

When life hurts: Discussion questions

Romans 8:18-28

1. Read vs. 18-23 How does the Bible validate the reality of suffering for believers? Should we, as believers, expect to suffer?
2. In verse 20 we read about the creation being subjected to futility. What is Paul talking about?
3. According to our text, is there any real purpose to suffering? What verses here in Romans (or other scriptures) would support this idea?
4. What does a 'redemptive view' of suffering mean?
5. In what way does suffering develop patience? Trust? Godliness? (See 1 Timothy 4:8)
6. Reflect the biblical example of Joseph (especially Genesis 50:19-21). How does godliness developed through suffering allow us to be used by God? See also 2 Corinthians 4:7-12.
7. Read vs 20-23. What does it mean to have a future 'hope'?
8. How can we know that what the Bible says about suffering is true?
9. Read Vs 26-28. What comforting promises can we hold on to while suffering?