

All Things Work Together for Good

A study of Romans 8:28

*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. (NIV)*

*And we know that to them that love God all things work together **for good**, (even) to them that are called according to (His) purpose. (ASV)*

*And we know that [God causes] all things to work together **for good** to those who love God, to those who are [the]called according to His purpose. (NKJV)*

No matter what version in which you read it, this verse is a source of inspiration, hope, confidence - and yet sometimes confusion - for the believer. First, make no mistake, this verse is for believers only – “those who love God and are called”. Second, even as we wholeheartedly believe this verse, we are many times curious as to the definition of what is “good” or “the good”. What characteristics qualify things as *working together for our good*? “For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” (Philippians 2:13)

Anything that weakens the flesh is good. (Romans 13:14)

- Even though we have been saved, we still wrestle with the original sin nature (Romans 7:15-25)
 - The desires of the flesh lead to sin (James 1:13-14)
 - The flesh: pride, greed, lust, selfishness, deceit, immorality, prejudice (Galatians 5:19-21)
 - Christ did not die for us so that we would continue to live any way we want to (Galatians 2:20, Galatians 5:16-18)
 - The Holy Spirit gives us power over the sinful “flesh” nature (Romans 8:1-11, Hebrews 4:15-16)
 - Strive to keep your mind pure (Philippians 4:8), your body clean (I Corinthians 6:19-20) and your priorities straight (Matthew 6:19-21)

Anything that increases our dependency on Christ is good. (Philippians 4:6-7, 11-13)

- When we quit depending on ourselves – our talents, abilities, money, looks, luck, power, opportunities, job – only then does our dependency on Christ increase.
 - Paul’s “thorn” – kept him from pride and ensured his dependency on Christ (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
 - Earthen vessels – our weakness can bring us to the point of breaking, so that the power of Christ may be evident (2 Corinthians 4:7-11)

Anything that causes us to grow more like Christ is good. (1 John 3:2-3)

- What characteristics of Christ-likeness does God desire to produce in us? (Colossians 3:12-14)
 - Holiness (1 Peter 1:15, Romans 12:1-2)
 - Humility (Philippians 2:5-8, John 13:3-5)
 - Compassion (Matthew 14:14, Mark 6:34)
 - Love for others, especially fellow believers (I John 4:7-12, Ephesians 4:15-16)

Anything that brings glory to God is good.

- Whatever is for His glory is always the best for us. His glory and our good are never in conflict.
 - What is glory? *Definition:* honor, praise, adoration, greatness, majesty, splendor, thanksgiving
 - Giving God credit as the *source* (Psalm 109:26-27)
 - Everything we do should glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31)
 - Acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord glorifies God (Philippians 2:9-11)
 - Living a Christ-like life glorifies God (Philippians 1:9-11)

*“To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things He has done.
With His blood he has saved me, with His power he has raised me.
To God be the glory for the things He has done.
Just let me live my life and let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee.
And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.” – Andrea Crouch*