

11/26/23

Romans 8:28-31

God's #1 Purpose for My Life

*“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them. For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to **become like His Son**, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, He called them to come to Him. And having called them, He gave them right standing with Himself. And having given them right standing, He gave them His glory. What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?” Romans 8:28-31 (NLT)*

I. God is strong enough to make everything work for my good... (IF, I belong to God and live according to His purpose).

- Example: Chocolate Cake: all-purpose flour, sugar, unsweetened cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda, salt, espresso powder, milk, oil, eggs, vanilla extract
- Example: – Tapestry

1. **JOSEPH** : “You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” Genesis 50:20 (NLT)
2. **JEWISH PEOPLE IN EXILE**: ““For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’” Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)
3. “The Stockdale Paradox”

Retain faith that
you will prevail
in the end
regardless of
difficulties...

**AND
AT THE
SAME TIME...**

Confront the
most brutal
facts of your
current reality

“Good to Great,” by Jim Collins

4. To Whom: GOD'S FAMILY

*“...those who **love God** and are **called according to His purpose** for them.” Romans 8:28b (NLT)*

II. God's #1 purpose for your life...YOU TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS. (1 Corinthians 15:49, 2 Peter 1:4, 1 John 3:2, Galatians 4:19)

“For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” Romans 8:29 (NLT)

“This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.” Ephesians 4:13 (NLT)

Question:

How does God make us more like Jesus?

1. SPENDING TIME WITH GOD (Bible & Prayer)

“So, all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.” 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)
(additional references: John 17:17, Acts 20:32)

- Example: Moses and the veil

*“When Moses came down Mount Sinai carrying the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, He wasn’t aware that **His face had become radiant** because He had spoken to the Lord.” Exodus 34:29 (NLT)*

2. PROBLEMS, PAINS, & PRESSURES

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.”
Romans 5:3-4 (NLT) (additional references: James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

III. What’s my response to all this? CONFIDENCE IN GOD

“...If God is for us, who can ever be against us?” Romans 8:31 (NLT)

- Example: “Bitter” or “Better”

Keep the conversation going...

1. When was a time when you really knew you were living God’s plans for you? Or, when was a time when you realized that you were not living God’s plans for you? How did you know?
2. Read Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 12:2. How does it feel to know that God has a good plan for your life that is filled with hope and prosperity?
3. Do you tend to: a) jump out in faith, and then ask if it’s God’s Will; or b) ask for God’s Will and wait until you clearly have an answer? How’s that working for you? Please share an example with your group.