

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans
We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.
Romans 8:14 - 23

Those who are led by the Spirit of God
are children of God. For you did not
receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into
fear, but you received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, Abba, "Father!"
The Spirit itself bears witness with our
spirit that we are children of God, and if
children, then heirs, heirs of God and
joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer
with him
so that we may also be glorified with
him.

I consider that the sufferings of this
present time are as nothing compared
with the glory to be revealed for us. For
creation awaits with eager expectation the
revelation of the children of God; for
creation was made subject to futility, not
of its own accord but because of the one
who subjected it, in hope that creation
itself would be set free from slavery to
corruption and share in the glorious
freedom of the children of God. We
know that all creation is groaning in labor
pains even until now; and not only that,
but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits
of the Spirit, we also groan within
ourselves as
we wait for adoption, the redemption of
our bodies.