

**ROMANS – LIVING BY FAITH**  
**THE CHILDREN OF GOD & THE SPIRIT OF GOD – Chapter 8**

**LESSON 28 – A PROMISE TO BELIEVERS – Romans 8:28**

This lesson will show us how we can live with certainty that God is in control of every circumstance in our lives. Lots of people believe that everything happens for a reason, but only Christians can know for sure. Rather than trusting in fate, we live by faith in a loving God who causes all of life's puzzle pieces to fit together and make a complete picture.

Next to John 3:16, this verse may be the most well known and often quoted verses in the Bible.

“For Christians, this verse contains perhaps the most glorious promise in Scripture. It is breathtaking in its magnitude, encompassing absolutely everything that pertains to a believer's life.” – John MacArthur

**This Is a Definite Promise – “And We Know”**

The phrase “we know” is used five times and the word “know” is used thirteen times in the book of Romans. It refers to the common knowledge of believers. Paul says we can know beyond all doubt that every aspect of our lives is in God's hands and will be used by Him to work out our own ultimate blessing.

Earlier in the chapter, Paul said we know about the groaning of creation and here he says we know of God's providential care. In verse 26 he says we sometimes don't know how to pray like we should. We know that God is ultimately in control in this life but sometimes we don't know how all the pieces fit together. Never forget that God knows everything.

**This Is a Divine Promise – “God Works”**

Paul is not saying that everything will always work out alright if we just wait. This promise doesn't operate through impersonal statements but requires divine action in order for it to be fulfilled. The order of the words in this verse helps us to see what Paul is really saying, “We know that for those who love God, He is working.” In other words, it is God Himself who is bringing this good about for those who love Him.

**This Is a Determined Promise – “For the Good of Those Who Love Him”**

God is at work for the good of His children. Since God is good, the work that He is doing for us is good. Paul tells us that God causes all things to work together for our good. These “all things” are like pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle. The way they work together for good is they work according to God's purpose. His purpose is like the picture on the lid of the puzzle box. He knows what the completed puzzle should look like even when we don't and He is putting all the pieces in place to complete that picture perfectly and according to His will.

**This Is a Definitive Promise – “All Things”**

The “all things” of verse 28 is totally comprehensive. It has no limits. In other words, all means all. This includes our sufferings, persecutions and groanings as well as our blessings and victories.

Paul is not saying that evil things are good nor is he saying that God always keeps bad things from happening in the lives of His children. Paul is telling us that the Lord takes all that He allows to happen to us... our suffering, our persecution, our sinful failure, our pain, our lack of faith...and works to produce

our ultimate victory and blessing. Paul is not expressing faith in the goodness of all things but in the goodness of God!

### **This Is a Dynamic Promise – “Work Together”**

This is talking about the working together of different parts to produce an effect greater and completely different from each part working separately. We see this in our physical world. The right combination of otherwise harmful chemicals can produce substances that are extremely beneficial. For example, table salt is composed of sodium and chloride. Separately they are dangerous but once mixed together, they produce a substance that we use to season our food.

### **This Is a Defined Promise – “Those Who Love Him”**

This is the only limitation contained in the promise. Paul describes for us those who are the recipients of this promise...those who love God and those who are called. “Those who love Him” looks at these people from the human perspective and those “who have been called” looks at them from God’s perspective.

Those who have chosen to direct their love toward God are the ones who may be assured that all things work together for good. Those who’ve been called is not a reference to those who received an invitation and responded. This calling is much deeper than that. It is part of the process that Paul will explain to us in verses 29 and 30. From our standpoint we are believers because we love God; but from God’s viewpoint, we are believers because we are called by Him unto salvation.

### **The Believer’s Response to Romans 8:28**

This great and sometimes difficult verse of Scripture can fill us with trust and thanksgiving when it is embraced and relied upon in every circumstance of our lives.

Isaiah 46:9-11, “Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’ From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.”

Ephesians 5:20, “Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18, “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Rather than trusting in fate or blind faith, we...as children of God...have the privilege of trusting in a loving Father while living life here every day, never fearing the future or what it might bring.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”