powerful ministry to others. You cannot pass on what you don't own.
  - 7) **Love:** God is love (I Jn. 4:8, 16). Love is the bond of perfection (Col. 3:14). It is His divine nature (II Pt. 1:4) and the high calling (Phil. 3:12-14)—to be like Christ. We share the fullness and stature and image of Christ with others (Eph. 4:13). We think with the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16).
- d) To Love perfectly is to be like Christ!

- 1) *"He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. **God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God,** and God in him."* I John 4:8, 16 NKJV
- 2) *"But above all these things put on **love, which is the bond of perfection.**"* Colossians 3:14 NKJV
- 3) *"by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."* II Peter 1:4 NKJV
- 4) *"Not that I have already attained, or am already **perfected**; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, **I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**"* Philippians 3:12-14 NKJV

- 5) *"till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**"* Ephesians 4:13 NKJV
- 6) *"For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But **we have the mind of Christ.**"* I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV

## SHE GROANS

### 3. The Holy Spirit Groans

#### A. The Mind and Will of God

##### (1) Intercession

##### (a) If you have no words...

1. **"Likewise the Spirit** also helps in our weaknesses. For **we do not know what we should pray for** as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself makes intercession** for us with groanings which **cannot be uttered.**" Romans 8:26 NKJV
2. We are not laboring alone.
  - a) The Holy Spirit is interceding on our behalf, as if the Holy Spirit is in labor with us.
  - b) When we are too exhausted to keep pushing, so emptied of strength that we can't make another

peep, those deep inarticulate sounds continue to pour forth from our weakness.

- 1) *"And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **My strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**"* II

Corinthians 12:9-10 NKJV

- c) When you have no strength to utter a sound, sounds emanate from the Holy Spirit within us, powerful sounds that couldn't possibly come from anything human.

## (2) The Spirit Himself?

- (a) Earlier we learned that the Holy Spirit is the feminine part of the Divine Family. Here are the teachings of Christ likening the Holy Spirit to the helper as we see with Eve in the Garden. *I will make him **a helper** comparable to him.* (Genesis 2:18)

1. *"And I will pray the Father, and **He will give you another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever*

— **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:16-18 NKJV

2. ““These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send** in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:25-26 NKJV
3. “But **when the Helper comes**, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” John 15:26 NKJV
4. “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. [12] “I still have many things to



say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, **when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.**“ John 16:7-14 NKJV

5. Why a Him?
  - a) From the Hebrew Scriptures, the Ruach (Spirit) is feminine.
  - b) Eve was the wife and helper (female) in the human family—the image of the divine family in the earth.
  - c) Yet, 18 time in the verses above, She is described as a He. I believe it is consistent to consider that the original intent should be used here when reading these passages.
6. Holy Spirit attributes that help us understand what Paul means when he writes, *“when we do not know what to pray for, the Spirit steps in and speaks for you!”*
  - a) The Spirit will guide you into all truth.
  - b) The Spirit will not speak from self appointed authority.

- c) The Spirit speaks precisely what God says to speak, hears it from Y'shua and passes it on to you.
7. When we understand better that it is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to inform us of God's will, even when our human brains lack understanding and direction, you will better understand the role of a wife in her husband's life. A woman is pure Spirit as she possesses only female DNA, whereas a man has only half Female DNA. If a man does not dwell with his wife with proper understanding, most often it will PREVENT him from hearing God's voice on a matter! Men, if the foundation is faith and the first step is to hear God's voice, to know His heart and mind, then be attentive to your wives!
- a) *"Husbands, likewise, **dwell with them [wives] with understanding**, giving honor to the wife, as to the **weaker vessel [more sensitive to the Spirit]**, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your **prayers may not be hindered [so you won't miss God's voice]**." I Peter 3:7 NKJV*
  - (b) Like the Holy Spirit, neither does Y'shua speak on His own authority!

