

GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK AROUND YOU
Romans 8:18-30 (CSB)

❖ God is always at work around you.

1. We should CONSIDER God's work with and around us.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of him who subjected it—in the hope ²¹that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now.

Romans 8:18-22 (CSB)

2. We should HOPE in God's work with and around us.

Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴Now in this hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:23-25 (CSB)

Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 (CSB)

3. We should PRAY for God's work with and around us.

In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:26-28 (CSB)

Boasting is necessary. It is not profitable, but I will move on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether he was in the body or out of the body, I don't know; God knows. ³I know that this man—whether in the body or out of the body I don't know; God knows—⁴was caught up into paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a human being is not allowed to speak. ⁵I will boast about this person, but not about myself, except of my weaknesses.

4. We should WALK in confidence in God's work with and around us.

For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30 (CSB)

A song of ascents. Of David. LORD, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I do not get involved with things too great or too wondrous for me. ²Instead, I have calmed and quieted my soul like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like a weaned child. ³Israel, put your hope in the LORD, both now and forever.

Psalms 131:1-3 (CSB)

❖ Conclusion:

Then Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷There we were, binding sheaves of grain in the field. Suddenly my sheaf stood up, and your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." "Are you really going to reign over us?" his brothers asked him. ⁸"Are you really going to rule us?" So they hated him even more because of his dream and what he had said.

Genesis 37:5-8 (CSB)

Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers. "Look," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰He told his father and brothers, and his father rebuked him. "What kind of dream is this that you have had?" he said. "Am I and your mother and your brothers really going to come and bow down to the ground before you?" ¹¹His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Genesis 37:9-11 (CSB)

His brothers had gone to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem. ¹³Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers, you know, are pasturing the flocks at Shechem. Get ready. I'm sending you to them." "I'm ready," Joseph replied.

Genesis 37:12-13 (CSB)

They saw him in the distance, and before he had reached them, they plotted to kill him.

Genesis 37:18 (CSB)

When Reuben heard this, he tried to save him from them. He said, "Let's not take his life." ²²Reuben also said to them, "Don't shed blood. Throw him into this pit in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him"—intending to rescue him from them and return him to his father.

Genesis 37:21-22 (CSB)

Judah said to his brothers, "What do we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷Come on, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay a hand on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh," and his brothers agreed. ²⁸When Midianite traders passed by, his brothers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph to Egypt.

Genesis 37:26-28 (CSB)

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But they could not answer him because they were terrified in his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please, come near me," and they came near. "I am Joseph, your brother," he said, "the one you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now don't be grieved or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because God sent me ahead of you to preserve life."

Genesis 45:3-5 (CSB)

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said to one another, "If Joseph is holding a grudge against us, he will certainly repay us for all the suffering we caused him." ¹⁶So they sent this message to Joseph, "Before he died your father gave a command: ¹⁷'Say this to Joseph: Please forgive your brothers' transgression and their sin—the suffering they caused you.' Therefore, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when their message came to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came to him, bowed down before him, and said, "We are your slaves!" ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people. ²¹Therefore don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Genesis 50:15-21 (CSB)