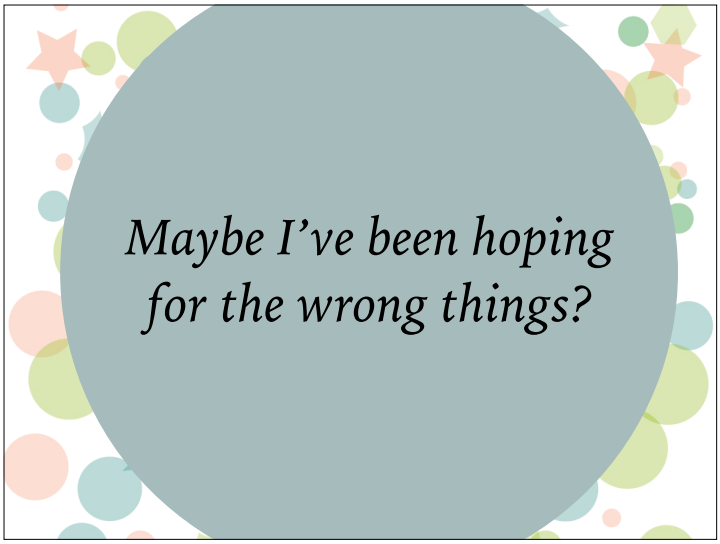
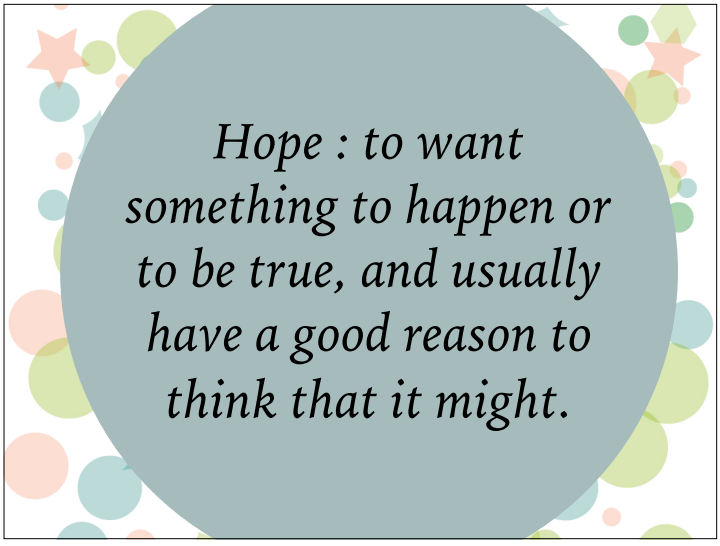
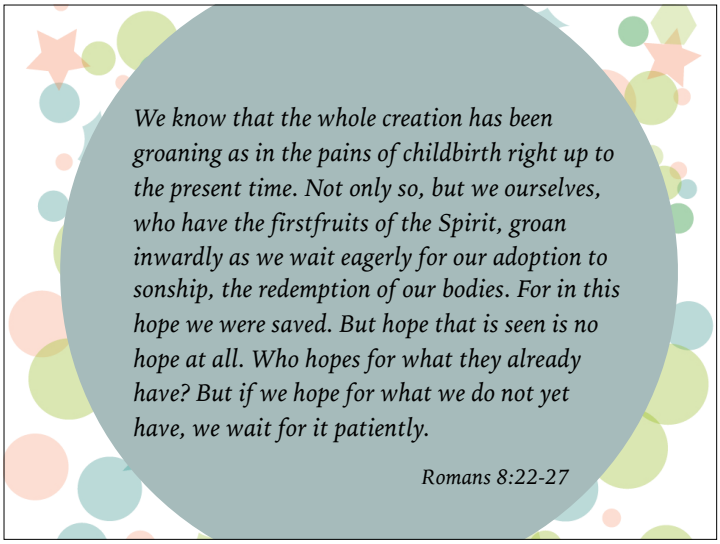
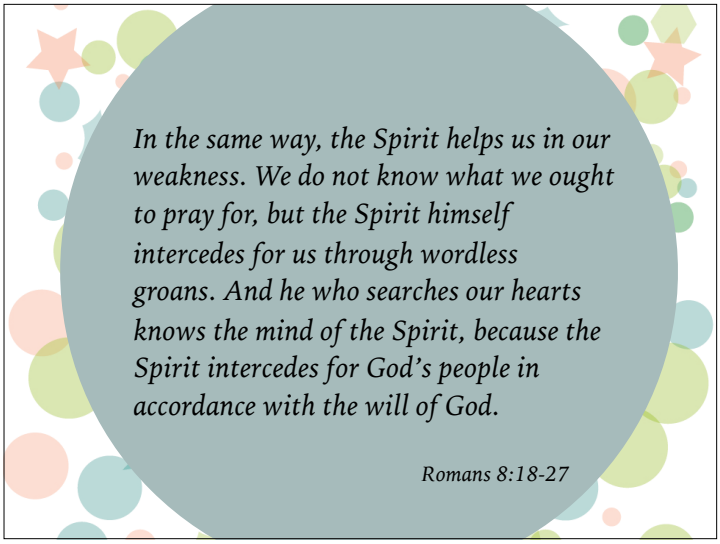

