



Romans 8:28 - 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.

God controls the clock of destiny. God is working out His plan for mankind!

As wonderful as Romans 8:28 is, it is even more wonderful when you see in context.

Romans 8 is a chapter about life in the spirit, the reality of suffering, and the hope of future glory.

Leading into verse 28, Paul describes:

A groaning creation longing for redemption (19-22)

Believers groaning under the weight of suffering (23)

The spirit interceding for us in our weakness (vv. 26-27)

Romans 8 tells us about the Holy Spirit, who takes the work of Christ and applies it to our lives.

According to verse 26, the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.

26) Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

What kind of weakness?

We are weak in many ways, but in this passage the apostle Paul is specific about the particular weakness he is addressing—our prayer lives. In what way?

We are weak in our ability to know what we should ask. Many times, we really don't know what we should specifically pray for.

God is Omniscient (Simple Approach)

God is Omniscient. God's knowledge is total and not restricted by time.

What we know now, **God has always known.**

What we do tomorrow, God knew before (Eternity Past).

He knows it all to the smallest detail!

He never learns anything because He has always known everything [Proverbs 15:3, Isaiah 36:9-10, 1 John 3:20] God is not reacting to events, He is weaving them together.

We learn by comparing one piece of knowledge with another.

God in eternity past knew all there was. He has always known exactly what is going to happen.

God's knowledge is not learned as is man's. He cannot learn anything new!

His knowledge is complete and certain, **while man's is incomplete and not certain.**

He knows what is best for us, for He knows the future. We are not **omniscient.**

We don't know everything, nor can we see into the future.

So, we don't know whether the things we're asking for will turn out good or bad for us.

As we read through the Bible, we see that the life stories **do not always** end with "**and they all lived happily ever after.**"

If we can grasp the truth of Romans 8:28, we will face trials with a whole new outlook.

Whatever we are going through, is something God is doing in our lives for us.

It will bring greater joy and peace, if we do not panic when it hits as if God has forsaken us. For every adversity, every problem we face – God already has a solution ready to go.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

“And we know” What do we know? That we serve a perfect God. That the Trinity is working together a perfect plan for our lives.

“that all things” cooperate together – all things are not all good or all bad, but God causes them to work together - everything that touches our life. He arranges and rearranges, so it can work for good.

“work together” continually without interruption, recurring

“for good” for the ultimate good - ultimately good is not always immediate good - do not expect it to happen immediately. We struggle with this "good" because we have a hard time seeing God's perspective and His priorities most of the time.

A conditional promise - For the person who loves God and is thus interested in knowing Him and growing spiritually, all things work for good. For the person who does not love God and is thus not interested in knowing Him and growing spiritually, all things do not work for good because that good is the lesson or character that God seeks to build in us.

“to those who are called according to His purpose” it means according to the norm and standards of his purpose. It is a fact – that most of us – grow up faster spiritually because of hardships. We cannot see the future, we cannot see one single event, much less see the results of every event, but God does.

Illustration of Romans 8:28:

A Chinese gentleman lived on the border of China and Mongolia. In those days, there was constant conflict and strife along the perimeter. The man had a beautiful horse. One day, she leaped over the corral, raced down the road, crossed the border, and was captured by the Mongolians. His friends came to comfort him. “That’s bad news,” they said sadly. “What makes you think it’s bad news?” asked the Chinese gentleman. “Maybe it’s good news.” A few days later the mare came bolting into his corral, bringing with it a massive stallion. His friends crowded around.

“That’s good news!” they cried. “What makes you think it’s good news?” he asked. “Maybe it is bad news.” Later, his son, while riding the stallion and trying to break it, was thrown off and broke his leg. “That’s bad news,” cried the friends. “What makes you think it is bad news?” asked the Chinese gentleman. “Maybe it’s good news.” One week later, war broke out with Mongolia, and a Chinese general came through, drafting all the young men. All later perished, except for the young man who couldn’t go because his leg was broken. The man said to his friends, “You see, the things you thought were bad turned out good; and the things you thought were good turned out bad.”

ROMANS 8:28 and Genesis 37-40

Illustrated in the Life of JOSEPH'S LIFE

1. **Genesis 37:3**, "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors."

Jacob's Favoritism: That was bad, but it worked for good.

2. **Genesis 37:4**, "And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him and could not speak peaceable unto him."

Hatred of His Brothers: Bad but works for good.

3. **Genesis 37:18**, "And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him."

Plot to Kill Joseph: Bad but works for good.

4. **Genesis 37:22** - And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"—that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

Reuben's Intervention: Good and works for good.

5. **Genesis 37:25**, "And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and behold, a company of Ishmaelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt."

Coming of the Caravan: Good and works for good. Genesis 37:25.

6. **Genesis 37:26, 27**, "And Judah said unto his brethren, what profit is it if we play our brother, and conceal his blood? Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content."

Judah Suggesting Selling Joseph: Bad but works for good.

7. **Genesis 37:28**, "Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt."

Ishmeelites and Midianites in the Caravan: Bad but works for good.

8. **Genesis 39:1**, "And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmaelites, which had brought him down thither."

Joseph Arrives in Egypt as a Slave: Bad but works for good.

9. **Genesis 37:36** - Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

Joseph is Sold Into the House of Potiphar: Bad, that is slavery, good that is Potiphar.

10. **Genesis 39:17, 18**, "And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out."

Potiphar's Wife Lied, Which Caused Joseph's Imprisonment: Bad, but works for good.

11. **Genesis 39:22**, "And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it."

Joseph is in Charge in Prison: Good, works for good.

12. **Genesis 40:14**, "But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house."

Joseph Trusted in Man: Bad, but it works for good.

13. **Genesis 41:8 - 8** Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.

Magicians and Wise Men Were Not Able to Interpret Pharaoh's Dream: Bad, for Pharaoh, but good for Joseph.

Conclusion:

Good and bad are all woven into a tapestry. God's GRACE turns cursing into blessing. God, in His omniscience, works all things (good and bad) together for the good of those who belong to Him.

Genesis 50:20

20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.