

# BIBLE & BAGEL

## Romans – Our Common Faith

15 February 2016

Some Christians believe that we are not supposed to experience any difficulty in life, that the life of a believer is meant to be blessed (easy). The Apostle Paul paints a very different picture for us here, he speaks about the difficulties of life and how creation itself is groaning because of the corruption in the world. He also speaks in this passage of the tribulations that we may face, in the early church and even today persecution was a reality. But do trials and tribulations mean that God has stopped loving us? Read on...

### Romans 8:26-28

*26 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. 27 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. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. NKJV*

From verse 18 Apostle Paul speaks about the present condition of the world, it is not as it was meant to be and he said that all of creation was groaning in anticipation of the deliverance from the present state (verse 22). He then says that we ourselves who have the Holy Spirit are also groaning waiting and hoping for our deliverance from this corrupt world (verse 23), waiting for the completion of our salvation.

Now in verse 26 he says that even the Holy Spirit helps us with groanings which we can't understand. God hears these groans of the Spirit and understands what the Spirit is saying, these the Holy Spirit actually intercedes for us through these groans and God the Father knows what the Spirit is saying.

Whilst life in this world may not be pleasant and filled with all kinds of tribulation, God encourages us here that whatever our circumstances may be, He is working everything out for our good and his plan ultimately is to glorify us by making us more and more like Jesus.

The first lesson that we learn here is that this world is not our home and we must not become too attached to it. Colossians 3 tells us that we must set our hearts on things of heaven<sup>i</sup>, in other words we must focus our lives on the hope that awaits us at the end; either when we die or God-willing that we should see the return of Messiah and the establishment of His Kingdom.

Whatever situation we may be in right now whether good or bad God is using it to make us more Christ-like. Today there is much talk in Christian circles about the glory of God and manifestations of it in the form of gold dust or oil or gems appearing during. These are signs that God gives to encourage us, but the real glory of God is to be seen in our character, when



our character more and more reflects the character of Christ, that is the true glory. Really it is no use having gold dust appear and not have our lives changed.

*Romans 8:31-39*

*31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

*37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. NKJV*

Apostle Paul now gets more specific regarding the tribulations that he was speaking about; he says that God who did not spare His own Son would surely take care of us and give us what we need. He speaks about God's people being falsely accused, and even if we are he says, God is the ultimate judge and we have an advocate who intercedes on our behalf, Yeshua Himself.

He also reminds the Christians here who face persecution, that even though they face persecution it does not mean that God does not love them, in fact he says that nothing on earth or in heaven, natural or supernatural can prevent God from loving us.

Life is full of trials and tribulation, Yeshua himself promised this<sup>ii</sup>. The problem is many have the belief that once they have placed their faith in Christ their life should be smooth, they should have no problems and God will give them everything they want. This kind of belief is false and a delusion. In life we will have problems, we will experience disappointment, God does not exempt his people from this, what does though is to help us through it and during those times we need to cling to God more, and understand that those tough situations does not mean that he has stopped loving us. His love for us is unbreakable no one and nothing can break God's love for us.

So if you are going through a tough situation, know that God still loves you and He will see you through just depend on Him.

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<sup>i</sup> Colossians 3:1-3

<sup>ii</sup> John 16:33