Advent


Hope
advent 2019

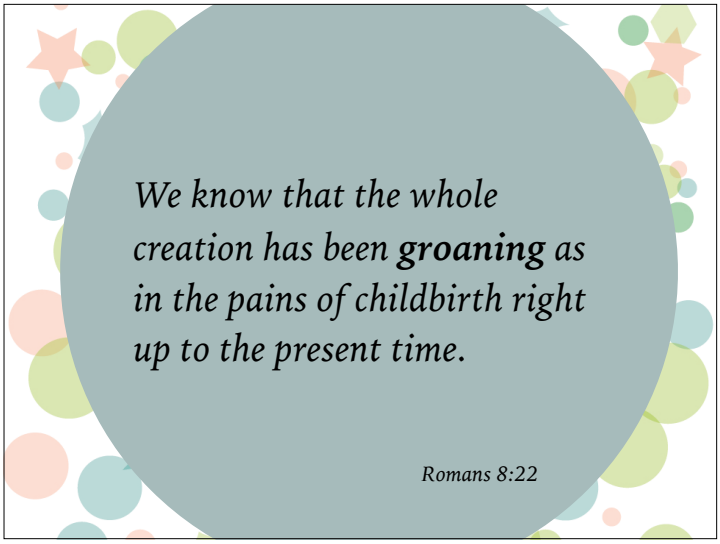

Maybe I've been hoping for the wrong things?

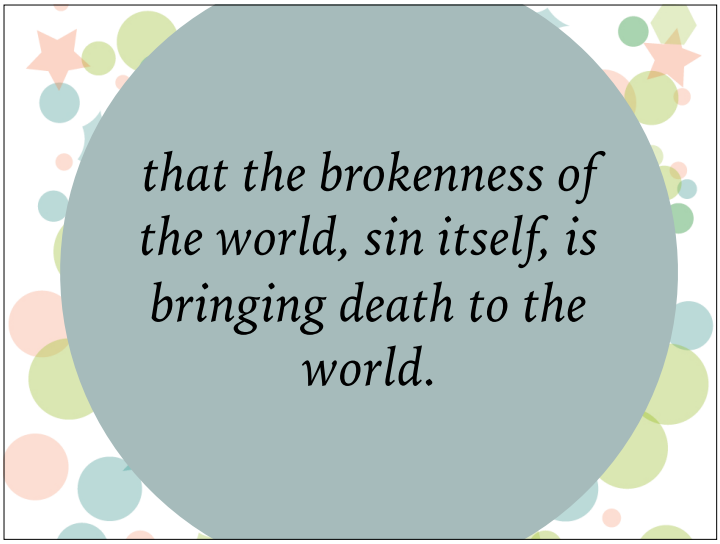

Hope : to want something to happen or to be true, and usually have a good reason to think that it might.

