

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

4/22/18

Text: Romans 8:26-30 (ESV)

Title: God's Power In Our Weakness

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim taught us about God's power and plan to work all things together for our good. As we saw, God is not simply watching from afar, but is intimately involved in working everything together, from the tiniest atom to the furthest reaches of the universe, all for the ultimate good of those who love him and are called by Him. In the face of suffering or hardship, we can either turn to Pride (wanting it our own way and working to change our circumstances), or Fear (living in self-pity or blame shifting) rather than embracing our weakness and turning to God for help and hope. Contrary to our sinful ways, the beauty of the gospel is that the promises of God, that he is working all things for our *Ultimate* good, are so certain that Paul writes of them as if they've already happened. And so, in the midst of triumph or weakness, we can rejoice in the Lord, and wait patiently on Him to bring humility to our pride, bring hope to our fear, and to carry forth his purpose of conforming us to the image of His son, Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. God is working all things together for our good. Contrary to the gospel, our western materialistic society often uses this idea to promote a "Health and Wealth" Gospel.*
 - What areas of your life have you expected to get better or easier with time? (How have you believed in a "health and wealth" gospel?)**
 - What things (grand or small) are hardest for you to believe God is controlling?**
- 2. In the face of weakness we often turn to Pride (believing in ourselves and trying to control or change our circumstances), or Fear (in self pity, or blaming others) rather than turning to God.*
 - How have you been disappointed with how God is leading your life?**
 - How have you seen Pride or Fear become your default response to weakness or hardship? (Are you more likely to try to control and fix your problems, or live in self-pity or blame-shifting?)**
- 3. At the greatest and smallest, from beginning to end, God is actively working all things for our good to conform us to the image of His son, Jesus. And in His love, He gives us His Spirit, to comfort us, and to intercede for us, so we can live fully dependent and rejoicing in Him.*
 - What does the world you've grown up in tell you is the ultimate goal of your life?**
 - What changes if God's ultimate purpose is to make you look like Jesus?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Worship to LORD for His absolute rule over all existence. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He is King of all circumstance, and that He is good in how He works out all things in keeping with His holy purposes.*
- 2. How have you lived denying God's rule, in essence attempting to throw off His Kingship over you? Confess your foolish rebellion to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to re-shape you into His likeness with an obedient heart.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His willingness to go into abject weakness in order to guarantee us, by His grace, power that we can never lose! Thank Him for turning His suffering and for working all things together to our greatest good.*
- 4. Who do you know that is puzzled or confused by their hardships or weaknesses? Ask the Father to help them, and give them insight into how God uses struggle to produce real strength of heart and character.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom in applying His promises to your circumstances, both good and bad. Ask God to help you to rejoice in Him even in the best and worst situations He has called you to face.*