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*OVERCOMING LIFE'S
OBSTACLES*



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*What are the most
troubling examples of
suffering you see in our
world today?*



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If God is so loving and merciful, why is there such pain and suffering in our world?



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I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.



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For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to



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*decay and brought into the
glorious freedom of the
children of God.*

Romans 8:18-21 (NIV84)



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“We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an



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eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

2 Cor. 4:16-18 (NIV84)



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*The world of creation cannot
as yet see reality, not because
it chooses to be blind, but
because in God's purpose it has
been limited - yet it has been
given hope.*



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And the hope is that in the end of the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God.”



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We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,



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groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all.



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*Who hopes for what he
already has? But if we hope for
what we do not yet have, we
wait for it patiently.*

Romans 8:22-25 (NIV84)



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In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.



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And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Romans 8:26-27 (NIV84)



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*And we know that in all things
God works for the good of
those who love him, who have
been called according to his
purpose. For those God
foreknew he also predestined*



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*to be conformed to the likeness
of his Son, that he might be the
firstborn among many
brothers. And those he
predestined, he also called;*



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*those he called, he also
justified; those he justified, he
also glorified.*

Romans 8:28-30 (NIV84)



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What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all— how will he not also,



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along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns?



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Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?



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*Shall trouble or hardship or
persecution or famine or
nakedness or danger or sword?*

As it is written:

*“For your sake we face death
all day long;*



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we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life,



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*neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the
future, nor any powers, neither
height nor depth, nor anything
else in all creation,*



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*will be able to separate us
from the love of God that is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:31-39 (NIV84)



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*To keep me from becoming
conceited because of these
surpassingly great revelations,
there was given me a thorn in
my flesh, a messenger of
Satan, to torment me.*



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Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the



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more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in



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*hardships, in persecutions, in
difficulties. For when I am
weak, then I am strong.”*

2 Corinthians 12:7-10



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But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not



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in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.



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*For we who are alive are
always being given over to
death for Jesus' sake, so that
his life may be revealed in our
mortal body."*

2 Corinthians 4:7-11



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