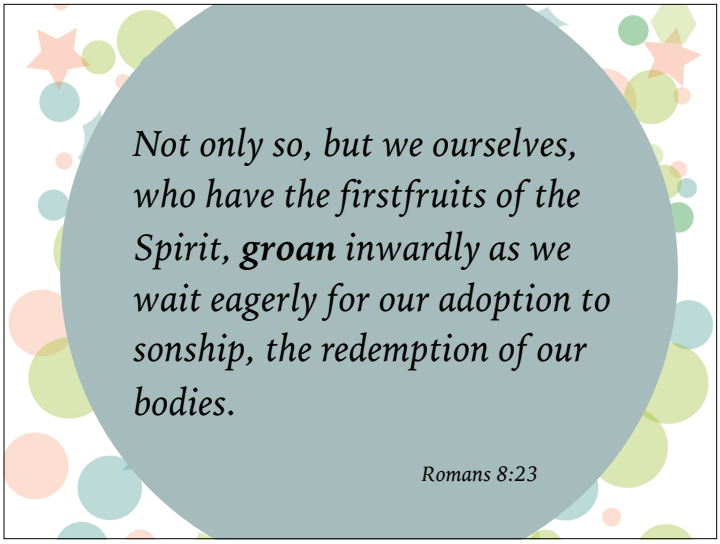

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. 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 8:22-27