1. "Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do;** for whatever **He does**, the Son also does in like manner."  
John 5:19 NKJV
2. "'I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. **I have come in My Father's name**, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. **How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?** Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?'" John 5:41-47 NKJV
3. "Jesus answered them and said, "**My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.** If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. **He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who**

**sent Him is true**, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?" John 7:16-19 NKJV

(3) Knowing the Mind of God

(a) Knowing the Will of God

1. **"Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."** Romans 8:27 NKJV

2. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to do the Father's bidding.

- a) Never will the Spirit take action or speak a word beyond the Father's instructions.
- b) Can you wrap your mind around the magnitude of this?
- c) The Holy Spirit knows precisely what God wants to say and speaks those very words on your behalf.
- d) And what is even more outrageous is that it happens through your mouth!
- e) The very thing that is on God's heart in the moment, the top priority in His mind, flows from your lips.

- f) You are speaking the mind of God.
- g) There is nothing in the universe that can inspire more hope than that!

## **B. The Mind of God**

### (1) Searching Hearts

#### (a) He knows!

1. "**Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is**, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:27 NKJV
2. Knowing the heart of God is knowing the mind of God
  - a) In eastern cultures (Hebrew/Israel/Middle East), the mind is what from the western worldview is spoken of as the heart.
    - 1) "*For as he **thinks in his heart**, so is he.*" Proverbs 23:7a NKJV
    - 2) "*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the **thoughts and intents of the heart.***" Hebrews 4:12 NKJV

3) *"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For **out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**"* Luke 6:45 NKJV

(2) Knowing God's heart requires honest introspection about what's in your own heart!

(a) Before, After and Because of...

1. **[Before the Free Gift of Faith]** *"**The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?**"* Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV

2. **[After the Free Gift of Faith]** *"O Lord, You have searched me and known me. [24] **Search me, O God, and know my heart;** Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."* Psalms 139:1, 23-24 NKJV (Recommend: Read all of Psalm 139)

3. **[Because of the Free Gift of Faith]** *"**Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**"* Psalms 37:4 NKJV

(3) This is why knowing the mind of God is the most important first step to make any decision and to solve any problem.

(a) As a Christian you must add to the FREE gift of faith (that saved you by His grace) the PRACTICE of your faith (that sanctifies you by accessing His grace)!

1. **[FIRST STEP]** *"But also for this very reason, **giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,**" II Peter 1:5 NKJV*
2. **[FREE]** *"For **by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works,** lest anyone should boast. **[PRACTICE]** For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared beforehand **that we should walk in them.**" Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV*
3. **[FREE]** *"Therefore, having been **justified by faith,** we have peace with God **through our Lord Jesus Christ, [PRACTICE]** through whom **also we have access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV*
  - a) To be virtuous according to God would be to seek His heart, His voice, His mind, His choice, His advice FIRST—about EVERYTHING!

(4) Practicing the Mind of Christ!

(a) Now you have a choice!

1. *"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**"*  
I Corinthians 2:11-12 NKJV
2. *"casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." II Corinthians 10:5-6 NKJV*
3. *"And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2 NKJV*
4. *"Let **no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth**, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace** to the hearers. And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit** of God, by whom you were sealed for **the day of redemption.**" Ephesians 4:29-30 NKJV*



5. *"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**"*  
I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV
6. The Mind of Christ
- a) *"**Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is...**"* Romans 8:27
  - b) The Spirit never speaks a word that did not originate from the **Father's heart, His mind**—which might be **the perfect definition of God's will.**
  - c) But what is most extraordinary is that these unintelligible, inarticulate sounds; deep guttural groans happen through your mouth!
  - d) And that means what is **coming forth from your very lips is the mind of God.**

### **C. The Will of God**

- (1) If you don't know what to pray...
- (a) The Spirit prays the will of God through you!
    - 1. *"Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints **according to the will of God.**"* Romans 8:27 NKJV
    - a) *"the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For **we do not know what we should pray** for as we ought,*

*but **the Spirit** Himself **makes intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Romans 8:26 NKJV*

(2) When you can pray!

(a) Pray NON-STOP—for this is the will of God!

1. “Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, in everything give thanks; for **this is the will of God** in Christ Jesus for you.” I Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV

2. **Rejoice always:**

a) Reflect joy, a state of happiness that exists independent of current circumstances (AKA Contentment).

