

### Getting Started

Imagine being engaged. You’ve made the promise to be married, but you’re not married yet. What joys do you feel?

What frustrations?

### Into the Bible

Read the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3-10. What does the present life of believers look like? What is their present status? What are they subjected to? What do they try to do?

What does their future life look like?

Open your Bible to Romans 8.

What do verses 14-15 tell you about who you are before God?

What do you make of verse 17? How do we know we are heirs of God? How do you feel about that?

What flash of hope does verse 18 give?

What do you think it means in verse 23 that we “have the firstfruits of the Spirit”?

According to verse 35, what are some of the things we are subject to in this age of the world? Can you give some specific examples of what that might look like?

What assurance do we have in the face of those things?

What’s the basis for that assurance, according to verses 31-34?

What is our ultimate hope (verse 23)?

If we are subject to so much trouble, what do you think verse 37 means?

### Digging Deeper

Theologians talk about being caught between now and not yet, what is already ours in Christ and what we still long for in Him. How does that make it harder to share our faith? Is there any way in which it makes it easier?