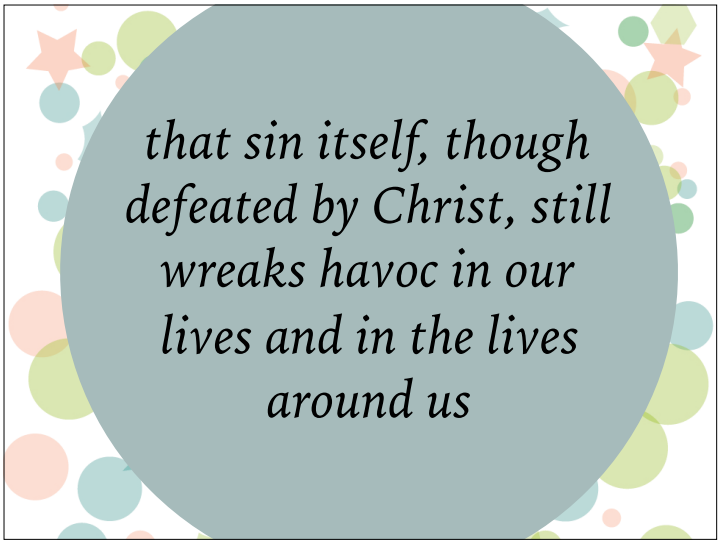

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.
Romans 8:18-27

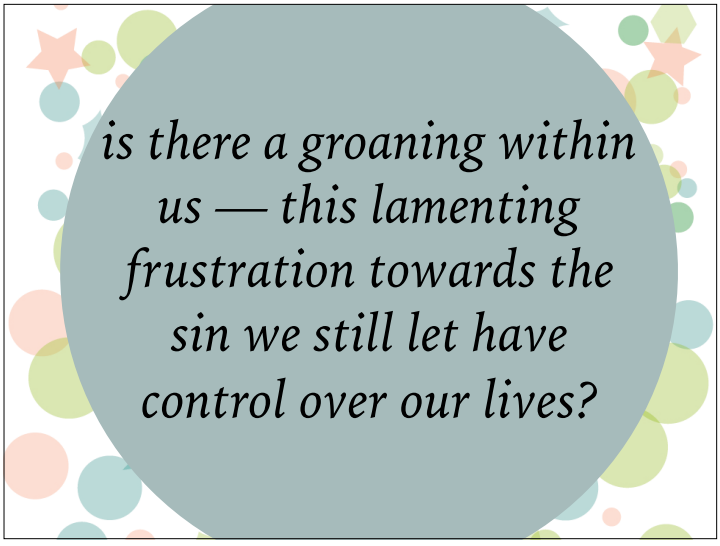

groaning

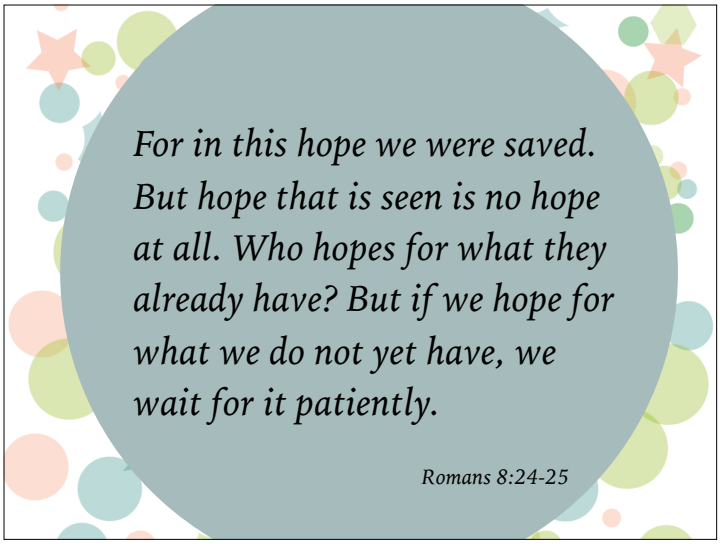

We know that the whole creation has been **groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.
Romans 8:22

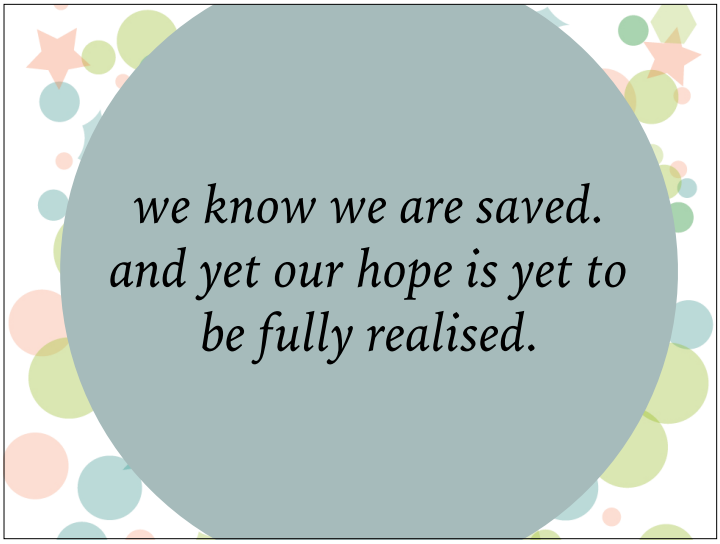

that the brokenness of the world, sin itself, is bringing death to the world.


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.
Romans 8:23


that sin itself, though defeated by Christ, still wreaks havoc in our lives and in the lives around us

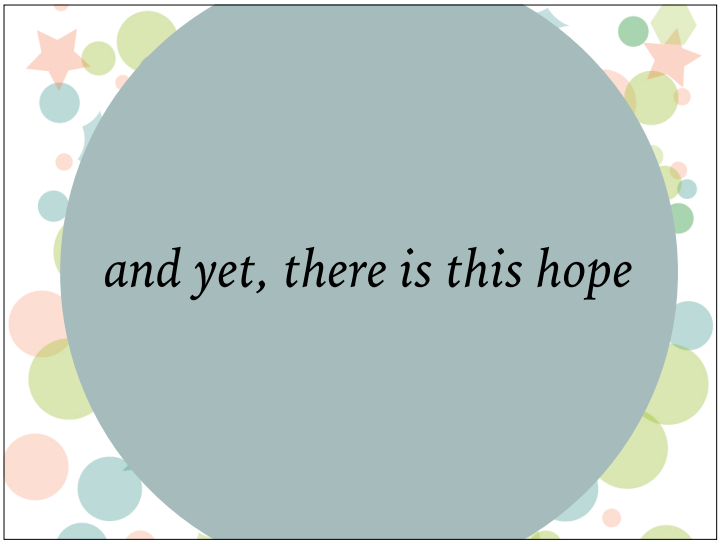

is there a groaning within us — this lamenting frustration towards the sin we still let have control over our lives?

