



DAY 1 ROMANS 8:18-27

1

As I write this, I am sitting in a hospital chair watching over my husband as he lies in physical pain. I am in a constant holding pattern as I await the latest test results, vital signs, and doctor notes. Hard as I try, I can think of no Earthly reason for his suffering. But as I read Romans 8:18-27, I am reminded we are not always meant to immediately understand the glory that comes from pain. We can find comfort knowing that, in the waiting, the Holy Spirit is present to help in our weakness. He intercedes for us when we are too distraught and confused to form our own words of prayer. He helps transform our outlook and eases suffering by showing us pain's purpose. We can also have peace in the realization that pain has an expiration date. Glory awaits all those who call upon the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. This we know!

DAY 2 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-18

2

Doesn't it feel like this winter will never end? The sun peaks out to shine for a day or two and then we get blasted with another storm or cold front. This year Seasonal Affective Disorder cases are the highest on record with no end in sight. Will we ever see spring? In this passage, Paul reminds us that hope is found in Christ. God gives us power and perspective for each day. He energizes us when it seems there is no way we could make it through another minute. He warms our souls with the promise of eternal glory. When we fix our eyes upon the Lord, He comes to us in the darkest times. Remember there is an endgame to all grief - suffering never has the last word. Jesus' resurrection ensures our sorrow will turn into joy. Close your eyes and envision the moment when you will rise to meet your Savior!

DAY 3 ROMANS 8:31-39

3

Have you ever tried to grasp the concept of infinity? It is impossible to comprehend because our minds are finite; everything in this world has an end. In like, the idea of unconditional love is difficult to understand because we do not have the power of pure love. But, we do have God's word to help us become more aware and teach us what unconditional love looks like. This passage illustrates the everlasting love God has for us. Even at our lowest moment, we can have great confidence knowing the troubles we face today will end someday. Moreover, there is no separation from God in this world! Even in times where we cannot feel His presence, or we are not walking with Him, He is there. Because of His unwavering love, we know we are more than conquerors of all temporal pain and anxiety!

DAY JOHN 14:15-31

4

The Apostles did not know this would be the last time they would dine with Jesus in His human form. In fact, they anticipated the future with Him ruling from a throne on this Earth. No doubt confusion flooded their minds when Jesus spoke these words at The Last Supper. “Why was Jesus leaving them? Where was He going?” Knowing the events over the next three days would answer their questions, He did not give a direct answer about where He was going. Instead, He gave the Holy Spirit as a substitute for Himself. And the good news for us is He gifted the Spirit not only to them, but to all future believers. When Jesus left Earth, He left us a teammate. One He claimed would be better than if He were here in the flesh. The Holy Spirit is our living hope! When we welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives, we are overcome by the Lord’s presence!

DAY EPHESIANS 1:18-19

5

On Good Friday, the disciples watched their friend, teacher, and Messiah die. They had dedicated themselves to following Christ, but now that dream had come to an abrupt end. They lost faith; it all seemed so final. Saturday was the darkest day - but Saturday was not the end of the story. In this passage, Paul reminds us of the power of hope! When we set our eyes on eternity, we discover God’s promise of joy without end. The disciples learned that after the glorious Resurrection. If Easter teaches us nothing else—it teaches us that God will have the final word. We may find ourselves living in the “Saturday” of darkness and despair but Sunday is coming. Look to Redemption’s Hill and reflect on the sacrifice poured out there. And let us pray that we have eyes to see what we have in Christ today, as well as what He promised in Heaven. When we see, hope carries us through.

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