

FAMILY OF GOD

Our lives should be filled with the “Joy of the Lord” but, too frequently they seem to be more like the Book of Lamentations or Job or something. And we think, “How could things possibly get any worse?” When we are faced with difficult times – sickness, family crisis, financial trouble. What do we do when the prognosis is devastating; when our circumstances are beyond our control? Where do we turn when the outlook seems hopeless? It’s not easy for us to understand that God is at work behind the scenes of human suffering.

Just like Job’s friends, we often try to reason things out for ourselves. Or, we act like Paul, who while trying to live by the “Law,” found that his sinful nature was keeping him from doing the good that he wanted to do. In Romans chapter 7, He realized that he couldn’t do it by himself. Isn’t that how we are? We try everything we can think of first, under our own sinful way, and human frailty. “Who will rescue me?” (Romans 7:24). My prayer is quite often this: “Lord, I don’t know what to do. But You do. I can’t. But God Can.”

Together
we make a
Family



Then there are these reassuring words from Romans Chapter 8 that say Jesus is our Lord and Savior: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"_(Romans 8:1). We have "New Life" in the Spirit! We are "adopted" into God's family. We are God's children. "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children"_(Romans 8:16).

I have found in recent days that the love and strength of family can support and carry you through any situation. That family is our earthly family, our church family, and above all our Heavenly family.

God does, indeed, work behind the scenes **LIBERATING** us from bondage_(Romans 8:21), giving us **HOPE**_(Romans 8:24-25), **HELPING** us in our weakness_(Romans 8:26), and **WORKING** all things together for our good_(Romans 8:28).

He opens his arms and welcomes us home and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ_(Romans 8:35-39). When God our Father looks at us, his children, he has a great big smile on his face. You are safe in his loving arms!

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-Song by Bill Gather-

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood,
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod;
For, I'm part of the family, the family of God.