

Can You Trust Him?

Romans 8:28: “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.”

Or, as the KJV translates it, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

The promise that God works all things together for good does not mean that all things, taken by themselves, are good.

- Some things and events are decidedly bad.
- But God has the ability to work them **together** for good.
- He sees the big picture; He has a master plan for your good in mind.

Neither does the promise that God works all things together for good mean we will acquire all that we want or desire.

Romans 8:28 is about God’s goodness and our confidence that His plan will work out as He sees fit, according to His plan for your life to fulfill His purposes.

We can take confidence that, no matter our circumstances or environments, God is active and will bring situations into alignment according to His good and wise design.

With this knowledge we can learn to be content.

Philippians 4:11

“Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.”
NLT

God works all things together for good means God’s plan will not be thwarted.

We are part of His plan, having been “called according to His purpose.”

When we trust God and His way, we can be sure that He is active and powerful on our behalf - Ephesians 3:20 “Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

God knows the future, and His desires will be accomplished. “I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please’” Isaiah 46:10

- Even when things seem chaotic and out of control, God is still in charge.
- We worry about what’s happening to us because we do not know what is best for us.
But God does.

Paul’s life is a testament to how God works all things together for good.

Paul suffered shipwrecks, beatings, imprisonment, murder attempts, temporary blindness, and much more—all within God’s plan to spread the gospel - Acts 9:16 and 2 Corinthians 11:24–27.

- Through it all, God was steadfastly working to bring about good and glorious results.

Rom 8:26-27

God's help through the Spirit is available for you now.

“Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will *of* God.”

“Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses”: When we are weak, and do not know exactly how we should pray, God Himself (through the Holy Spirit) helps by making intercession through us.

- **Weak[ness]** = the Greek noun *astheneia*, refers to our limited capacity as human beings and our susceptibility to sin and death.
 - Instead of condemning us for our frailty, the Holy Spirit comes alongside us in our weakness, providing strength, guidance, and His comforting presence.
 - One way the Spirit helps us in our weakness is through prayer—when we don’t know what God wants us to pray for.

“Groanings which cannot be uttered”: This help from the Spirit includes praying with the spiritual gift of tongues - 1 Corinthians 14:2, 14-15.

The idea is simply of communication beyond our ability to express. The deep **groanings** within us cannot be articulated apart from the interceding work of the Holy Spirit.

The phrase rendered in English “groanings that cannot be uttered” means “indescribable, wordless groans” in the original Greek language.

Believers “groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies” v. 23.

Paul the apostle pleaded with the Lord to take away his “thorn in the flesh,” only to be told that God’s “power is made perfect in weakness” 2 Corinthians 12:7–9.

- Like Paul, we often think we know what we need, but we’re not good judges of God’s perfect will.
- We don’t have to have the knowledge or the words to express what we need because “the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.”

This is the **purpose of the gift of tongues** – to enable us to communicate with God in a manner that is not limited to our own knowledge or ability to articulate our heart before God.

“According to the will of God”: The Holy Spirit’s help in intercession is perfect because He **searches the hearts** of those whom He helps, and He is able to guide our prayers **according to the will of God**.

v. 28-30 God’s help is an enduring promise; He has the ability to work all things for good and to see us through to glorification.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

“And we know that all things work together for good”: God’s sovereignty and ability to direct every aspect of our lives is demonstrated in the fact that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, though we must face *the sufferings of this present time* Romans 8:18.

God is able to make even those sufferings work together for our good and His purposes.

“All things”: God is able to work ***all things***, not some things.

- He works them for good **together**, not in isolation.
- This promise is for those **who love God** and **trust Him** to manage the affairs of our life because we are **called according to His purpose**.

Paul is saying that God is the author of our salvation, from beginning to end!

Ill: Need a brave person to help me with an illustration this morning.

- Have the person taste test the samples of ingredients in the bowls.
- **Media guys**- I need you to focus in on this person while we are together on the main floor demonstrating the illustration.

Closing:

1. You may not understand the process the Lord has you going through in your life.
 - Moses didn’t, Joseph didn’t, none of those in scripture totally understood what the process was and the why life of what was happening to them.
 - They had to come to a place of trusting God in the unknown of God.

- Prov. 3:5-6 “Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”
2. You may not **like** the process the Lord is using to conform you to the image of His Son.
- Isaiah 55:9 “For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.”
 - Jesus Himself sought if possible another way to do God’s will rather than suffer on the cross.
Matt 26:39 “He went on a little farther and bowed with His face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from Me. Yet I want Your will to be done, not Mine.”
3. You may want to “**Short-Cut**” the process.
James 1:4 “Let patience have its perfect [complete] work, for when your endurance is developed, you will be mature and complete needing nothing.”
- Patience” does not mean “passive tolerance,” but “**active perseverance**.”
 - According to scholars, the idea is that someone remains **consistent through opposition or continues despite the difficulty**.

It is not the suffering that produces maturity, but the act of endurance!

The believer is commanded to “let patience have its perfect work,” which shows that **our response matters**.

Consistency in life, even in the face of trials, is what produces Christian maturity, not just suffering.

- A good example is Hebrews 12:1, where the same word is used to describe the way believers “run the race” of faith.
- The image of a runner is not one of resignation but of **intentionality**, **enduring the pain to reach a pre-established goal**.
- In the same way, as the believer perseveres through trials, he grows in endurance and determination.

What do you and I have to do to have God’s will perfected/matured in our lives?

- Lay it all on the altar in TRUST as Abraham did Isaac: Gen. 22:9
 - His future hope of inheritance – his dream of a son –
 - Perhaps Isaac had become an idol to Abraham hindering his commitment to the Lord.

Trust the Process