

The Promise of God

Romans 8:28

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1. Romans 8:24-29 form a core of four confidences we can have based on the purposes of God:
 - God will bring a regeneration and will make all things new (verse 24).
 - God is intimately aware of our needs and does respond (verse 26).
 - God is working in the midst of all things (verse 28).
 - God is conforming us to the image of Jesus (verse 29).
2. We must define the good that God is producing in His terms, not in ours.
3. God knows our greatest good is to know Him to the fullest degree possible.
4. All hardship is endurable because everything, even the most damning trial, works for the believer's ultimate good (not immediate good).
5. "And we know..."—Paul was not expressing personal opinion; he was setting forth reality based on the truth of God's Word.
6. May we constantly remind ourselves that God runs this universe for His glory, not ours.
7. Paul did not say that God prevents His children from experiencing things that can harm them. He said that the Lord takes all that He allows to happen to His children, even the worst, and turns those things for His purposes (ex. Genesis 50:20).
8. Instead of turning down the heat, God turns up the grace, so that we can embrace any situation with joy (James 1:2-4).
9. God uses suffering to bring us closer to the image of Jesus (1 Peter 5:10; Job 23:10).
10. God uses the evil of sin as a means of bringing good to His children. When we fall into sin, our spiritual weakness becomes evident and we are driven to seek God's restoration.

11. The supreme reality of God turning "all things" to good is seen in the death of Jesus. God took the ultimate evil Satan could deliver and turned it into the greatest conceivable blessing He could offer.
12. In God's sight, there are only two categories of humans, those who love Him and those who hate Him (Matthew 12:30).
13. We need to acknowledge that all things will not work together for good for everybody.
14. How you respond to God's activity in your life directly affects your earthly future and your eternal future (Romans 2:5).
15. To be called means more than simply to be invited; it means to be summoned and given salvation (Romans 1:6, 8:30).

GREEK WORDS

Synergeō (soon-erg-eh'-o)—co-operate :- help (work) with, work (-er) together
Klētos (klay-tos)—invited, i.e. appointed :- called

QUOTES

"A sick-bed often teaches more than a sermon..." ~Thomas Watson, 1670

"It is not that things in themselves work together to produce good. It is God's providential power and will, not a natural synergism of circumstances and events in our lives, that causes them to work together for good."
~Dr. John MacArthur

"God's 'call' is His effectual summoning of people into a relationship with Himself. This calling takes place in accordance with God's purpose, that purpose being ultimately to conform us to the likeness of his Son."
~Dr. John Piper

"Can they ever do enough for Him, who so marvelously overrules all events for them?" ~Charles Simeon, 1833

