



## Unshakable — Week 5:

### Where Is God When Life Hurts?

**Text:** Romans 8:18–39

#### THE CORE MESSAGE

- **The Big Idea:** Suffering is the environment of a fallen world, not a bug in the Christian life. In Christ, our groaning is not the sound of death winning, but the labor pains of a coming Kingdom.
- **The Key Line:** Pain, evil, and death are real—but because Jesus is risen, none of them are final.

#### I. The Frustrated Cosmos (Romans 8:18–22)

- **The Glitched World:** Creation was subjected to "futility" (*mataiototes*). It is broken, decaying, and no longer operating by its original design.
- **Two Types of Brokenness:** **Moral evil** (human rebellion/injustice) and **natural evil** (disease/disasters) both stem from this cosmic fracture.
- **Labor Pains:** The world isn't groaning like a dying patient; it is groaning like a mother in childbirth. Something new is coming.

**Takeaway:** Suffering doesn't mean God is missing; it means the world is broken exactly how the Bible described.

#### II. The Spirit in the Trenches (Romans 8:23–27)

- **The Wounded Savior:** Other worldviews tell you to bypass or numb pain.

Christianity reveals a God who entered it Himself through the cross.

- **The Spirit's Prayer:** When grief or anxiety suffocates your ability to speak, the Holy Spirit intercedes and prays your pain for you.

**Takeaway:** The Cross proves God refuses to watch our pain from a safe distance.

### III. The Sovereignty of the Surgeon (Romans 8:28–30)

- **Weaving Purpose:** Romans 8:28 does *not* say all things are good. It says God is sovereign enough to weave even the worst evils into a redemptive design.
- **Transformation > Comfort:** God's ultimate goal is to conform you into the image of Christ, not to maximize your temporary comfort.

**Takeaway:** God never wastes the suffering He intends to redeem.

### IV. The Unshakable Security (Romans 8:31–39)

- **The Logic of Grace:** If God gave up His own Son for you while you were broken, He will not abandon you now that you are hurting.
- **Zero Separation:** No modern trauma—layoffs, depression, burnout, or grief—has the power to cut you off from the covenant love of God.

**Takeaway:** The resurrection doesn't erase our past suffering; it guarantees it is temporary.

### QUICK REFLECTION

1. Where is your current reality colliding with your faith?
2. Are you treating your current hardship as a sign of death, or as labor pains?
3. What false security is God clearing away right now to build Christlikeness in you?