



5 Daily Devotionals (Based off July 19th Sermon)

Day 1: When Pain Raises Questions

Key Verse:

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." — Romans 8:18

Reflection

Pain has a way of forcing us to ask difficult questions. When illness comes, relationships break, or grief overwhelms us, we naturally wonder, *"Why is this happening?"* Even deeper, we ask, *"What is God doing?"*

Scripture never pretends suffering isn't real. Paul certainly doesn't. He acknowledges the hardships believers face while pointing us toward something greater than our present circumstances. He reminds us that today's suffering is temporary, while the glory Christ has won for us is eternal.

Our hope isn't found in pretending everything is fine. It rests in Jesus, who entered our broken world, carried our suffering, died for our sins, and rose again. Because He lives, our pain never has the final word.

Even when we don't understand God's purposes, we can trust His heart. He is still with His children, still working, and still leading us toward the day when every tear will be wiped away.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, when suffering clouds my vision, lift my eyes to Your promises. Help me trust that You are with me today and that the glory You have prepared far outweighs every trial. Amen.

Day 2: Hope That Waits

Key Verse:

"If we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." — Romans 8:25

Reflection

Waiting is one of life's hardest lessons.

We want answers now. We want healing now. We want broken relationships restored now. Yet God often teaches His children to wait—not because He has forgotten them, but because He is teaching them to trust Him.

Biblical hope is much more than wishful thinking. It is confident expectation rooted in God's promises. Our Savior has already secured forgiveness, eternal life, and the resurrection through His death and resurrection. Because those promises are certain, we can patiently endure today's hardships.

Waiting doesn't mean doing nothing. It means continuing to pray, worship, serve, and trust while God works according to His perfect wisdom.

The Lord may not remove every hardship today, but He never abandons those who belong to Him. Every day we wait is one day closer to seeing Christ face to face.

Application

What burden are you impatient to see resolved? Bring it before the Lord today, asking Him not only to change your circumstances but also to strengthen your faith while you wait.

Day 3: God Works Through Every Season

Key Verse:

"We know that for those who love God all things work together for good." — Romans 8:28

Reflection

Romans 8:28 is one of the Bible's most quoted promises—and one of its most misunderstood.

Paul does **not** say that everything is good. Cancer isn't good. Grief isn't good. Sin isn't good. Brokenness was never part of God's perfect creation.

Instead, God promises something far greater: He is able to work through every circumstance for the eternal good of His people.

Often, that "good" is different from what we expect. We may pray for comfort while God is producing perseverance. We may ask for easier circumstances while He is shaping deeper faith. Through both joys and trials, the Holy Spirit is making us more like Christ.

God's greatest purpose isn't simply making life easier; it is making His children holy and preparing them for eternity.

Because Christ has already accomplished our salvation, we can trust that even painful chapters are never wasted in His hands.

Prayer

Father, help me believe that You are working even when I cannot see it. Shape my heart through every season and make me more like Your Son. Amen.

Day 4: Chosen and Transformed

Key Verse:

"Those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son." —
Romans 8:29

Reflection

Many people quietly wonder whether they are truly wanted by God.

Romans 8 answers that fear with beautiful certainty. Before you ever sought Him, God already knew you. Before you ever earned anything, Christ chose to give His life for you.

Through Baptism and the Gospel, God calls sinners into His family. He forgives their sins through Christ and declares them righteous because of Jesus—not because of their performance.

But God's work doesn't stop there.

The Lord also continues to shape His children. He patiently chips away pride, fear, selfishness, and unbelief so that we begin to reflect the character of Jesus more and more.

Sometimes that shaping happens through blessings. Other times it happens through hardship. Either way, our heavenly Father is lovingly preparing us for the day we will be perfectly like Christ in His presence.

You are not an accident. You are not forgotten. In Christ, you belong to God's family forever.

Prayer

Gracious Father, thank You for choosing me through Your grace in Christ. Continue Your work in my life, shaping me into the image of Your Son until the day I see Him face to face. Amen.

Day 5: Suffering With Purpose

Key Verse:

"We are ambassadors for Christ." — 2 Corinthians 5:20

Reflection

No one enjoys suffering, but God often uses it in remarkable ways.

The compassion you show may grow from the grief you've experienced. Your encouragement may come from struggles you've already walked through. Your faithfulness during difficult seasons becomes a testimony to those watching your life.

People notice when believers continue trusting Christ despite hardship. They see hope that cannot be explained by circumstances alone.

As followers of Jesus, we represent our Savior wherever we go. Like ambassadors, we carry His message into a hurting world. Sometimes our greatest witness isn't what we say but how we cling to Christ when life is difficult.

The cross always comes before the crown. Jesus walked that path first, and He promises to walk it with us.

Because He is risen, we know suffering will not last forever. One day every sorrow will end, every wound will be healed, and every believer will share in the glory of Christ.

Application

Think of someone who is hurting today. Reach out with a call, a note, or a prayer. Ask God to use your own experiences to encourage them with the comfort you have received in Christ.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Finding Purpose in Pain

Primary Text: Romans 8:18–30

Opening Question

Think about a difficult season in your life. Looking back now, can you see any way God used that experience to shape you or strengthen your faith?

Key Truth

Suffering is a reality in a broken world, but it is never outside of God's control. Through Jesus, we have the sure hope of eternal life, and God promises to work even our hardships for our good by conforming us to the image of His Son.

Read Together

- Romans 8:18–30
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16–18
 - James 1:2–4
 - 1 Peter 1:6–9
 - Revelation 21:1–5
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Discussion Questions

1. Suffering with Hope

Paul does not pretend suffering isn't real. Instead, he points believers to the future glory that awaits them.

- Why is it important that Scripture acknowledges our pain instead of minimizing it?
- How does the promise of eternal life change the way we view present suffering?

2. A Broken Creation

Romans teaches that all creation groans because of sin.

- Where do you see the effects of our broken world today?
- How does knowing that Christ will one day restore creation give you hope?

3. "All Things Work Together for Good"

Romans 8:28 is often misunderstood.

- According to this passage, what does Paul actually promise?
- How is God's definition of "good" different from simply making life easier or more comfortable?
- When have you seen God bring spiritual growth through a difficult season?

4. Becoming More Like Christ

God's purpose is not merely to remove suffering but to shape His people into the likeness of Jesus.

- What character qualities can God develop through trials?
- How can suffering prepare us to serve and encourage others?

5. Living with Confidence

Our hope rests in what Christ has already accomplished through His death and resurrection.

- Which promise from Romans 8 encourages you the most today?
- Who in your life could benefit from hearing this hope?

Take It Home

This week, whenever you face a frustration or hardship, pause and pray:

"Lord, help me trust You today. Even when I don't understand what You're doing, remind me that You are with me, You have redeemed me through Christ, and You are working for my eternal good."

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You do not leave us alone in our suffering. When we experience pain, remind us that Jesus has already carried our greatest burden through His cross and has conquered death by His resurrection. Strengthen our faith to trust Your promises even when we cannot see Your purposes. Shape us through every trial so that we reflect the love, patience, and character of Christ. Use our lives to encourage others and point them to the hope found in Him. Keep our eyes fixed on the glory that is to come until the day we see You face to face.

In Jesus' name, Amen.