

DO ALL THINGS REALLY WORK FOR OUR GOOD?

Romans 8:28

Introduction: *"For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God..."* Have you ever had trouble with this passage of scripture? This is what God's Word says, but sometimes it seem that the sky has fallen in and there is nothing good that can possible happen, only bad. If, however, you have ever looked back through your life and reflected on some bad things that happened, you probably saw that you made it through and after all was said and done, something good came out of it all. It's just that way with God. Not fun at the time, seemingly disastrous, but years later, when all is said an done, you made it.

- 1. God's mercies may not look like mercies at that disastrous moment, but for those who try to keep on loving and trusting God through it all, those "mercies" will work out for one's good.**
- 2. What we think is God being "rough," "too strong" on us will also, in the long run be good for us.**
 - God sent difficulties will cause us to seek Him and in doing so, we will learn that God is still faithful to us and His heart is set on making us better.
- 3. What we might call a "cross to bear" will work out ultimately for our good.**
 - Things that disappoint, frustrate, bring stress and confusion to us, at the moment seen very hard to bear, but they are means by which God shows us that He is in charge, not us or our family or friends.
- 4. Strange, but afflictions, according to God's Word, are counted as good things for us.**

"...Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept thy word." "...I know that in faithfulness thou hast afflicted me." "...Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth.."

 - Well, the Lord must surely love me a lot because I have had plenty of bad things happen that were not my fault...many of us say.
 - We are reminded of Job and God expects us to learn from what happened to Job and why.
- 5. Things we call "temptations" are also good things for us.**
 - I thought temptations cause us to sin and sin is bad. How can being tempted be good for us?
 - *"...My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.."*
 - Fighting temptation increases our knowledge of God and His Word, and increases our faith in Both.
- 6. Responsibilities are also things which God uses to work in us to be better.**
 - Many responsibilities are heavy, problematic, testing of our abilities and patience.
 - In God's eyes, strangely, responsibilities helps develop our spiritual powers and abilities.
 - Responsibilities drives us to God frequently for help, advice, support, therefore a way of discipline.
- 7. Even our own physical frailties can be used by God for our good.**
 - Physical infirmities, frailties, weaknesses, cause us to make adjustments and often that means depending on something or someone.
 - Physical weaknesses often cause us to have to live a life that prohibits certain things that would cause us to get into sin, therefore these frailties become a means of blessing for/to us.

8. We already know that our mistakes teach us lessons.

- None of us are perfect and we mess up every day, many times. Hopefully we learn from our mistakes and become wiser and stronger and hopefully don't commit those same wrong things again.
- Our mistakes work for our good.

9. Our sins should make us better Children to God and brothers and sisters to one another.

- Remember Peter's great sin? How it eventually turned out? He was much stronger afterwards than he was before he sinned in the garden by denying he ever knew Jesus.
- Hopefully we, too, can be stronger after running to the Lord in repentance.

10. The things that others do wrong like we do, can make us stronger and make us better.

- We realize by seeing others do some of the same wrong things, that we are not the only sinners around.
- We can draw strength from one another and encourage one another for we are all sinners.

11. Seeing others in distress, suffering, affliction can cause us to be better.

- When we see others in pain, distress, hurting, suffering, we know how they feel and so we can identify with them and perhaps be of help to them, understanding what they are going through.
- We can offer them our help for we have been there, too.

12. *"For we know that ALL things work together for good to them that love God."*

- Now we can see that God can use everything that is in our lives, everything that happens and doesn't happen in our lives to help us be what He wants us to be.
- It may not be "fun" right now, but when it's all said and done, God will welcome us home.
"... Well done..."