

All Things for Our Good

Rom 8.26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

* **We often** think of vs 28 as a promise, but it is actually an assurance; it is a statement of _____.

* **We often** think vs 28 means that when life gives us lemons, God rushes in and turns them into _____. Actually, it is saying that life is a _____, every thread of which is sown in by God for the specific purpose of building the character and glory of _____ into each one of us. In this life, we see the _____ of the tapestry, but on the day of resurrection, we will see the _____.

* **We all** know histories of great kings who were succeeded by an heir who inherited the power and glory of their father, but lacked his _____, and disaster resulted. That's not going to happen with the kingdom of God, because before we share Christ's throne, we will share his _____.

* **Character** is not shared by handing it to someone; it has to be built from _____.

* **How is** Christ an example of that?

* **What** about Adam and Eve?

* **Would** we have fully known the love of God apart from the cross of Christ?

Eph 3.14 ... I bow my knees to the Father ... 16 that He would grant ... that you ... 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Heb 1.3 And He is the radiance of [God's] glory and the exact representation of His nature ...

2Cor 3.18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Col 3.10 ... put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

* **Would** we have fully known the righteousness of God apart from the cross of Christ?

* **We see** with Christ is that, even for a sinless man, being filled up with the Father's character entails living out the Father's character in _____ circumstances.

Heb 2.10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

The Greek word for "sufferings" here means "distress due to _____" (*Bible Sense Lexicon*).

* **What** about Adam?

Luke 3.38 ... Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

* **What** about us?

Heb 12.7 ... God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, ... then you are illegitimate and not sons ... 9 ... [W]e had earthly fathers ... 10 [who] disciplined us ... as seemed best to them, but [God] disciplines us for our good, so that we may share his holiness. 11 All discipline ... seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

* **“We do** not know what we should pray for” (vs 26), because we don’t have a perfect understanding of God’s character, of our own sinful character, how we need to change, and what circumstances we _____ to face to bring about that change and to build God’s character within us.

* **How do** we see this in life of the following Bible characters?

– **Paul**

2Cor 12.7 [A] thorn in the flesh was given to me ... 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

– **Abraham & Sarah**

– **Joseph**

– **Moses**

– **Hannah**

– **David**

* **We should** be very thankful that we have the Spirit residing in us, who perfectly knows the _____ of God, and who prays for us, not according to what we want, but exactly what we _____, and exactly the Father _____.

* **We should** be very thankful that God our Father presides over every _____ of our lives, so that there is no random element in our entire life, from beginning to end. But every single thing, good or bad, joyful or painful, or even tragic, is superintended by our _____ to accomplish our good by making us like Jesus—making us everything it means to be a son or daughter of the living God, and filling us up with all the fullness of God. This is why we can and we should give thanks to God _____.

1Thes 5.16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Eph 5.18 ... be filled with the Spirit ... 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.