1) You have contentment in all areas of life because you have inner peace that is generated by your continual satisfaction that stems from your relationship with God.

2) “*Now godliness with contentment is great gain.*” I Timothy 6:6 NKJV

b) **Pray without ceasing:** exist in a constant state of reflection on the things of God—the mind of God.

1) “*But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue**...*” II Peter 1:5 NKJV

- 2) Ask at all times, "What does God think about this?"
  - 3) You can know the answer because... **"We have the mind of Christ."** I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV
- c) **Give thanks for everything:** God is always good and can always be trusted, even when things seem to be going wrong.
- 1) *"Let your gentleness be known to all men. **The Lord is at hand.** Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything** by **prayer** and **supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, let your **requests** be made known to God; and **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**"* Philippians 4:5-7 NKJV
  - 2) The secret to a life of joy is prayer and petition to the only One who can satisfy your true needs.
  - 3) Do this while openly thanking God no matter what, and watch you fears and anxieties transform into peace and joy.
- d) Here's the way it works...
- 1) The Lord is instantly available to you!

- 2) You have ZERO reason for anxiety, but if you begin to feel overwhelmed—pray with intense desire as if your life depends on it; thank God for everything, even the very trial that is igniting the need for prayer; and then be clear with the Lord what it is you need.
- 3) Once that is dialed in, and you hit the exact request, a peace will overcome you that terminates the anxiety that was building!
- 4) You won't understand it with your intellect, but that is not required, nor recommended!

(3) Living in the will of God!

(a) Not everyone who CLAIMS to be following the will of God is authentic...

1. ""Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.** Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**'" Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

(b) You can tell by observing what they practice...

1. **““Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words **and puts them into practice**, I will show you what they are like.” Luke 6:46-47 NIV**
  2. **“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that **we keep His commandments**. And His commandments are **not burdensome**.” I John 5:2-3 NKJV**
- (c) Know God’s law; Pray God’s will; Discern God’s priorities; Hear God’s voice; Live God’s purity; Choose God’s plan; Deny your flesh; for this is God’s will—your sanctification.
1. **Instructed out of the law:** “Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, and **know His will**, and approve the things that are excellent, **being instructed out of the law,**” Romans 2:17-18 NKJV
  2. **A renewed mind not conformed to the world:** “And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and **perfect will of God**.” Romans 12:2 NKJV

3. **Pray according to His will, not your own:** "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, **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 the petitions that we have asked of Him." I John 5:14-15 NKJV
  - a) He already knows; you're asking Him so you recognize what you need. And if your are off He will not grant your request, so you have no need to beg—CHANGE YOUR REQUEST!
4. **Never doubt you will hear His voice:** "**My sheep hear My voice**, and I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27 NKJV
5. **Choose God's plan over your own!** "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless **not My will, but Yours, be done.**" Luke 22:42 NKJV
6. **Deny your flesh!** "Where do wars and fights come from among you? **Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?** You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet **you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on**

**your pleasures.** Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, **“The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?**“ James 4:1-5 NKJV

(d) God's will is your sanctification!

1. **Be holy:** Flee from sexual immorality; be the master of your own body; don't live like a Gentile: "For **this is the will of God, your sanctification:** that you should **abstain from sexual immorality;** that each of you should **know how to possess his own vessel** in sanctification and honor, **not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles** who do not know God;" I Thessalonians 4:3-5 NKJV

2. This is God's business model.

- a) Sanctification: the action of making or declaring something holy; the action or process of being freed from sin or purified.
- b) Holy: set-apart, separated, different from the world!
- c) This is what it looks like practically:

- 1) **“Do not love the world or the things in the world.** *If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”* 1 John 2:15-17 NKJV
- 2) *“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. **For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.** For it is written, **“He catches the wise in their own craftiness”**; and again, **“The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”**”* 1 Corinthians 3:18-20 NKJV
- d) **Your sanctification process:** As a Christian you must add to the **FREE gift of faith** (that saved you by His grace) **the PRACTICE of your faith** (that sanctifies you by accessing His grace)! How?
- e) Practice your faith by adding to your faith...
  - 1) **Virtue:** You must seek the voice of God first to know His heart on any matter!