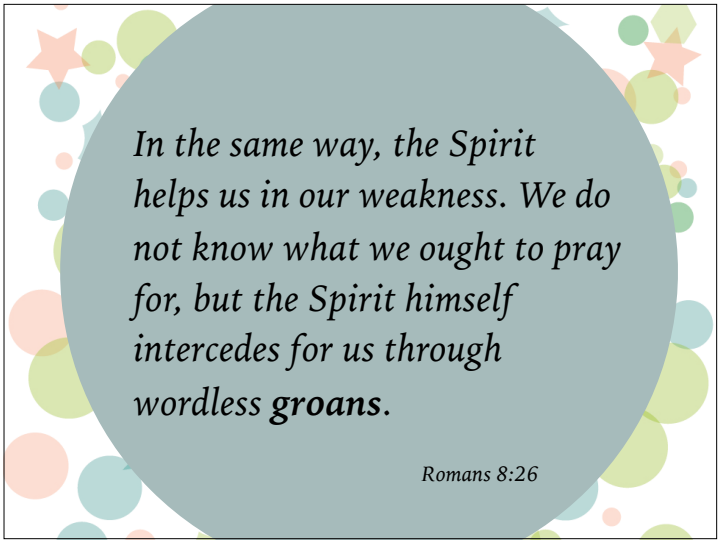

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.
Romans 8:24-25

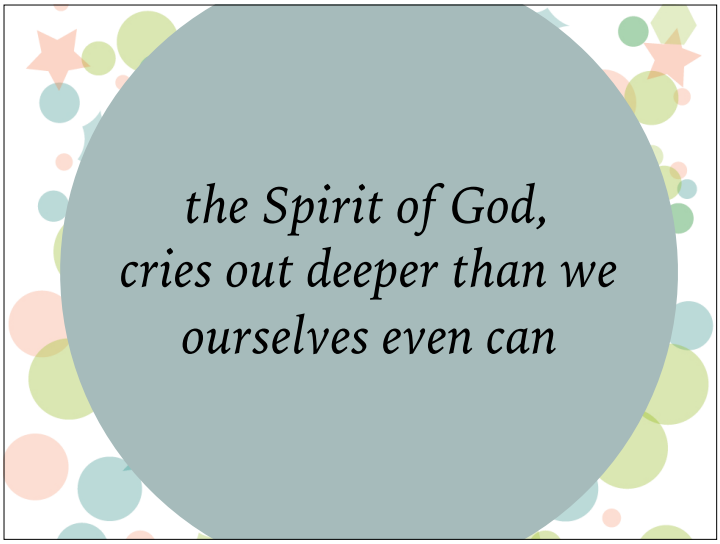

we know we are saved. and yet our hope is yet to be fully realised.

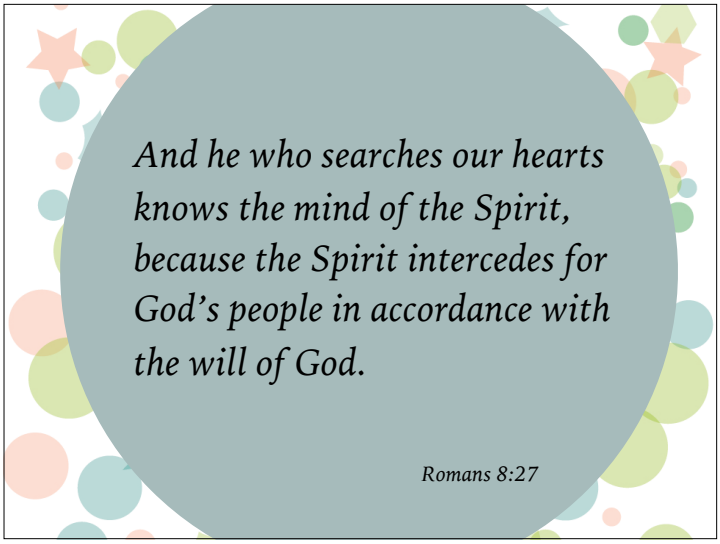
sin is defeated
and yet, whilst we are
here on earth,
sin is still present.

