



# Phenomenal

August 23, 2020 Message Notes

ROMANS 8:28

Today we're gonna explore what is arguably the most phenomenal verse in the Bible. That's quite a claim, isn't? This verse is a declaration of infinite hope, and it is found in the Book of Romans, chapter 8, verse 28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Watch Christ Journey messages at:  
[ChristJourney.org/Messages](https://ChristJourney.org/Messages)



## NOTES

Biblical hope is the certain expectation that God is good even when life isn't; that God can be trusted in spite of how things seem.

"I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.  
I believe in love even when there's no one there.  
I believe in God even when He is silent."

Infinite Hope

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

*ROMANS 8:28*

That's phenomenal!

### **What it DOESN'T say:**

- Everything happens for a reason.
- Everything that happens comes from God.

It's not God's will that sin destroys lives or blows up marriages or breaks hearts and breaks homes.

"The Lord is...not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

*2 PETER 3:9*

Everything that happens is good.

Life on earth started out good but then a lie broke the goodness and not-so-good stuff has been happening ever since.

"God is not a man that he should lie."

*NUMBERS 23:19*

"...the devil...is a liar and the father of lies."

*JOHN 8:44*

"No one is good – except God alone."

*MARK 10:18*



“...God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.”

*JAMES 1:13*

This verse does not say life is going to be easy.

God has assigned himself workspace **in** all things, and there he brings his divine energy for the good.

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

*ROMANS 8:28*

This verse isn't a one-size-fits-all promise for believers and unbelievers alike. This verse is a promise specifically for believers.

A proof text without a context is usually a pretext. Pretext means a hiding place for something that's not true.

Romans 8 is about what God does for those who trust and follow Jesus Christ.

**For guilt – God's pardon.** “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)

**For troubled minds – God's peace.** “The mind of sinful man is death... hostile to God but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:6)

**For loneliness and emptiness – God's presence.** “He will give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11)

**For where we feel trapped in sin or habits – God's power.** “In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness.” (Romans 8:26)

**For facing whatever comes our way – God's purpose.** “In all things God works for the good of those who love him...called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

God goes to work in the “whatever” and works to bring good from it forever.

When you love God, then God loves you back, again and again.



“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

*GENESIS 50:20*

Do you have a “they“ story? Where because of something “they” did, it affected your life?

God is not absent from the mess. God is not absent from the abuses, from the injustices, from the broken, hurting places in our lives. God rolls his sleeves up and goes to work making each one of those a construction site for infinite hope.

God goes to work in the “whatever” and works to bring good from it forever.

God wants good for you, but He will not violate your autonomy. He will not violate your freedom and your responsibility to get it to you. You have to want it. You have to be willing to receive it.

**You have to be willing to receive the gift of salvation - to let yourself be loved.**

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

*JOHN 3:16*

There is no testimony without a test.

God goes to work in the mess to bring the message of infinite hope.