- 2) **Knowledge:** Once God tells you what to do, you must fill in any gap in knowledge you may have that might prevent God's desired outcome. Seek advice, information, council, and wisdom before you take action.
- 3) **Self-control:** Once you know what to do and how to do it, don't just think about it; DO IT!
- 4) **Perseverance:** If you are doing what the Lord has instructed you to do, then keep doing it as long as it takes to achieve what God has directed. Sometimes your actions are meant to be permanent; sometimes it takes more time than you expect; sometimes you are being tested; sometimes a delay is a character-building exercise; and sometimes you've made a mistake by not starting with your faith in mind, or at any step between Virtue and Self-control. You must be humble enough to correct your error and change course.
- 5) **Godliness:** Pursue wholistic alignment with God's will by practicing your faith (from Virtue to Perseverance) in every area of life. Godliness is not perfection, but the pursuit of perfection.

- 6) **Brotherly kindness:** Naturally, a fruitful balanced life becomes a powerful ministry to others. You cannot pass on what you don't own.
- 7) **Love:** God is love (I Jn. 4:8, 16). Love is the bond of perfection (Col. 3:14). It is His divine nature (II Pt. 1:4) and the high calling (Phil. 3:12-14)—to be like Christ. We share the fullness and stature and image of Christ with others (Eph. 4:13). We think with the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16).

## **Summary: IT GROANS**

### **1. Creation Groans**

#### **A. Groans, Groans, Groans**

(1) It Groans, We Groan, She Groans

(a) All of Creation, the Church, and the Holy Spirit

1. It (Creation) Groans

a) All of creation groans together: to moan jointly; to experience a common calamity; to lament.

2. We (the Church) Groan

- a) Christians express grief, anger, or desire; to feel pressure from what is coming on, which can be intensely pleasant or anguishing (depending on the context).

### 3. She (the Holy Spirit) Groans

- a) The Spirit is moaning, sighing, expressing with emotions, too deep for words, over what is coming!
- b) Why She? The Holy Spirit when described in the Old Testament is done so always with feminine attributes. (The Hebrew word is ruach: breath, wind, Spirit. Part of Speech: Noun Feminine)
  - 1) It makes sense as the human family (father, mother, child) is the expressed image of God in the earth (Father—masculine, Spirit—feminine, Son—masculine).
  - 2) Eve was drawn from Adam as the helper:
  - 3) Y'shua describes the Holy Spirit as the Helper:

### (2) A Step Back: Creation is Groaning

- (a) We've previously established that creation is suffering the immense cost for human sin!
  - 1. Mankind is the guilty party...

- a) Man's pointless behavior subjected all of creation to a fruitless penalty, resulting in an ongoing systemic deterioration, from which now it awaits eagerly to be restored.
- b) Creation was an innocent victim and played no role in its own demise.
- c) The entirety of creation is currently participating in a common calamity—a mutual experience of chaos and decay.
- d) If it could speak it would echo the words of the Preacher: ***“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”***
- e) As such, creation is in utter anticipation like an expectant mother, at the peak of labor, to whom the birth of her child is imminent.
- f) Imagine the deep inarticulate sounds she makes at the very height of her contractions, as her child passes into the birth canal and begins to emerge, and then multiply those guttural sounds by the size of the universe.
- g) Do that and you might just begin to personify what creation is experiencing.

**Summary: WE GROAN**

## **2. The Church Groans**

### **A. We too are eagerly waiting. For what?**

(1) The the ultimate expression of our adoption!

(a) Those animated by the Holy Spirit...

1. It's not only creation that is eagerly waiting, we are groaning with creation!

a) It is not just creation standing by, anxiously optimistic that the birth of something new is at hand—the rebirth!

1) Mankind is also experiencing the same type of labor pains, but only those who are filled with the Holy Spirit.

2) All others aren't even aware that they are pregnant.

b) God's people should be equally expectant, optimistically desperate for this new creation (re-creation, restored creation) to arrive.

