

Through the Chaos of Circumstance
Romans 8:26-39

In Rom. 8, God attempts to help us navigate a fundamental contradiction of the Christian life: that despite our identity as children of God, we are subject to the same struggles and suffering as the rest of creation. In fact, God's word acknowledges that sometimes the pain, whether physical or emotional, is so bad that we don't even know how to pray—that the Spirit of God within us groans for us and the Father understands.

Paul's own experience offers a good look at the deep, confusing pain that a believer can experience. After years of suffering for the gospel and finally being imprisoned in Rome, he wrote in Philippians 1 that he didn't know how to pray; ask to die and be with the Lord or to live and continue to encourage his churches.

But in Romans 8, Paul expressed a promise for believers. Though we share in the same struggles and suffering as the rest of creation, for those who love Him, those called according to His purpose, God works in our lives so that all things, both those things which are pleasing and those which are painful, guide us toward the "good." The word translated "good" doesn't refer to temporary pleasure. It refers to His perfect and blessed purpose and plan for your life. God uses our circumstances to guide us to be more like Jesus, and as a result to experience a life that is purposeful, eternal, and a blessing to the world and the kingdom.

God has been designing our lives so that all things, both what we consider good and pleasurable or bad and painful, are guiding us toward His good and perfect will for our lives that will result in purpose and blessing and ultimately eternal life.

We can be sure because of verse 32: "He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all--how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?"

Whatever your facing today, He won't let you down. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.