

The Pain is Producing

The Great 8 - Part 3

June 14, 2026

Is there any purpose in the pain?

¹⁸For I consider that *the sufferings* of this present time are *not worth comparing* with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation *eagerly waits with anticipation* for God's sons to be revealed." Romans 8:18-19 (CSB)

Pain is not the end of the story.

²⁰For the *creation* was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of him who subjected it—in the hope ²¹that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children. ²²For we know that the whole *creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now*. ²³Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴Now in this hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience." Romans 8:20-25 (CSB)

²⁶In the same way *the Spirit also helps us in our weakness*, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but *the Spirit Himself intercedes* for us with inexpressible groanings. ²⁷And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because He *intercedes* for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:26-27 (CSB)

The Spirit prays when you can't.

²⁸We know that *all things work together* for the *good* of those who love God, who are *called* according to His purpose. ²⁹For those He foreknew He also predestined to be *conformed to the image of His Son*, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, He also glorified." Romans 8:28-30 (CSB)

Not all things are good, but God works all things **for good**.

God doesn't work all things together to make life easier. He works all things together to make us look more like Jesus.

What Are "All Things"?

#1 TESTS → Suffering and circumstances that forge us into who we are becoming.

¹¹I don't say this out of need, for I have *learned* to be content *in whatever* circumstances I find myself. ¹²I know how to make do *with little*, and I know how to make do *with a lot*. In *any* and *all* circumstances I have *learned* the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need." Philippians 4:11-12 (CSB)

You can't spell learned without earned. - Ryan Holiday

#2 THORNS → Pains that drive us to the feet of Jesus in desperation.

*"⁷Therefore, **so that** I would not exalt myself, **a thorn in the flesh** was given to me, a messenger of Satan to torment me **so that** I would not exalt myself. ⁸Concerning this, I **pleaded with the Lord** three times that it would leave me. ⁹But He said to me, '**My grace is sufficient** for you, for **my power is perfected in weakness.**'"*
2 Corinthians 12:7-9 (CSB)

If God can use your thorn for you, He can use your thorn through you.

#3 TRIUMPHS → Victories that remind us Christ is our strength.

"⁸We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; ⁹we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (CSB)

It really is hard to believe all things work together until we're standing on the other side of ALL.

God is too wise to waste your pain and too good to abandon your purpose.