1) As previously explored, it is literally our responsibility to make it happen.

2) That for which God's people anxiously labor goes beyond the restoration of broken creation.

c) What comes afterwards is the ultimate expression for why God adopted us into His family—the receipt of our new permanent, immortal, incorruptible, glorified bodies.

1) The Spirit of Adoption

- a) Sown in corruption: Raised in incorruption.
- b) Sown in dishonor: Raised in glory.
- c) Sown in weakness: Raised in power.
- d) A natural body is raised a spiritual body.
- e) The corruptible puts on incorruption.
- f) The mortal puts on immortality.

(2) Hope

(a) In that which you cannot see!

1. Sight is the object of your eyes; Vision is the object of your hope.

a) The receipt of our new permanent, immortal, incorruptible, glorified bodies, and subsequently our marriage to Christ, is the ultimate outcome of the entire redemptive story of mankind.

1) It is why the Father sent His Son to save us.

2) It is literally the only reason we have hope.

- b) At times it is judicious to state the obvious, because the obvious sometimes has hidden layers below the surface of what is so apparent.
  - 1) If these prophetic events (the restoration of creation and receipt of our glorified bodies) had taken place already, then we could not use hope to describe how we feel about them.
- c) No one hopes for something to happen if it already happened.
- d) We might revel in the outcome, like a mother nursing her child born minutes ago. But we wouldn't feel the emotions emanating from the hope that the birth that already occurred would be without complications.
  - 1) Rather, these intense emotions of hope that we feel, at this very moment, are because we are still waiting—we still have work to do!
  - 2) And that is where persistent resolve enters.
- e) Five reasons to demonstrate persistent resolve:
  - 1) **Testing:** It's all a test. God's promises come with a test to see what is really in your heart.
  - 2) **Trust:** Learn to trust. Your job is to trust God no matter what:

- 3) **Character:** Build your character. God wants to strengthen your character so you never lose hope:
- 4) **Humility:** Practice humility. At crucial times you must be humble enough to admit to yourself you've made an error and that it's time to change course!
- 5) **Patience:** Be patient. Things take time. Even if you've done everything right, things won't always happen on your preferred timetable.

(3) Persistent Resolve (AKA ***perseverance***)

- (a) If these things abound you will bear fruit!
  1. No matter what it looks like right now, even when it appears that what we anticipate is impossible, we can be one hundred percent assured it is certain to happen. The fruit is just around the bend!
    - a) The Lord is directing our steps:
    - b) These are God's steps to practice your faith. Your faith as a Christian **MUST BE** the foundation of every decision you make, every conflict you wish to reconcile, and every problem you wish to solve!
    - c) Add to your faith...



- 1) **Virtue:** You must seek the voice of God first to know His heart on any matter!
- 2) **Knowledge:** Once God tells you what to do, you must fill in any gap in knowledge you may have that might prevent God's desired outcome. Seek advice, information, council, and wisdom before you take action.
- 3) **Self-control:** Once you know what to do and how to do it, don't just think about it; DO IT!
- 4) **Perseverance:** If you are doing what the Lord has instructed you to do, then keep doing it as long as it takes to achieve what God has directed. Sometimes your actions are meant to be permanent; sometimes it takes more time than you expect; sometimes you are being tested; sometimes a delay is a character-building exercise; and sometimes you've made a mistake by not starting with your faith in mind, or at any step between Virtue and Self-control. You must be humble enough to correct your error and change course.
- 5) **Godliness:** Pursue wholistic alignment with God's will by practicing your faith (from Virtue

to Perseverance) in every area of life. Godliness is not perfection, but the pursuit of perfection.

- 6) **Brotherly kindness:** Naturally, a fruitful balanced life becomes a powerful ministry to others. You cannot pass on what you don't own.
- 7) **Love:** God is love (I Jn. 4:8, 16). Love is the bond of perfection (Col. 3:14). It is His divine nature (II Pt. 1:4) and the high calling (Phil. 3:12-14)—to be like Christ. We share the fullness and stature and image of Christ with others (Eph. 4:13). We think with the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16).

d) To Love perfectly is to be like Christ!

