



Survival Kit for Suffering

Romans 8:16-24 (NIV)

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?

1. The survivalist knows that “in the beginning” sin entered.

(Romans 8:20-21; Genesis 3:17-19)

Romans 5:12 (NIV)

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

- Sin's entrance brought suffering and separation.
- Sin has affected all of creation.
- The survivalist knows that no one is immune to suffering.

John 16:33 (NIV)

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

2. The survivalist knows that “in the meantime” God is with us.

(Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Romans 8:23; 26-28)

3. The survivalist knows that “in the future” all things will be made new.

(Romans 8:21-23; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 21:1-4)

- Community helps us fix our gaze.