

Even I Can't Mess This One Up

*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.*

Romans 8:28

For those who know me even relatively well, you're already aware that this is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. My personal translation is, "I can't mess up anything so bad that God can't fix it." That's a pretty rough interpretation and a bit too simple, but those few words often help push me forward.

"In all things God works for the good . . ." That doesn't mean that everything that happens will always be good. But it does mean that even the bad things that do happen can work in our favor, including the things we mess up ourselves.

How might your attitude be different if you really believed that? Would you be more likely to try something new? How often do you miss out on an opportunity because you're afraid you'll make a mess of it? What are you not doing for fear of looking silly or failing? Will truly believing that God will fix all of those mistakes and mess ups give you the courage to step out of your comfort zone and do something new?

There are also a lot of things we go through in life that this verse can help us through. We wonder what good can come from our children being tormented at school. How can losing our job possibly have a good outcome? What can God do with our illnesses, overspending or bad choices?

Those are really good questions! And perhaps you have even more examples of situations that hold very little promise of "good" anywhere in the future. Does the hope God gives us in Romans 8:28 help you go through those times? When you're in the midst of the hopeless, will remembering that God has something good in store help you?

There are a couple of things we need to remember about this good news that God gives us. First, He doesn't promise the good will happen immediately or even in our time frame. He just assures us that we can be confident good will come. Don't be impatient, trust that God is at work! Second, we have to realize that the Bible says God works good for "those who love Him and are called according to His purpose." This isn't a promise for everyone who lives. These words of hope are conditional. They're only for those of us who love Christ and are living for Him.

So, if the good is difficult to find, do a self check to determine if you're truly living your life like you love God. Just saying we love Him isn't enough. God doesn't look at our actions or our words, He looks at our heart. He knows whether or not we truly love Him, whether we are living out His purpose in our lives.

If you pass the self-check, then be patient. Have faith that God has everything under control. Use this assurance to give you the courage to move forward into the things that Christ is calling you to. Remember, if you act out of love for Christ and your heart is truly focused on Him, even if you don't get it quite right, He'll work it out for your good!

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