

EVERYONE STRUGGLES!

Bruce Williams
November 9, 1999

INTRODUCTION

Everybody needs a little bit of “extra help” now and then. Everyone.
Please state your name, occupation and how long you have been a disciple.
Please turn your Bible to Romans chapter 8.

1. STRUGGLE (“GROANING”) IS A PART OF LIFE

Read Romans 8:18-25

“The whole creation has been groaning...” What does this mean? (Short discussion).
Struggle is a part of life.

What struggles are you personally experiencing at this time? (Discuss).

We all struggle. Don't allow yourself to think about quitting! Don't fall away!

2. GOD'S SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR YOU

Read Romans 8:26-27

What does the world really offer you? (Short discussion).

Bible says Holy Spirit helps us communicate our weaknesses and needs to God.

Picture Holy Spirit interceding for you before God (give examples).

God does not want you to fall away!

3. GOD CAN USE EVERYTHING FOR GOOD

Read Romans 8:28-30 “And we know that in all things God works for the good...”

Not “and we hope”, not “and we think”, not “and we pray”, etc.

How can God use your present struggle for good? (Discuss).

God can use *anything* for good. *Anything!* God wants to strengthen you.

4. NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD!

Read Romans 8:31-39

Jesus himself intercedes for us! Not just the Holy Spirit! (Illustrate what Jesus might say before God to intercede for one of the group members as Satan accuses him.)

Nothing, no individual can separate you from Christ if you don't want to be!

Read Romans 8:1 “There is now no condemnation...”

We walk around in guilt. “I didn't have a visitor.” Before you became a disciple, you didn't even care who your neighbor was! Much less if he was saved.

Illustration: if child gets bad grade on test, you don't kick him out. You express disappointment and ask them “what can you learn from this?” E.g., to start studying earlier, to use a study group, to spend more time on the related homework, to get more rest the night before the test, etc. Bottom line, you love him or her.

God loves you and he wants to provide you the extra help to get strong so that:

1. You will be happy (and join him in eternity) and

2. You will be able to help others (and experience the fulfillment that accompanies this)!

In closing:

We're all going to be at midweek (or church) this Sunday, right?

This is not the fallaway club. We are simply a band of brothers needing each other!