

“DO ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD?”
(Romans 8:28-29)

INTRO: Promises not explanations are the foundation for hope and assurance. God’s Word contains hundreds of encouraging promises. These are found in both the OT and NT. Let’s brainstorm some of our favorites aloud... Paul’s promise in Romans 8:28 has to be one of the finest, esp. in a world of suffering and sorrow. Read it together. Let’s note 5 TRUTHS in this simple promise:

- I. THE CERTAINTY OF THIS PROMISE (“we know”)** – Circle that phrase. We know this promise is sure because God says so and God cannot lie. Paul didn’t write that we: cry, feel, wish, hope, imagine, dream, desire, positively think, etc. He assures us we can be confident and sure that God says what He does and does what He says. God has character and integrity – His words and actions are perfectly congruent.
- II. THE CAUSE OF THIS PROMISE (“that God causes”)** – Circle “God causes”. These two words define the source and cause of this great promise – GOD! God’s hand is always at work. He never sleeps. He alone is the mighty controller and master designer. No such thing as fate, chance, luck, or karma. God is supervising the whole process toward His end. He is at work in all things for our good. He never worries, wrings His hands, nor paces the floor. He is sovereign and in control – and has the power to cause this promise to be a reality. Isa. 64:4
- III. THE COMPLETENESS OF THIS PROMISE (“all things to work together for good”)** – He doesn’t say: some, most, or many, but all. What does that include? Illness (yes), divorce, unemployment, miscarriages, failure, accidents, stupid decisions, sin, etc. Yes, Yes, Yes! Everything fits into God’s plan. The good and the bad. The things I do and fail to do. What I control and what I can’t. All things God works together for the good. No restrictions or conditions.
Note, promise does NOT say all things *are* good. All things in this world are not good. It would be a mockery to say that they are. The death of a child is not good. Cancer is not good. Terrorism is not good. Addiction, hate, divorce, etc., are not good. Certainly, they are not (rape, war, poverty, famine). God is no monster and is incapable of sin. *Neither does it say that*

God shields us from such things! We bring a lot on ourselves, in addition to living in a fallen world. It does say that He causes all things to *work together* for good. Bowler Bill Fong . . . Sodium and chlorine = salt.

ILLUS – baking a chocolate cake (flour, raw eggs, salt, etc). Recipe (PPT). On their own not good, but when they work together (synergy) the end result is good. Cake PPT.

ILLUS – Joseph’s life... Job’s life...

ILLUS – The cross of Christ... tragedy or triumph?

Did God bring good? The incidents in our lives are not incidental.

- IV. THE CONDITION OF THIS PROMISE (“to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose”)** – This great promise is limited. It has a qualifier. It is not automatic for everybody. All things do not work together for good for everybody. All people are not saved and all do not love God and seek to live according to His purpose. This promise is for those who love God and seek to do His will. This promise is not for you if you are not His child or if you have walked away from His will. A person has to love God to claim this promise. Deut. 7:9; Ps. 145:20; 1 Cor. 2:9; 8:3. Do you love Him? How know? 1 Jn. 2:3-6
- V. THE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS PROMISE (v. 29 “...to become conformed to the image of His Son”)** – This promise is not without purpose. God has a reason for working all things together for the good of those who love Him. The goal is not to make us happy or to keep us healthy, but to conform us to be holy – to be like Christ. To be like Jesus is God’s goal.

Closing Thought: If v. 28 is true, I must choose to trust God completely (Isa. 46:9-10). Living not in fear but in faith that my God is at work for my good and His glory.

CONC – This promise assures us that God causes and works all things together for good. Isn’t that a great and glorious promise? Is it yours today? Do you know and love Him? If you’re a believer, are you living according to His purpose today? Don’t lose out on this awesome assurance. Let’s read v. 28 together . . . Remember, life is just like a cake . . .