**LESSON THREE – SUFFERING AND INTERCESSION**

Read Romans 8:18-27

Of all the people you’ve ever known, who has suffered the most and what did they suffer from?

1. Read Romans 8:18-21 and answer the following questions:

a) Why are our “present sufferings” not worthy to be compared to the “glory” to be “revealed in us”? (v. 18)

b) At what time will the creation and the “sons of God” be revealed? Who are the sons of God? (v. 19)

c) Why and how is the creation in “bondage to decay”? (vv. 20-21)

2. Read Romans 8:22-25 and answer the following questions:

a) How does the analogy of childbirth correspond to the redemption we await? (vv. 22-23)

b) If we are adopted and redeemed when we accept Christ as Savior, is there a future adoption and redemption to look forward to? Explain what you think it is: (v. 22)

c) What exactly is it that we hope for? (vv. 24-25)

3. Read Romans 8:26-27 and answer the following questions:

a) In what way does the Spirit intercede for us? Why? (v. 26)

b) Who all is involved in this intercession?

REFLECT ON IT:

1. Has there ever been a time that your suffering, or the suffering of someone you knew, led you to doubt the goodness and mercy of God?
2. Has suffering ever caused you to draw closer to God? Please explain how and why.
3. Do you ever “groan” (vv. 22-23) as you wait on Jesus’ return? Are you patient as you wait?
4. What do you look forward to the most when Jesus returns?
5. Have you ever been so distressed that you could not pray and the Spirit took over for you? What brought on the pain?
6. What are you suffering from right now that the group could join with you and the Spirit in prayer?

Pray on it:

“The Spirit, when He prays through us, or helps us to meet the mighty “oughtness” of right praying, trims our praying down to the will of God…” ~ R.A.Torrey