

## **[Day #12] Part 1: Groaning Spoken Here**

### **Read: Romans 8:22-26**

“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*...**groan** inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies...In the same way, the *Spirit* helps us in our weakness...[interceding] for us through wordless **groans**.”

Why, in a world which has been *groaning* since being subjected to the curse, should we be surprised at the amount of groaning we earth-dwellers do?

Romans 8:22-26 describes some of the groaning going on, which extends beyond mankind to the planet, to the entire universe, and even to the Holy Spirit! The word groan in this passage (Greek “stenazo”) carries the idea of sighing, mourning, or crying out (as in anguish). It is sound rising out of deepest human pathos, an emotion so powerful one abandons words while retaining “audibles” described as moans, sighs, and groans.

We groan in sickness and in dying. We groan in brokenness and in pain. We groan in longing and in loss. We groan because we’re stuck in bodies that die a little more each day. Oh, yes, we groan, longing to finally be able to put on our perfect, eternal bodies!

That the Godhead groans is in itself staggering, putting an end to the lie from the adversary that God is disinterested and aloof. The other side of the God-that-groans “coin” – the Happy God of which author John Piper has written extensively – is somehow easier to grasp. Yet the Scriptures present both as equally true as they are mysterious.

Returning to the passage, there is a profound blessing found here that we mustn’t pass over. When the Bible states that the Holy Spirit groans, it is not a groan on human terms, most often accompanied by the rolling of eyes, a “tsk, tsk,” and a “What? Not again!”

No. The groaning of the Spirit comes out of a bottomless reservoir of compassion. This groaning transcends mere feeling and rises to the Father in the form of prayers; not just prayers, but perfect prayers, prayers personally crafted by the Holy Spirit to precisely match both our need and the Father’s will.

Only in the matrix of divine love could groaning be transformed into blessing. Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus.

## **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Read Romans 8:26

In the middle of the darkness and pain of great loss, how might the fact that God the Holy Spirit is praying for us impact us? How might this truth strengthen us?

What are some words you could use to describe how you feel knowing that God's Spirit is interceding for you in your "groaning"?

Describe a time when you sensed that the invisible hands of God were upholding you. Based on this verse, could this be due to not just the prayers of others but also of the Holy Spirit?