



11.17.24 • Charles Kirby & Alicia Bruxvoort • Yearning for Home

Discussion Questions

- 1). Has struggle, hardship or suffering produced more or less hope in your life? Explain.
- 2). To what do you anchor your hope when you're waiting on God to answer your prayers? Is that anchor effective when the waiting involves suffering and hardship? Why/why not? What anchor does Romans 8:18-39 offer?
- 3). Read Hebrews 1:3 and John 1:14 together. How have you glimpsed the glory lately? (In creation? In Jesus? In His Word?) How does the reality of God's glory change the way you pray in the midst of hardship?
- 4). How does the Holy Spirit "help you in your weakness" (Romans 8:26) as you pray? What does it look like to let Him pray with you and for you?
- 5). Romans 8:24-25 reminds us that patience and hope go hand in hand. Where do you need patience in prayer right now? Which truth from Romans 8 encourages you most in your waiting?
- 6). Romans 8: 29 reminds us God is committed to transforming us into the image of Jesus. How has suffering or hardship made you or someone you know more like Jesus?
- 7). Read Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:18 alongside Hebrews 12:2. How does what we focus on in hardship change the way we endure the waiting? Where have you been fixing your eyes in the space between the answer and the ask? What's one thing you could do daily to shift your focus to Jesus?
- 8). As you end, turn the Message's paraphrase of Ephesians 1:18 into a prayer. Speak it aloud together. "That's why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn't stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!"

Notes

Key Verses

Romans 8:18-39

Big Idea

When our prayers go unanswered and we are suffering in the waiting, we need to anchor ourselves to something bigger and stronger than the outcome we're seeking.

Anchoring our hope to God's glory changes how we endure the suffering in the wait.

God is with us in the suffering and His Spirit helps us pray and persevere.

God's love is consistent and unchanging.