

All Things Will Work Together For Good

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. (Romans 8:28)

It may be hard to understand how this can be true under certain circumstances. If we are injured, develop a serious illness, or in some way are suffering, we may not see how this will work together for good. If a young couple have a baby, and that baby is born with serious health problems, they may have a hard time understanding how it is true. Or, if we lose our jobs, homes, and are struggling financially, we may not feel like everything is working together for good. But, we know that this statement must be true, for God said it, and God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

All Things Work Together For Good In So Many Positive Ways

Ninety-nine percent of us, ninety-nine percent of the time enjoy a wide variety of positive things in life, and in those cases it is easy to see how all things are working together for good. Most of us have: good health; healthy children; and more than we need financially. We need to understand where these blessings come from, and give thanks for them.

"Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.." (James 1:17).

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20).

For instance, let us consider having healthy children. Having children in and of itself is a blessing, for children are an heritage of the Lord (Psalm 127:3-5). Children fill our lives with joy, and memories. One of the greatest sounds in the world is the laugh of a baby. It is contagious. If you hear a baby laugh, you cannot help but laugh along with them. Anyone who has had children has a suitcase full of memories of playing with them, and doing things with them. Having healthy children is icing on the cake. Parents who have healthy children should realize how blessed they are, and give God thanks for them.

All Things Working Together For Good Is Not Limited To Positive Things

"All things" includes health problems. Health problems can actually work together for a lot of good:

1. Health problems have caused more than one person to spend their time reading, and studying, because they were not able to do physical activities. If one spends that time reading and studying God's word, it will work together for their spiritual growth (2 Peter 3:18).
2. Health problems can also create an opportunity for others to fulfill a command of God. God has said "As

we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). Health problems can create the "opportunity" for others to fulfill this command.

3. Health problems can cause you to be an example to others in faith, and Christian living. A dear sister in Christ had cancer. She fought it for many years. During those years she always had a positive attitude, and continued to look for ways to serve God, and put others before herself.
4. Health problems can cause you to long for that new body (1 Corinthians 15:51-54), and that home in heaven, where there will be no more tears, death, sorrow, or crying (Revelation 21:4).

"All things" includes death. Death works together for good, for then we shall go on to be with the Lord (Philippians 1:23). If it be the death of a loved one (who died in the Lord), then we need not sorrow, for we shall both meet together one day in the clouds, to ever be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

"All things" includes financial problems. James says "count it all joy when you fall into various trials" (James 1:2-4 NKJV), for trials prove our faith (cause it to grow), and produces patience (endurance). This will help us to become perfect, and entire, lacking nothing. Can you think of a better way for things to work together for good than for us to be the children God wants us to be?

The Greatest Example Of All Things Working Together For Good Is Seen In An Empty Tomb

The empty tomb where Jesus was laid is the result of a lot of things working together for good. The following are only a few of the things that had to work together.

1. Jesus had to be born of the decendancy of David and sit upon his throne.
2. He had to be born of a virgin, in the city of Bethlehem.
3. All the prophecies in the Old Testament had to be fulfilled by Him.
4. He had to be tempted, yet without sin.
5. He had to be arrested, tried, crucified, and buried in a rich man's tomb.
6. He had to be raised the third day.

That empty tomb is the greatest example of all things working together for good, for without that empty tomb:

1. We would perish.....but because of it we have everlasting life (John 3:16).
2. We would be condemned.....but because of it there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1).
3. We would be without hope....but because of it we have hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

This Promise Is Only For Those Who Love God, And Are Called According To His Purpose

What does it mean to love God? God says it means to love Him with all of one's heart,

soul, and mind (Matthew 22:27-28). He also says that if we love Him we will keep His commandments (1 John 5:3). So, if we love God, we will keep His commandments, and we will do all things whatsoever He has commanded. *What does it mean to be called according to His purpose?* God says we are called by the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2: 13-14). *What is His purpose?* His purpose is for all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). But, only those who obey His gospel will be saved (Hebrews 5:9; Mark 16:15-16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8). Therefore, this promise is for those who love God, keep His commandments, and have heard and obeyed His gospel, that they might be saved.

If you love God, and have obeyed His gospel, then you should rejoice, and trust, in the promise that all things will work together for good. If you have not obeyed His gospel then now is the time. God loved you enough to send His Son to die for you, and He is calling for you to obey His gospel.

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the 27th Annual Mid-West Lectures, "God's Precious Promises." To hear or view the complete lesson go to www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm or contact the 39th Street Church of Christ 15331 East 39th Street Independence, MO 64055-4240 USA

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