

Good **Words** – Scripture **Series**

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All Things Work Together For Good

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the 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. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:28-30 NKJV.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good	God is not in control of every human event, but in His sovereignty He is taking the universe somewhere. When we live a surrendered life, then God is more able to bring good out of the events as bad as they are to us. The enemy means them for evil to us, but God turns them and brings good out of them.
↓	↓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to those who love God, ii. to those who are the called according to His purpose. 	These two, loving God, and knowing our call to serve God as part of His greater purpose.
↓	↓
²⁹ For whom He foreknew,	Yes, God knows the past, the present and the future. He is Omniscient; <i>all knowing</i> . He knew us before we were born.
↓	↓
<p><i>He also predestined</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to be conformed to the image of His Son, ii. that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 	<p>As part of God’s knowing all things, He predestines, intends in advance for us certain things; we then can choose those things or reject them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. His first intention was that we be like Jesus. In every way. That’s grace! ii. His second intention was that we be like Him one of many, a company of people of which He is the first and foremost, the preeminent One.
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³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called	Not only is His intention that we become like Jesus He also calls us to be like Him.
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whom He called, these He also justified	He also equips us to be like Jesus, in that we become His righteousness.
↓	↓
and whom He justified, these He also glorified.	We are seated with Christ in Heavenly places, a position of glory. One of immense privilege and grace.

What God is doing in us (understanding who we are and what He has done for us, and using life to fashion us into the likeness of Christ), is more important than what is happening around us (the situations of life we face as real and human as they are).

- *Moreover we know that to those who love God, who are called according to his plan, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good. Romans 8:28 J B Phillips.*
- *He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good. Romans 8:28 The Message Bible.*
- *And we know that God causes everything to work together^[a] for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28 NLT.*
- *So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God's perfect plan of bringing good into our lives, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfil his designed purpose. Romans 8:28 TPT.*

All things, that's every event in our lives, then has the potential to be used of God to become part of His purpose and plan of joining us to Christ, and of us becoming more and more like Him.

There is a thing called *Meticulous Sovereignty*. This is when people believe God is in control of everything. Everything! Every event and every detail. But it is something I cannot subscribe to. God is not the author of suicide, rape, murder and car accidents. Much of the tragedies we are afflicted with in today's modern world is the result of the fact that we live in a fallen world, where sin abounds and people live for self.

Yes God is God, and He is Sovereign. He is Sovereign in that He is in control of the universe, and is taking it somewhere. He has a plan. He is working to fulfil that plan. But not every person in the world – a small minute part of the universe – is subject to or surrendered to God and His ultimate plan.

So yes, God is in control of the universe, but no, God is not in control of every detail on earth. However, those who know and love Him have the opportunity and the invitation to live for Him in such a way that our lives are surrendered and influenced more and more by His Spirit.

In *Acts 16:25-34*, we read of Paul and Silas being thrown in prison. But they were singing and worshipping the Lord! There was an earthquake, and all the chains on the prisoners were loosed and the doors were opened. The prison keeper, seeing the prison doors open and knowing prisoners would escape, was about to take his own life. Because that was the punishment for losing prisoners!

But Paul called for a light, witnessed to the prison keeper and led him to the Lord. Not only that but all his household became believers and were baptised.

What a testimony! Even Paul and Silas's prison experience, was a witness so much so that a whole household were born again. Never underestimate the power of your witness even while you're in the midst of a *prison situation*. In their *prison situation*, Paul and Silas were singing and praying and their fellow prisoners and the prison keepers hear them! It was a witness. While we're in our own *prison situation*, if we'll face it prayerfully and with worship – with the right attitude – people around us will be influenced by the love of God. Our trials, our *all things* in life, can become a powerful witness.

¹² But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become evident to the whole [b]palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Philippians 1:12-14 NKJV.

I was encourage by these words from Nate Johnson.

*When the lockdown began in March, God told me that this year wouldn't be the cage it was feeling like in the natural but a **greenhouse and incubator** for what God was wanting to do in us. **He was going to literally use the chaos of the world events to draw out innovation, creativity, and out of the box ideas that would be powerful startups for the kingdom.***

Amen! Instead of a **cage** it's a **greenhouse**. Instead of a **prison** it's an **incubator!** Let your cage, your prison, your trial, your *all things*, become something God uses to bring out new creativity, new ideas, new dreams. A greenhouse, and an incubator! Yes Lord!

God specialises in turning our *all things*, into *good things*; then they become *God things*.

So in our lives, there's what's happening on the temporal human level day-to-day, but there's a bigger picture, something wider, more magnificent, more wonderful, something Heavenly and eternal going on. It is that – when we surrender to Him – He even takes human pains and pleasures, the all-of-life stuff, and uses it to His glory, as a witness, and the transformation of our lives, to be more like the Christ we love and worship.

Here it is again; **Self is always the problem** – **surrender is always the answer**.

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Words of Life!