

Comfort in God's Sovereignty 2022-04-03

Romans 8:28

we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

.....Positive & negative = Rom 8:28.....when/where/to whom born,

- Comfort knowing God is sovereign so no random/purposeless events in our life. Sometimes so weak/beaten down inability to verbalize pain, know what pray/ask.

- God does not condemn us for being weak nor remove weakness but graciously gives Holy Spirit to help us by interceding for us. Romans 8:26-27, 34, 1 John 5:14-15

“helps” = someone carrying heavy load and another comes alongside to take other end and bear burden with him.....implies Holy Spirit does not do all and we do nothing.

- Constantly weak so need and HAVE continual, unending, relentless intercession of Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit.....God never slumbers/sleeps. Intercession on both ends.

Heart of Holy Spirit aches for Christians' glorification and prays God brings decision, circumstances most to magnify Jesus Christ in harmony with God's will.

- Holy Spirit interprets *our* Holy Spirit-inspired groanings and corrects/perfectly aligns so conform to God's will so always answered according to His sovereign plan for you.
 - Knowing this should encourage us to pray more.

May *not know* how pray but comfort knowing God causes all things work together. Romans:28, Proverbs 16:33, Job 42:2, Genesis 50:20, Ephesians 1:11, Acts 4:27-28

- Not *feel/hope/think* but *know*...nothing thwarts His purpose/plan for your life.
 - All things (good/bad) Father controls.

Angry at mere suggestion God is directing/using *painful, hard, unjust* for our good.

- His sovereignty does not invalidate choices and choices do not remove His sovereignty.
 - accomplishes His sovereignty through causing us to make willing choices.

Rom 8:28 only works if God is able to accomplish purpose in spite of sinful/“free will”.

- Open Theism = try to get God off the hook for suffering, but there is comfort in knowing God is sovereign so no random/purposeless events in our life, including suffering.
 - insensitively to those suffering to recite Rom 8:28 trying to comfort.

Christians' lives are not ruled by chance/fate but sovereign/loving God who works all things for good.....to save/glorify ONLY His people (Christians). Romans 8:28, 1 John 4:19

- *love God/called* same people....Christians.
 - "Called" more than invited to receive but summoned to and given salvation
 - love for God effect/stems from His love and sovereign calling.
 - not work for good only as long as love God. Performance based.

- *Not* say all things feel, seem, are good....or to call/pretend good
 - Sin is never good and tragedy always painful/difficult.
 - “good” here is our salvation, sanctification, eternal glory.
- God cause all in Christian life for our eternal good/glorify, His predestined purposes.

Comfort in knowing God is sovereign so no random/purposeless events in our life.

- Must believe *before* storm because in the midst of trials, we resort to truth already learned.
 - This truth enables us to pray knowing Holy Spirit conform groanings to God's will and Father answers accord His sovereign eternal plan.
Romans:27b, Isaiah 65:24