**Summary:** SHE GROANS

### **3. The Holy Spirit Groans**

#### **A. The Mind and Will of God**

(1) Intercession

(a) If you have no words...

1. We are not laboring alone.

a) The Holy Spirit is interceding on our behalf, as if the Holy Spirit is in labor with us.

- b) When we are too exhausted to keep pushing, so emptied of strength that we can't make another peep, those deep inarticulate sounds continue to pour forth from our weakness.
- c) When you have no strength to utter a sound, sounds emanate from the Holy Spirit within us, powerful sounds that couldn't possibly come from anything human.

## (2) The Spirit Himself?

- (a) Earlier we learned that the Holy Spirit is the feminine part of the Divine Family. Here are the teachings of Christ likening the Holy Spirit to the helper as we see with Eve in the Garden.

### 1. Why a Him?

- a) From the Hebrew Scriptures, the Ruach (Spirit) is feminine.
- b) Eve was the wife and helper (female) in the human family—the image of the divine family in the earth.
- c) Yet, 18 time in the verses above, She is described as a He. I believe it is consistent to consider that the original intent should be used here when reading these passages.

2. Holy Spirit attributes that help us understand what Paul means when he writes, *“when we do not know what to pray for, the Spirit steps in and speaks for you!”*
  - a) The Spirit will guide you into all truth.
  - b) The Spirit will not speak from self appointed authority.
  - c) The Spirit speaks precisely what God says to speak, hears it from Y’shua and passes it on to you.
3. When we understand better that it is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to inform us of God’s will, even when our human brains lack understanding and direction, you will better understand the role of a wife in her husband’s life. A woman is pure Spirit as she possesses only female DNA, whereas a man has only half Female DNA. If a man does not dwell with his wife with proper understanding, most often it will PREVENT him from hearing God’s voice on a matter! Men, if the foundation is faith and the first step is to hear God’s voice, to know His heart and mind, then be attentive to your wives!
- (b) Like the Holy Spirit, neither does Y’shua speak on His own authority!

### (3) Knowing the Mind of God

#### (a) Knowing the Will of God

1. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to do the Father's bidding.
  - a) Never will the Spirit take action or speak a word beyond the Father's instructions.
  - b) Can you wrap your mind around the magnitude of this?
  - c) The Holy Spirit knows precisely what God wants to say and speaks those very words on your behalf.
  - d) And what is even more outrageous is that it happens through your mouth!
  - e) The very thing that is on God's heart in the moment, the top priority in His mind, flows from your lips.
  - f) You are speaking the mind of God.
  - g) There is nothing in the universe that can inspire more hope than that!

### **B. The Mind of God**

#### (1) Searching Hearts

##### (a) He knows!

1. Knowing the heart of God is knowing the mind of God

- a) In eastern cultures (Hebrew/Israel/Middle East), the mind is what from the western worldview is spoken of as the heart.
- (2) Knowing God's heart requires honest introspection about what's in your own heart!
  - (a) Before, After and Because of...
    - 1. **[Before the Free Gift of Faith]** *The heart is deceitful.*
    - 2. **[After the Free Gift of Faith]** *Search me, O God, and know my heart.*
    - 3. **[Because of the Free Gift of Faith]** *He shall give you the desires of your heart.*
- (3) This is why knowing the mind of God is the most important first step to make any decision and to solve any problem.
  - (a) As a Christian you must add to the FREE gift of faith (that saved you by His grace) the PRACTICE of your faith (that sanctifies you by accessing His grace)!
    - 1. To be virtuous according to God would be to seek His heart, His voice, His mind, His choice, His advice FIRST—about EVERYTHING!
- (4) Practicing the Mind of Christ!
  - (a) Now you have a choice!
    - 1. The Mind of Christ

- a) The Spirit never speaks a word that did not originate from the **Father's heart, His mind**—which might be **the perfect definition of God's will**.
- b) But what is most extraordinary is that these unintelligible, inarticulate sounds; deep guttural groans happen through your mouth!
- c) And that means what is **coming forth from your very lips is the mind of God**.

