



The Book of ROMANS

Chapter 8:28-39

“TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD!”

Go for God! ~ In this passage we find THREE POWER POINTS FROM GOD:

> God's Power Point #1 – ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD! (v28-30)
(v28) Observe some tough examples of *things working together for the good:*

- NOAH - Noah lived at a time when the whole earth was filled with violence and corruption. Yet Noah did not allow the evil standards of his day to rob him of fellowship with God. He stood out as the only one who "walked with God" (Gen 6:9), as was true of his great-grandfather Enoch (Gen 5:22). Noah was a just or righteous man (Gen 6:9). The Lord singled out Noah from among all his contemporaries and chose him as the man to accomplish a great work.

- JOB - Job was noted for his perseverance (James 5:11) and unwavering faith in God, in spite of his suffering and moments of frustration and doubt. Satan suggested to God that Job would remain righteous as long as it was financially profitable for him to do so. Then the Lord permitted Satan to try Job's faith in God. Blow after blow fell upon Job: his children, his servants, and his livestock were taken from him and he was left penniless. Nevertheless, "*In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong*" (Job 1:22).

Satan continued his assault by sneering, "*Touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!*" (Job 2:5). The Lord allowed Satan to afflict Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head, so that Job sat in the midst of ashes and scraped his sores with a piece of pottery. "*Do you still hold fast to your integrity?*" his wife asked him. "*Curse God and die!*" (Job 2:9). But Job refused to curse God. "*Shall we indeed accept good from God,*" he replied, "*and shall we not accept adversity?*" (Job 2:10).

Job's faith eventually triumphed over all adversity, and he was finally restored to more than his former prosperity. He had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He died at the ripe old age of 140 years (Job 42:12-13,16-17). Job is a model of spiritual integrity—a person who held fast to his faith, without understanding the reason behind his suffering. He serves as a continuing witness to the possibility of authentic faith in God in the most troubling of circumstances.

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- JOSEPH - The 11th son of Jacob (Genesis 30:24). Joseph was sold into slavery and later rose to an important position in the Egyptian government. The account of Joseph's life is found in Genesis 37-50.

- Three Hebrew children in a fiery furnace - Daniel 3:24-25 - *Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."*

- Daniel in the lion's den - Daniel 6:21-22 - *Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."*

- Stephen stoned to death – Acts 7:54 – 8:1 (This was GOOD for Saul the persecutor.)

- Paul and Silas in prison – Acts 16:24-34 (This was GOOD for the Philippian jailor.)

(v29-30) J. Vernon McGee brings simple sense to a difficult passage – “For” refers back to verse 28 to remind us that he is not talking about anybody being elected to be lost, but he is speaking of “the called,” the predestined ones.

- PREDESTINATION never has any reference to the lost. You will never find it used in connection with them. If you ever hear someone talk about being predestined to be lost, you know he is not being scriptural.

- PREDESTINATION means that, when God saves you, He is going to see you through. *Whom He foreknew, He predestinated, and whom He predestinated, He called, and whom He called, He justified and whom He justified, He glorified.*

- In other words, this amazing section is on sanctification—yet Paul does not even mention being sanctified. Why? Because sanctification is the work of GOD in the heart and life of the believer. This is God’s eternal purpose.

C.H. Spurgeon gave an insightful illustration to election by saying, “*Written on the outside of the gates of heaven is ‘Whosoever will may come.’ As one walks in and the door is closed; looking behind it is written, ‘Chosen in Him from the foundation of the world.’*”

- The heart of God for humanity is found in John 3:16-17 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be SAVED.*

- Also, in 2 Peter 3:9 - *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to REPENTANCE.*

> God’s Power Point #2 – HE FREELY GIVES ALL THINGS! (v31-34)

- WHAT THINGS?

(a) GOD IS FOR US! - Isaiah 43:1-3 - *“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior”*

(b) GOD JUSTIFIES US! – JUSTIFICATION - *The process by which sinful human beings are made acceptable to a holy God.* Christianity is unique because of its teaching of justification by grace.

- In Romans 3:21-26 we read, *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

- **Justification is God's declaration that the demands of His Law have been fulfilled in the righteousness of His Son.** The basis for this justification is the death of Christ. Paul tells us that *"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them"* (2 Corinthians 5:19).

- **This reconciliation covers all sin:** *"For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified"* (Hebrews 10:14).

- Justification, then, is based on the work of Christ, **accomplished through His blood** (Romans 5:9) and brought to His people through His resurrection (**Romans 4:25**).

- **When God justifies, He charges the sin of man to Christ and credits the righteousness of Christ to the believer** (2 Corinthians 5:21). Thus, *"through one Man's righteous act, the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life"* (Rom 5:18). Because this righteousness is *"the righteousness of God" which is "apart from the law"* (Rom 3:21), it is thorough; a believer is *"justified from all things"* (Acts 13:39).

- God is "just" because His holy standard of perfect righteousness has been fulfilled in Christ, and He is the "justifier," because this righteousness is freely given to the believer (Rom 3:26; 5:16).
(Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(c) **CHRIST MAKES INTERCESSION FOR US!** - He prayed on behalf of Peter (Luke 22:32) and His disciples (John 17). Then in the most selfless intercession of all; He petitioned God on behalf of those who crucified Him (Luke 23:33-43).

- **Christ's intercessory work did not cease when He returned to heaven.** In heaven He intercedes for His **CHURCH** (Hebrews 7:25 - *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*).

> **God's Power Point #3 – YOU ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS!** (v35-39)

- **TRIBULATION** – John 16:33 – *In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good CHEER, I have overcome the world.*

- **DISTRESS** – John 14:27 – *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be AFRAID.*

- **PERSECUTION** – Matthew 5:10 – *BLESSED are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

- **FAMINE** – Matthew 6:33 – *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and ALL these things shall be added to you.*

- **NAKEDNESS** – 2 Corinthians 5:4 – *For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by LIFE.*

- **PERIL** – 2 Timothy 1:7 – *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of LOVE and of a sound mind.*

- **SWORD** – Ephesians 6:17 – *the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.*

- We are more than **CONQUERORS** through **HIM** who **LOVED US!** Nothing shall be able to separate us from the **LOVE OF GOD!**

> **In conclusion:** We began this chapter with “**NO CONDEMNATION**” - Romans 8:1 – *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus;*

- **We conclude this chapter with “NO SEPARATION”** - Romans 8:35-39 - *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- **In between we know that ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE!**
(Romans 8:28)