

**Title: The Next Life - Resurrection Hope**  
**Romans 8:13-25**

**Introduction**

Today we will look at how our hope for the future guides us through our present sufferings. If we understand and trust what God promises us in the next life, we can be hopeful in our current sufferings.

1. Paul says eternal \_\_\_\_\_ gives us incredible perseverance in our present situations because we have a confident anticipation of our eternal future.

**I. The Foundation of Hope is Adoption Into God's Family**

2. Since sin has separated this world from God, we are born \_\_\_\_\_ from God.
3. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ so that we could be included.
4. Paul says we must receive this adoption to \_\_\_\_\_ eternal hope.
5. The moment you become a child of God, you become an \_\_\_\_\_ to all of God's blessings.
6. God has promised us a full \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus' inheritance.

**II. The Focus of Hope is Resurrection Life in a New Heaven and Earth**

7. " \_\_\_\_\_ " is when the majesty of God is made visible.
8. Our inheritance as adopted children of God is to \_\_\_\_\_ God's glory to the fullest extent possible.
9. When Christ returns and restores this world to His perfection, we will \_\_\_\_\_ this new world with new bodies that radiate his glory.
10. We receive this inheritance when Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to establish God's kingdom.

11. God created nature to be a \_\_\_\_\_ expression of his majesty and glory.
12. Nature is \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The day is coming when God will \_\_\_\_\_ his creation, restore nature, heal its brokenness, and give it a new beauty and grandeur.
14. Not only did God create nature to manifest His glory, but He also created \_\_\_\_\_ for the same purpose.
15. When Christ returns, \_\_\_\_\_ of God's children will be wholly rescued, redeemed, and restored.
16. When we accept this glorious \_\_\_\_\_ and focus on it, our eternal view radically changes, and so does our perspective on the sufferings of this life.

### **III. The Perseverance of Hope is Like Suffering the Pangs of Childbirth.**

17. Unfortunately, like Jesus, we must suffer \_\_\_\_\_ we receive our inheritance.
18. Our \_\_\_\_\_ profoundly changes our perspective and reaction to our sufferings.
19. Paul says our sufferings are not an end in themselves - we groan in \_\_\_\_\_ labor.
20. Suffering is, by definition, a \_\_\_\_\_ experience.
21. How different our present experience is from what we will inherit in the \_\_\_\_\_ life.
22. Our longing to be a part of heaven sometimes clashes with the \_\_\_\_\_ of living in a fallen world.
23. We suffer painfully, but our anticipation outweighs our suffering because it will end with the \_\_\_\_\_ of a joyous new world.

- 24. We \_\_\_\_\_ for those suffering now!
- 25. \_\_\_\_\_ faces the pain with hopeful anticipation.
- 26. We know that this “new birth” will more than \_\_\_\_\_ us for the worst of this life’s sufferings.

**IV. The Evidence of Hope is the Witness of God’s Spirit in Your Life**

- 27. We know we will receive this inheritance because we have already received what Paul calls the “first \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit.”
- 28. “First fruits” is like receiving a “down \_\_\_\_\_” on your inheritance.
- 29. You have to wait until later to receive the entire inheritance, but the part you have already received \_\_\_\_\_ you that the rest will be yours.
- 30. We know that God already raised Jesus from the dead, which gives us solid objective \_\_\_\_\_ that he will raise the rest of his children from the dead when Jesus returns.
- 31. The witness of God’s Spirit within us is the assurance that our bodies and this world will be \_\_\_\_\_ when Jesus returns.
- 32. We used to be numb and deceived by sin, but now we are \_\_\_\_\_ with it.

**Conclusion**

- 33. There may still be areas of your moral life that remain under sin’s dominion, but the Holy Spirit is changing us \_\_\_\_\_ to be more Christlike.
- 34. We know what it is like to relate to him as our Father with joy and \_\_\_\_\_.

35. We can face the sufferings of this life with faith and confidence in Christ that something \_\_\_\_\_ is just ahead!

The Spirit of God provides a personal assurance to all of God's children of this resurrection hope that helps us overcome the sufferings of this life. You don't earn this adoption—God *wants* to adopt you! - so much that he has already paid the price of his Son's death. All you have to do is accept Jesus and tell him to forgive you for your sinful life and give you a new life and eternal hope.

#### Answers

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|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. hope       | 13. redeem      | 25. Faith         |
| 2. alienated  | 14. us          | 26. compensate    |
| 3. forsaken   | 15. all         | 27. fruits        |
| 4. understand | 16. truth       | 28. payment       |
| 5. heir       | 17. before      | 29. assures       |
| 6. share      | 18. inheritance | 30. evidence      |
| 7. Glory      | 19. expectant   | 31. redeemed      |
| 8. experience | 20. painful     | 32. uncomfortable |
| 9. inhabit    | 21. next        | 33. daily         |
| 10. returns   | 22. reality     | 34. confidence    |
| 11. visible   | 23. birth       | 35. better        |
| 12. broken    | 24. sorrow      |                   |

#### QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. What aspects of this life make it obvious nature is broken? How does our intuition that things "ought to be different" provide evidence for the Heaven we are promised in the Bible?
2. How do you respond to suffering? Can you see beyond the suffering to the joy and rejoicing God intends to lavish upon you?
3. Are you uncomfortable with sin? If not, why? If so, how is this an evidence of the down payment on your future inheritance?