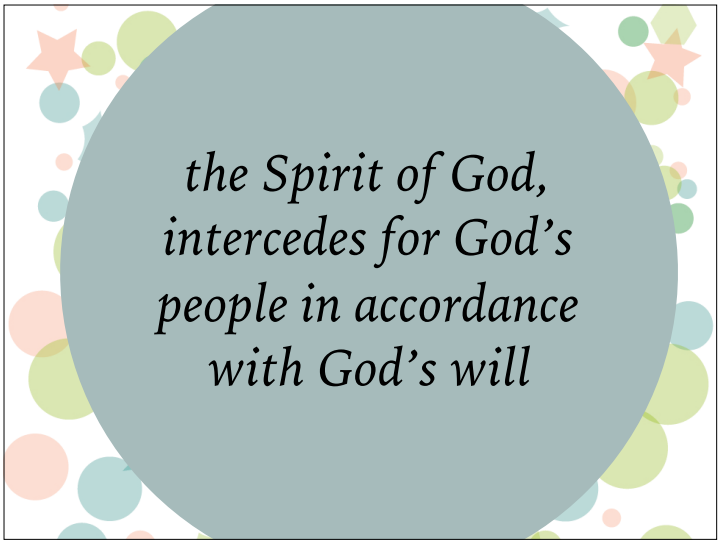
brokenness in this world
selfishness
pride
hate
bitterness
greed

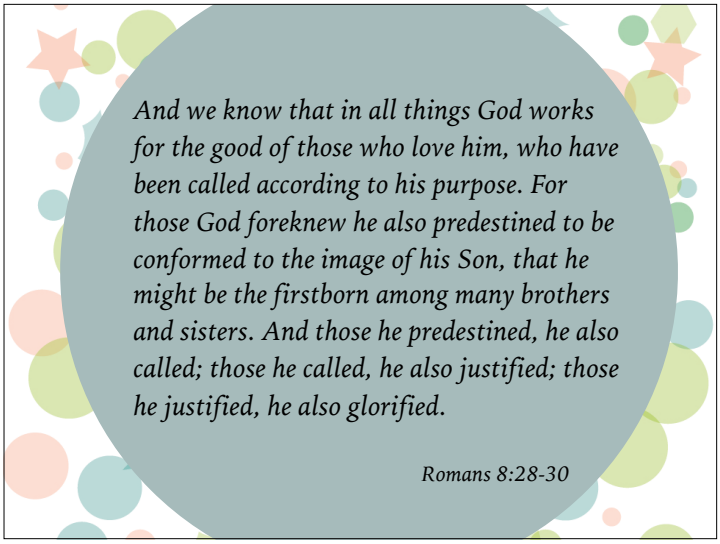

and yet, there is this hope

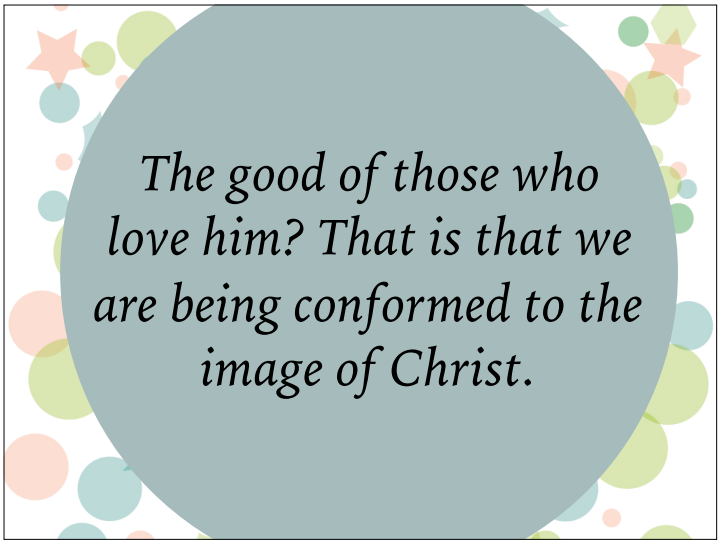

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless **groans**.
Romans 8:26

