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**The Importance Of & Lessons From  
Pushing & Pressing  
Lesson 1: Pushing & Pressing Through  
Adversity/Suffering**

**PRESS ON!**

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**Tuesday, September 13, 2022**

**Online Bible Study**

**6:30 pm**

Zoom Meeting ID 973 678 1217, Passcode 6781293



**I. NEW SERIES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF & LESSONS FROM PUSHING & PRESSING**

A. What do I mean?

1. Proposition – Whether things are not going well or when things are going well, we seem to always be in a position of **“pushing and pressing.”**

B. Pushing & Pressing Through What?

1. Adversity/Suffering
2. Anxiety
3. Disappointment/Pain/Hurt
4. Distrust/Confusion
5. Death/Sorrow/Loss
6. Embarrassment/Humiliation
7. Fear
8. Forgiveness
9. Ignorance/Being Ignored
10. Impatience
11. Times of Happiness & Joy
12. Loneliness/Being Alone
13. Sickness/Illness
14. Silence/Quiet
15. Ungratefulness/Unthankfulness

C. What guidance does the Bible give us on these matters?

D. Tonight’s Subject: **Pushing & Pressing Through Adversity/Suffering**

E. Qualifier

Dictionary:

suffering is: *to undergo, be subjected to, or endure (pain, distress, injury, loss, or anything unpleasant)*



## Adversity

Definition: (n) a state of misfortune or affliction

Synonym: hardship, difficulty, obstacle

Antonym: pleasure, benefit, freedom

# Tonight's Focus Text

Romans 8:18-30

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. <sup>26</sup> 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 through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. <sup>28</sup> **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.** <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

## II. TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

- A. What we will **not** deal with tonight from the text
  - 1. Adoption to sonship/daughtership – vs. 23
  - 2. Predestination – vs. 30
  - 3. The Will of God
- B. What we do see in this text
  - 1. Everyone experiences adversity and suffering at some point in life.
    - a. **NO EXEMPTIONS!**
  - 2. If we believe Paul, these sufferings do not compare to **“the glory that will be revealed to us.”**

- a. **“There will be glory after this!”** (Hard to see this and believe it when you are going through it.)
- b. The problem of comparison (**“It’s not fair.”**)
3. Suffering/Adversity is a **“creation problem”**
  - a. There was frustration in God’s perfect creation!
  - b. Don’t lose sight of **“the adversary.”**
  - c. The devil is not the cause of all adversity and suffering.
4. It has always been God’s intention that the creation and the created would be free. What does it mean to be free?
5. Believers in Christ have an **“invisible hope.”** – vss. 24-25
  - a. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses.
  - b. The Holy Spirit helps us **with** prayer.
  - c. The Holy Spirit helps us **to** pray (an intercessor). – vs. 26
6. Paul’s final declaration based on his experience and perspective – vs. 28

### III. POINTS TO PONDER/LESSONS

- A. Pushing & Pressing through adversity and suffering is not easy. It’s not supposed to be. It is an **“adverse”** situation.
- B. Adversity and suffering are part and parcel of the human condition.
- C. People who have the Holy Spirit face adversity and suffering – vss. 22-23
- D. Adversity and suffering can impact our ability to speak (**“groan inwardly”**)
- E. We should do our best to never lose hope in the face of adversity and suffering.
  - a. Hope does not **guarantee** a favorable outcome.
  - b. Hope is based on a range of possibilities (**“My Hope Is Built...”**)
  - c. Hope impacts perspective.
- F. As far as **“in all things God works for the good...”**
  - a. When dealing with adversity and suffering, all things that are a part of the process may not be good.
  - b. God is in **“all things,”** the good and the bad.
  - c. Things may not **be** good, but they will ultimately work **for** our good.
    1. Who determines what is good for us.
- G. We have to trust God enough to press on and press through **“to see what the end will be.”**

# PRESS ON!

Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

~ Calvin Coolidge

## IV. NEXT WEEK: PUSHING & PRESSING THROUGH ANXIETY

Join us on the St. Matthew Prayer Line daily at 6 am & 9:30 pm.

**CALL-IN PHONE NUMBER: (206) 806-9984**