### **C. The Will of God**

(1) If you don't know what to pray...

(a) The Spirit prays the will of God through you!

(2) When you can pray!

(a) Pray NON-STOP—for this is the will of God!

#### **1. Rejoice always:**

- a) Reflect joy, a state of happiness that exists independent of current circumstances (AKA Contentment).
  - 1) You have contentment in all areas of life because you have inner peace that is generated by your continual satisfaction that stems from your relationship with God.
- b) **Pray without ceasing:** exist in a constant state of reflection on the things of God—the mind of God.

- 1) Ask at all times, “What does God think about this?”
  - 2) You can know the answer because... ***“We have the mind of Christ.”***
- c) **Give thanks for everything:** God is always good and can always be trusted, even when things seem to be going wrong.
- 1) The secret to a life of joy is prayer and petition to the only One who can satisfy your true needs.
  - 2) Do this while openly thanking God no matter what, and watch you fears and anxieties transform into peace and joy.
- d) Here’s the way it works...
- 1) The Lord is instantly available to you!
  - 2) You have ZERO reason for anxiety, but if you begin to feel overwhelmed—pray with intense desire as if your life depends on it; thank God for everything, even the very trial that is igniting the need for prayer; and then be clear with the Lord what it is you need.
  - 3) Once that is dialed in, and you hit the exact request, a peace will overcome you that terminates the anxiety that was building!



- 4) You won't understand it with your intellect, but that is not required, nor recommended!

(3) Living in the will of God!

- (a) Not everyone who CLAIMS to be following the will of God is authentic...
- (b) You can tell by observing what they practice...
- (c) Know God's law; Pray God's will; Discern God's priorities; Hear God's voice; Live God's purity; Choose God's plan; Deny your flesh; for this is God's will—your sanctification.
  1. Instructed out of the law:
  2. A renewed mind not conformed to the world:
  3. Pray according to His will, not your own:
    - a) He already knows; you're asking Him so you recognize what you need. And if your are off He will not grant your request, so you have no need to beg—CHANGE YOUR REQUEST!
  4. Never doubt you will hear His voice:
  5. Be holy:
  6. Choose God's plan over your own!
  7. Deny your flesh!
- (d) God's will is your sanctification!
  1. This is God's business model.

- a) Sanctification: the action of making or declaring something holy; the action or process of being freed from sin or purified.
- b) Holy: set-apart, separated, different from the world!
- c) This is what it looks like practically:
  - 1) Do not love the world or the things in the world.
  - 2) For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.
- d) **Your sanctification process:** As a Christian you must add to the **FREE gift of faith** (that saved you by His grace) **the PRACTICE of your faith** (that sanctifies you by accessing His grace)! How?
- e) Practice your faith by adding to your faith...
  - 1) **Virtue:** You must seek the voice of God first to know His heart on any matter!
  - 2) **Knowledge:** Once God tells you what to do, you must fill in any gap in knowledge you may have that might prevent God's desired outcome. Seek advice, information, council, and wisdom before you take action.
  - 3) **Self-control:** Once you know what to do and how to do it, don't just think about it; DO IT!

- 4) **Perseverance:** If you are doing what the Lord has instructed you to do, then keep doing it as long as it takes to achieve what God has directed. Sometimes your actions are meant to be permanent; sometimes it takes more time than you expect; sometimes you are being tested; sometimes a delay is a character-building exercise; and sometimes you've made a mistake by not starting with your faith in mind, or at any step between Virtue and Self-control. You must be humble enough to correct your error and change course.
- 5) **Godliness:** Pursue wholistic alignment with God's will by practicing your faith (from Virtue to Perseverance) in every area of life. Godliness is not perfection, but the pursuit of perfection.
- 6) **Brotherly kindness:** Naturally, a fruitful balanced life becomes a powerful ministry to others. You cannot pass on what you don't own.
- 7) **Love:** God is love (I Jn. 4:8, 16). Love is the bond of perfection (Col. 3:14). It is His divine nature (II Pt. 1:4) and the high calling (Phil. 3:12-14)—to be like Christ. We share the

fullness and stature and image of Christ with others (Eph. 4:13). We think with the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16).