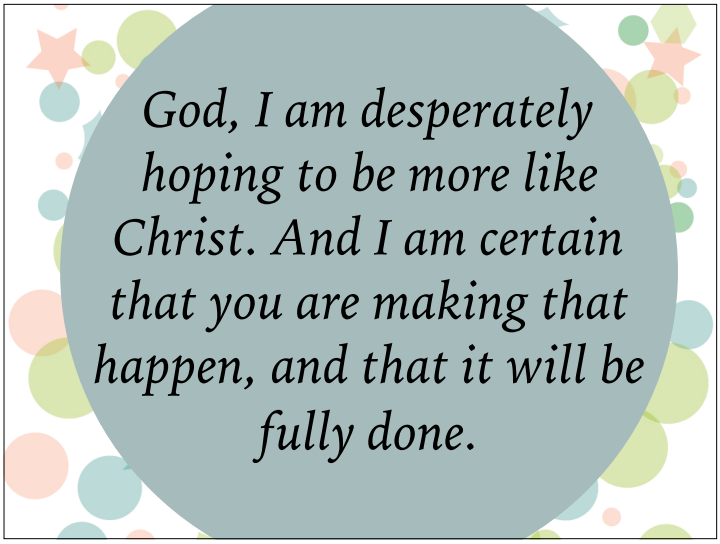

the Spirit of God,
cries out deeper than we
ourselves even can


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.
Romans 8:27


the Spirit of God, intercedes for God's people in accordance with God's will


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. 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. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.
Romans 8:28-30

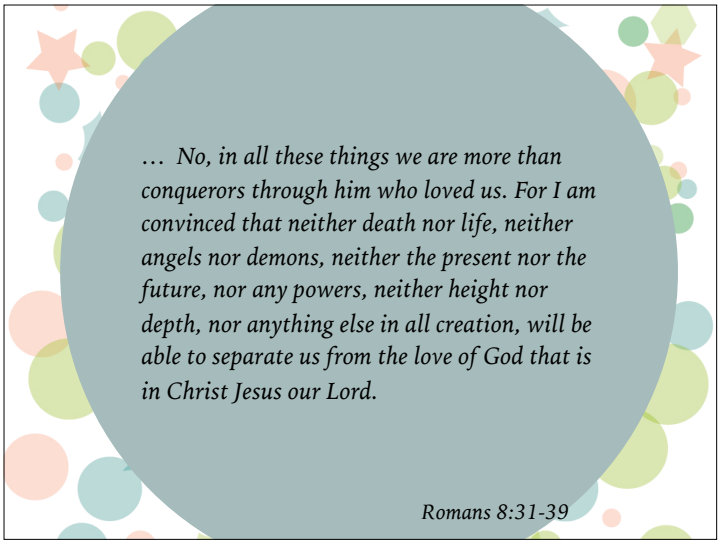

The good of those who love him? That is that we are being conformed to the image of Christ.

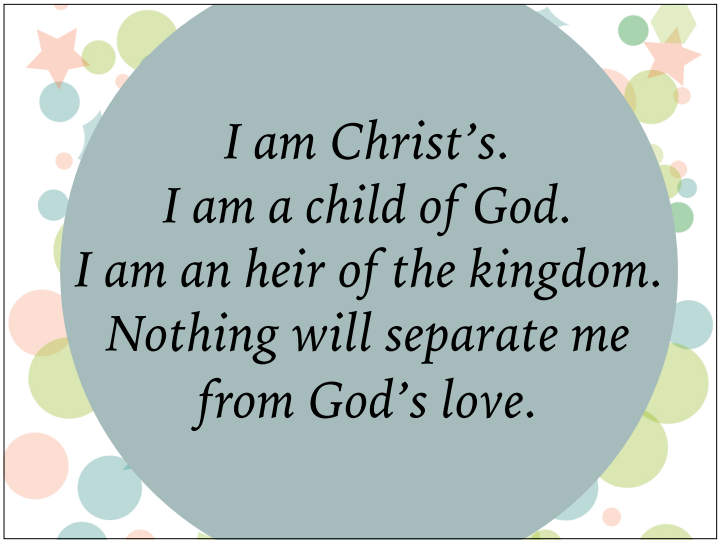

God, I am desperately hoping to be more like Christ. And I am certain that you are making that happen, and that it will be fully done.

