

BIRTH PAINS

ROMANS 8:18-26

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility (pointlessness or uselessness), not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words.

Today I want to minister from the context of **“BIRTH PAINS”**

Defining the context of Birth Pains:

We've heard the statement of “No Pain, No Gain!” We are living or striving to live a life in Christ while often not even realizing we are pregnant. Adversity and warfare are examples of our labor that we endure, but we must not believe that we are in it alone. I've come to understand (not having experienced myself) during pregnancy the body not only takes on pressure, but also begins to reject somethings. Although it is by way of the pressure and rejection that new life is given. Pain will cause us to curl into the fetal position, but God wants us to let go so He can bear fruit in our lives in spite of the situation we are up against.

INTRO:

Within the scripture, Paul is sharing from a place of his own condition. Paul is reflecting on what he had to endure and go through in his own life. Notice that Paul begin the sentence in v18 with I consider...

Consider: refers literally to numerical calculation and means to reckon, compute, calculate, to take into account, to deliberate, to weigh, or reasoning which results in the arriving at a conclusion.

In this case Paul obviously had thought it over and came to the conclusion that suffering in the present time holds no compassion to future glory.

After weighing the outcome Paul is stating that sufferings in this present time are not even worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed. He is developing the connection between suffering and glory while displaying how we as Christians must go the way of Jesus.

Our pain is described here as labor pains, and that **these labor pains are leading up to a great birth**. Knowing this we must embrace and endure our birth pains for the sake of labor (suffering) and delivery (glory) while knowing there is a future glory to be revealed.

So within our pain God has packaged it with power and influence giving us the strength to overcome (labor). During the season of labor God is striving to reveal and deliver us from something and to our purpose.

(Intro Cont'd) ~ PREGNANCY TRIMESTERS:

The idea of birth brought me to a place of thinking how Pregnancy is divided into phases, called **trimesters**.

Each pregnancy trimester has its own significant developmental milestones.

The **first trimester** (weeks 1-12) is stated to be the most fragile period. During this time major organs of the baby's body are formed. Keep in mind most birth defects occur during the first trimester.

In the first trimester of your pain (labor) is a fragile time frame.

~ Spiritually how you initially receive pain (labor) is important to the health of your seed.

~ A healthy first trimester is crucial to the normal development of your seed. In the physical the mother-to-be may not be showing much on the outside, but inside her body all the major body organs and systems of the baby are being formed.

During the **second trimester** (weeks 12-24), the baby has now began to develop its organs and now the focus is on growing in size and weight.

~ The second trimester marks a turning point for the mother and baby (For you and your seed). ~

~ The mother begins to show the physical signs of pregnancy more.

The pain of circumstances and life begin to assist you in birthing what God has planted inside of you. There is glory to be revealed.

The **third trimester** (weeks 24-40) of pregnancy marks the home stretch, as the body prepares for the delivery.

When God is seeking to move us from one place to another, from one position to a different one, or from one season to another He may usually have to induce labor.

Allow me to offer you some spiritual trimester perspectives when taking on birth pains...

#1 ~ THE PAIN IS TEMPORARY

ROMANS 8:19

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Some of us have learned in unique ways that living a life in and for Christ did not offer us a problem free life style. In Christ there are some benefits; although it does not free us from opposition. Jesus shared with us that here on earth we will have many trials and sorrows. He asked us to take heart in this because He had already overcome the world.

This should be a great indication that we should not take up residence in the valley of pain, but wait with eager expectations for the sons of God to be revealed. The sons of God refers to the redeemed. We must carry the attitude of Psalms 30:5 that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

~The Pain Is Temporary

ROMANS 8:21

21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

This is stating that at our final redemption, creation itself will be set free from slavery. Therefore do not faint in what is temporary, but rejoice in the hope of your future that has been ordained by God.

The glory of the Lord will be revealed and we shall see it! (Isaiah 40:5)

#2 ~ THE PAIN IS NOT EMPTY

Whether you believe it or not you are pregnant with purpose with a delivery date that is vastly approaching. It is Christ Jesus whom sowed the seed into your life and the holy spirit is your midwife. You are spiritually carrying something that is to be birthed.

Thus you must commit to carrying it to term because there's a vision, a purpose, and a miracle in your belly.

Philippians 1:6

6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Purpose does not become visible until it is birthed. While we endure the pressures of life we may not initially understand the why, but all the while become fixated on the what. When we become fixated on the pain we can only see it as a problem without resolve, but when looking at it in the spiritual it enables us to see it as a pregnant situation. We must have faith that the pain is not empty because God is going to bring forth fruit from His seed.

Understand in order to be spiritually pregnant you first must first have conception. God's word is the seed that should be planted in our hearts so that we may give birth.

John 15:4-5

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

#3 ~ TRAVAIL (LABOR & DELIVERY)

Travail is defined as a painful or laborious effort. To travail is to be troubled, sorrowful, in agony, intense pain or distress. Like natural child birth it is not a comfortable experience, but gives birth to new life. **In no form or fashion is it an emotion, but a groaning/ crying in the spirit.** Travail produces spiritual things!

There must be a time to have a Travail Prayer! The Lord searches for hearts that will intercede and utilize them to travail. In Travail the Holy Spirit partners with us while carrying a burden to birth and to war. God understands that we are weighted by situations until they are released through sustaining prayer. So whatever is in you, God has arrived in your delivery room to assure it is birth.

ROMANS 8:26

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, **but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words.**

Galatians 4:19-20 NIV

19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, **20** how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

Isaiah 66:8 NIV

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Who has ever heard of such things?

Who has ever seen things like this?

Can a country be born in a day

or a nation be brought forth in a moment?

Yet no sooner is Zion in labor

than she gives birth to her children.