

Jesus Hears Our Groans

From Creation to Christmas (Part 2 of 4)

Romans 8:18-27 Pastor Jonathan Schaeffer

*I remembered you, God, and I **groaned**;
I meditated, and my spirit grew faint...my spirit asked:
“Will the Lord reject forever?
Will he never show his favor again?
Has his unfailing love vanished forever?
Has his promise failed for all time?
Has God forgotten to be merciful?”*

Psalm 77:3-9

Christmas is the solution. What’s the problem?

- What’s the big deal with Christmas?
- Why is the news of Jesus’ birth a reason for “great joy”? Luke 2:10
Part 1: Christ has rescued us from the curse... Galatians 3:13

We **groan** in a world that is broken.

Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse...We know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan... Romans 8:20-23

All of us encounter challenges. We feel the weight of grief. We groan.

→ In times of **national crisis**.

The Israelites continued to groan under their burden... Exodus 2:23

→ When we’ve **messed up**.

The people turned away from the path of their ancestors, who had walked in obedience to the Lord’s commands... groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. Judges 2:17-18

→ When we’ve **walked faithfully** with the Lord.

Pain and suffering enter our lives simply because of our broken world.

*I cannot eat for sighing; my groans pour out like water.
What I always feared has happened to me.
What I dreaded has come true. Job 3:24-25; Psalm 6:6*

Where is God in our pain?

When we’re groaning in our grief, it can **feel** like God is far away. It feels like he is silent, and unaware. But where is he in **reality**?

Scripture shows us the **reality** of God’s presence:

- **Old Testament: God is above us** [Exodus 2:24-25](#)
The exalted God bends down to hear the pain of the oppressed. *They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise...He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act.*
- **Gospels: God is with us...Immanuel** [Hebrews 4:15; 5:7](#)
God steps in, becoming one of us: God in a human frame. Jesus not only hears our groans...he himself groans. He feels our pain. *This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.*
- **The Letters: God is within us** [Romans 8:26](#)
Jesus comes to live in us the moment we put our trust in him. This is a level of closeness with the Lord never before experienced, and is available to all of us. He translates our wordless pain. *The **Holy Spirit helps us** in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.*

Our Response: Look to Jesus in faith.

- **Our “why” isn’t always answered.**
There’s a mystery in suffering we may not be able to answer this side of heaven. With faith in the Lord Jesus, we can bank on this promise: *We have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory...when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. Romans 8:23-25*
- **We have the answer to the question of Who.** Jesus hears you, Jesus sees you, Jesus feels your pain, Jesus cares for you. *1 Peter 5:7 Jesus, I turn to you. I trust in you. Forgive me of all that I’ve done wrong. You can have your rightful place in my life. I’m thankful that I can live in the confident hope of your promises.*



Ladies Latte Mon, Dec. 12 | 7 PM

Meet new people and get a new mindset for the week ahead! At our monthly gathering, you'll enjoy coffee, an inspirational message, and cozy conversations and treats around the table. @Middleburg Heights gracecma.org/events



Faithful Journey Tues, Dec. 13 | 7 AM

If you want to learn how to care and show the love of Jesus to LGBT+ individuals in your family or friend group, this support group will help you find new understanding and wise insight. @Middleburg Heights gracecma.org/bridge



Living Hope Sat, Dec. 17 | 10 AM

If you're living with mental health issues, or caring for a loved one who is, this support group will give you courage, prayer, and actionable resources for your journey. @Middleburg Heights gracecma.org/events



JobSeekers Mon, Dec. 19 | 10 AM

Looking for your next job? This monthly group offers free career development, networking, and prayer support for your job search. @Middleburg Heights + Online gracecma.org/events



Christmas at Grace Sat, Dec. 24

3 / 5 PM @ Olmsted Falls
1 / 3 / 5 / 7 PM @ Middleburg Heights + Online
Grace Kids: (Birth - K only) is available during all services. gracecma.org/events



Welcoming New Members

We're introducing new members at our services today! If you'd like to explore what it means to grow in your walk with the Lord and find community at Grace, our next membership class begins January 4 @Olmsted Falls. gracecma.org/membership



Cleveland Trip Report TODAY | 9 AM

Our Cleveland Mission Team will be sharing from their experiences learning and serving alongside local partners in the city. Come and hear their stories! **Fireside Room @Middleburg Heights** gracecma.org/events



Oaxaca Trip Report TODAY | 1:30 PM

Our Oaxaca Mexico team will be sharing about their experiences serving alongside Jim and Jamie Loker distributing audio Bibles. Anyone is welcome to come! **Room 203 @Middleburg Heights** gracecma.org/events



REAL Women's Event MONDAY | 7 PM Online

When you're constantly juggling the many demands of life, is balance even possible? This month Jen, Mary, Tisha, and Nikie will be chatting about setting rhythms in busy seasons to help you avoid burnout and find true joy. gracecma.org/events



Christmas Concert SATURDAY, Dec. 10 | 7 PM

Welcome the Christmas season with the Singing Angels! This organization has brought family-friendly music to performances all over the world for nearly 60 years. **Get tickets in the lobby today:** \$12/person, includes Dessert after the show. @Middleburg Heights bit.ly/angelsconcert22