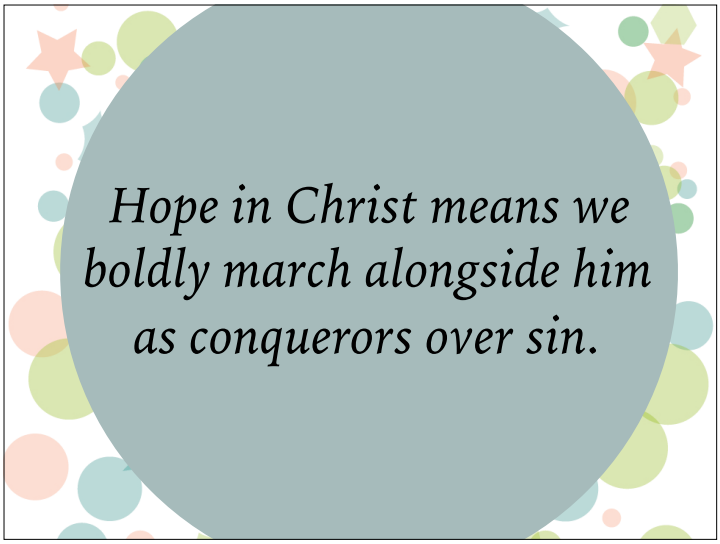
What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

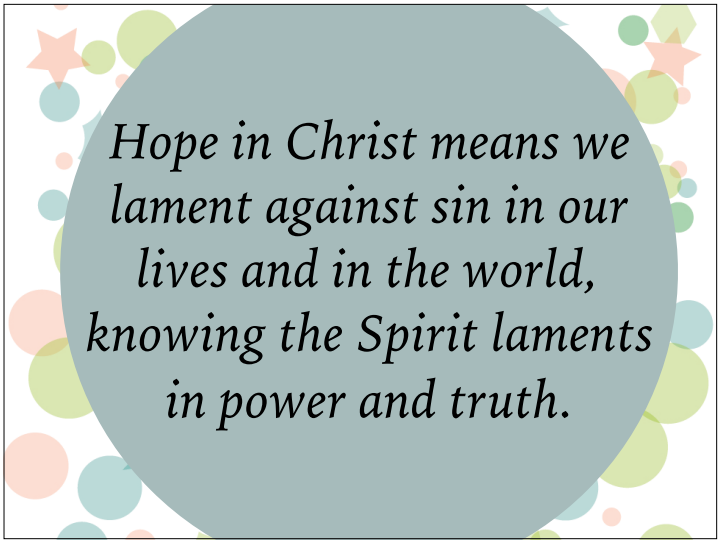
If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

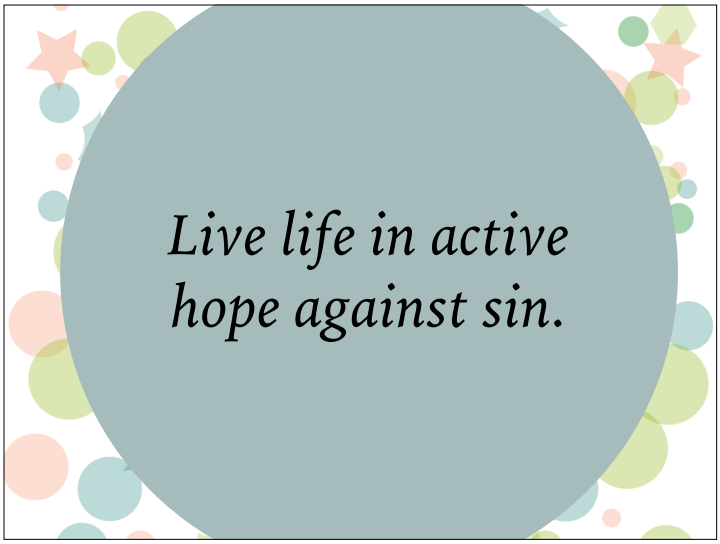
Romans 8:31-39


… No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:31-39


I am Christ's.
I am a child of God.
I am an heir of the kingdom.
Nothing will separate me
from God's love.


Hope in Christ means we boldly march alongside him as conquerors over sin.


Hope in Christ means we lament against sin in our lives and in the world, knowing the Spirit laments in power and truth.


Live life in active hope against sin.