

Adam Martin

1. A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD LEADS TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OURSELVES.

“We can never know who or what we are until we at least know something of who God is.” - AW Tozer

Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...

Romans 8:17a (NIV)

If we were made by God and we were made for God, then it must also be true that we can never be satisfied by anything but God.

Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...

Romans 8:17a (NIV)

If indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:17b (NIV)

2. A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD LEADS TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PAIN.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 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 decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 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, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 8:18-25 (NIV)

The ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

Genesis 3:17 (NLT)

Sometimes God saves us from the pain. And sometimes God saves us through the pain.

After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

Genesis 32:23-28 (NIV)

Breaking and healing are not opposites in the kingdom of God.

Until we are broken, we cannot be made whole again.

3. A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD LEADS TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR HOPE.

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, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.

Romans 8:22-24a (NIV)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Romans 8:18 (NIV)