

Trusting God When Bad Things Happen

Romans 8:28-39: 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. **29**For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. **30** And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. **31** What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? **33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. **34** Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” **37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 17:23: “[May they be] brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

Ephesians 3:17-19: And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, **18** may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, **19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Transformed by the Truth

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. When bad things happen to good people, are you more likely to doubt God's love or His power? Why?

2. Read Romans 8:28-30. How many spiritual truths can you find in these verses? Which one is most important to you right now? Why?

3. Read Romans 8:35-39. When have you felt separated from God's love? How has your perspective on that time in your life evolved?

4. Read John 17:23. How would you describe the love of God the Father for His Son Jesus? How do you think God's love for you is like, or different from, His love for Jesus?

5. Read Ephesians 3:17-19. When have you felt God's love most intensely? Who, among those you care about, do you suspect does not grasp God's love for them? Take time right now to pray Ephesians 3:17-19 for them—and for yourself.
