



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Bitter or Better?

Speaker: Alan Brooks

Highlighted Scriptures

Romans 8:28–29 (ESV)

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

Luke 9:22 (ESV)

“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

Romans 8:18 (ESV)

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Philippians 3:10 (ESV)

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”

1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)

“For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.”

Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you been or are you now bitter towards God for one reason or another?**
- 2. The Bible has a LOT to say about suffering. How has suffering played a role in your Christian journey?**
- 3. How has Romans 8:28 impacted your life?**
- 4. Have you rightly understood the requirement of “loving God” before believing that “all things are working together for good”?**
- 5. Why is the demonstration of our love in repentance of sins and how we live out our lifestyle important?**
- 6. Have you properly understood the purpose of God working all things together for good being you becoming more Christlike? How does knowing that change your perspective of your trial or tribulation?**

Reflection Challenge

- This week, when hardships arise, pause and ask: Am I becoming bitter or better?**
- Journal one way God might be using your current trial to make you more like Christ.**
- Pray Romans 8:28–29 daily as a reminder of God’s purpose in your suffering.**

Prayer Prompt

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come before you. And I pray that in the midst of my own struggles that you know, God, and I've tried to be honest and upfront about that here today, that we would recognize that you're doing a work. And in the midst of our pain, in the midst of our difficulties, God, you are there. You're not necessarily delivering us out of it. You're delivering us through it. And God, help us to choose rightly. Help us to choose to become better in the trial, not bitter. And I pray that for my brothers and sisters who are hearing this today. And God, may you be glorified in all things. And God, we give you our love and praise. In Jesus' name, Amen.