## **QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

**1. Why might the words of the son of David in Ecclesiastes 1:1-3 be fitting to describe what creation is experiencing in Romans 8:18-22?**

A. What does it mean that creation is groaning like a woman in labor?

**2. What is it that mankind is groaning for in Romans 8:23?**

A. How does that go even further than for what creation is groaning? (See: I Corinthians 15:42-44, 53-54)

**3. Describe what we are hoping for in Romans 8:24-25.**

A. Why would it be inappropriate to describe it as hope if it had already occurred?

B. How does hope compare to faith in Hebrews 11:1?

**4. Name five reasons to demonstrate persistent resolve.**

A. Use the following to help. (Deuteronomy 8:1-2; I Corinthians 10:13; Romans 5:3-5; Proverbs 28:13; Psalms 25:9; Ecclesiastes 7:8; Proverbs 14:29)

**5. Use II Peter 1:5-8 to demonstrate how *"A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps."* (Proverbs 16:9)**

- A. What are the seven steps directed by the Lord?
- B. What does each mean? (Refer to sermon note for help).
- C. What does it mean that "to love perfectly is to be like Christ?"  
(See: I John 4:8, 16; Colossians 3:14; II Peter 1:4; Philipppians 3:12-14; Ephesians 4:13; I Corinthians 2:16)

**6. In Romans 8:26 we see that the Holy Spirit will speak for us, about us, and through us when we are at a loss for words.**

- A. How is this associated with II Corinthians 12:9-10?
- B. We learn that the Holy Spirit will only ever speak precisely what God says to speak. (See: John 14:16-18; 14:25-26; 15:26; 16:7-14) What does that say about what is coming out of your mouth in Romans 8:26?
- C. How does the ministry of the Holy Spirit relate to the ministry of a wife to her husband in I Peter 3:7? (See sermon notes for help!)
- D. What does Y'shua and the Holy Spirit have in common regarding what they say and do? (See: John 5:19; 5:41-47; 7:16-19)

**7. Why can we be confident that according to Romans 8:27, when the Holy Spirit is speaking through us, we are literally declaring what is on God's mind?**

- A. How is the will of God related to what comes forth through your mouth when you are praying in the Spirit?
  - B. Use the following passages to describe the will of God in detail. (See: I Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philipppians 4:5-7; Romans 2:17-18; 12:2; I John 5:14-15; John 10:27; I Thessalonians 4:3-5; Luke 22:42; James 4:1-5; I Thessalonians 4:3-5; I John 2:15-17; I Corinthians 3:18-20)
  - C. Consider the following in your answer: Know God's law; Pray God's will; Discern God's priorities; Hear God's voice; Live God's purity; Choose God's plan; Deny your flesh; for this is God's will—your sanctification.
- 8. Compare the free gift of faith with the practice of faith using Ephesians 2:8-10 and Romans 5:1-2.**
- 9. As a Christian you must add to the FREE gift of faith (that saved you by His grace) the PRACTICE of your faith (that sanctifies you by accessing His grace)!**
- A. Use II Peter 1:5-8 to explain how to practice your faith.
  - B. Describe each step in detail. (Use the sermon notes to help.)
  - C. How can the following passages help you? (See: Romans 12:2; I Corinthians 2:11-12; II Corinthians 10:5-6; Ephesians 4:29-30; I Corinthians 2:16)

**10. Knowing what is on God's heart (in His mind) is always the first step. And knowing God's heart requires honest introspection about what's in your own heart!**

A. What does Jeremiah 17:9; Psalms 139; and Psalms 37:4 teach us about a man's heart:

- 1) before the free gift of faith?
- 2) after the free gift of faith?
- 3) because of the free gift of Faith?

**11. Not everyone who CLAIMS to be following the will of God is authentic...**

A. How can you tell if a man's faith is real? (See: Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46-47; I John 5:2-3)