

GOD'S PHARMACY

Romans 8:28

Introduction: In the pharmacy or drug store, certain medical prescriptions are made up of several ingredients. Some of the ingredients are poisonous and dangerous by themselves. However, if they are mixed with certain other ingredients in just the right amounts, a medicine is developed that will bring healing to the human body. So it is with God. He can take our problems and difficult situations that are harmful and dangerous, mix them together with his love and wisdom and the result is something wonderful - medicine for our souls.

I. THE CERTAINTY OF GOD'S PROMISE

1. "*..and we know..*" There are no ifs, ands, or buts with God and His promises.
 - No matter what happens, God is going to work it out for our good and His glory.
 - Rest assured, God will do what He said He would do.

II. THE COMPLETENESS OF GOD'S PROMISE

1. "*All things work together for good..*" Not some things, not most things - **but all things!**
 - Some things work real well in our lives - my marriage is great - God has been good to me.
 - What about sorrowful things? How can a broken heart turn out for a person's good? Etc..
2. Sorrowful things in God's hands work to our good.
 - What if our country was defeated and we were hauled off to some foreign country. Could that be good for us? It happened to Judah. They thought it a disaster, but God did it for their own good. God will discipline His own for their sinfulness.
3. King David strayed from God, so God afflicted him with sickness. David later wrote thanking God for the suffering for he recognized it as for his own good.
 - Affliction is the best teacher. Sometimes God has to put us on our backs to bring us back.
 - Joseph was beaten and sold by his brothers, meaning it for evil. But God meant it for good.
4. King Manasseh had difficulty serving God. God allowed the king of Assyria to capture Manasseh dragging him through thorns and carrying him into Babylon. Manasseh saw his error, repented and God brought him back to his kingdom.
 - His iron chains did him more good than his golden crown. Sometimes God has to pull us down off our thrones to get our attention.
5. Satanic things work for our good. Paul had a "thorn" which he called a messenger from Satan, but God had given it to him.
 - Story of a poor lady who loved the Lord and trusted Him for all her needs. Her landlord was not a believer and made fun of her faith. One day he overheard her praying for groceries and decided to cure her of her religious superstitions, so he bought groceries and put them on her table and waited for her to get home. When she got home she began to praise God for hearing and answering her prayer and meeting her needs..just then the landlord rushed

into the room shouting "You fool, God didn't supply you with groceries, I did, it was me" The lady answered, "I asked God for groceries and He supplied. Even if He had to supply them through the devil himself, it won't bother me." God uses Satanic things too.

6. Sinful things work for our good. *"..where sin abounds, grace abounds more.."*
 - Peter had boasted that he would follow Christ even to death. We know the story.
 - Jesus forgave Peter, restored him and Peter was able to use his own failings to strengthen others.
 - If you think you have sinned greatly, take a look at Peter. Peter denied the Lord at the most crucial time in His life. But Peter was forgiven, and you can be too.
 - All things work together for good, the sweet, sorrowful, the satanic and the sinful.

III. THE CAUSE OF GOD'S PROMISE

1. God works all things together. He is the cause of our circumstances.
 - Martin Luther, a great man of faith, fell into a mood of despondency. Locked himself in his room and refused to come out for any reason. He just sat and brooded, depressed over the circumstances in his life. His wife dressed herself totally in black and let herself into his room. He looked at her and asked who died..God has she said..He was shocked and told her she was committing blasphemy ..She then told him he was doing the same thing by the way he was acting, he thought God was dead too. He walked out of the room.
 - No matter what happens in your life, God is behind it. He is using the circumstances of your life for your own good.

IV. THE CONDITION OF GOD'S PROMISE

1. *"All things work together for good ...to them that love God."* It doesn't work for everyone!
 - If you love God, He will work all things together for your good. If you don't..He won't!
 - You can't claim this promise unless you love God. Be careful when you say "I love God!" For you will one day stand before Him face to face.
2. Jesus can be viewed as good or bad. To the believer, He is the wonderful door to eternal life. To the unbeliever, He is the door that shuts them out of heaven. Everyone is going to meet Jesus someday. For those who don't know Him, it will be a time of terror. For those who do know Him down here, it will be a blessed occasion.

V. THE CONSEQUENCES OF GOD'S PROMISE

1. You cannot take this passage lightly, for it is followed by these words: *"For whom he did forknow he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son."*
 - All those things God is working for good in your life is for a purpose..not to make you wealthy or happy, but to make you like Jesus Christ.
 - God works all things together for good so that you can grow into Christlikeness. God isn't finished with you..He is still arranging things to conform you into Christ's image.
2. God is sending circumstances to you today -- to make you like His Son! Accept what He sends!