

"And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:27-28

"Everything happens for a reason." Most of us have heard that sentiment at some time. That's not so hard to take. But the Bible takes it further, saying things happen for our good. How can that be? What about the really bad stuff? How can sickness or relational breakdowns turn out for good? There's tension between bad things that happen in life and the promise that everything works out for good. Many times WE make choices and decisions (i.e. financial, occupational, relational) that cause us to end up in difficult and trying situations and we wrongly blame God for something we wanted. We never asked or consulted Him or followed His word. Scripture clearly tells us that His ways are not our ways, His thoughts are so much higher than ours (Isaiah 55). When we find ourselves in those situations the good part may not immediately be obvious, and sometimes it can be extremely painful. To work things for good means that God's purpose is clear and powerful. Even as you try to figure out what your purpose in life might be, God is already at work, making things good for you. And because God's love for us is so deep, nothing—not even the bad things in life—can separate us from His love. God's love for us is the ultimate form of goodness.

LIVE IT: We must recognise that at times things are not going to go as planned and things are going to go wrong in your life. It's hard to believe that God has a purpose for the bad things. But instead of giving up, ask God to help you see how you can be more like Jesus while you're hurting. Ask Him to show you how the good and the bad things are working together to make you more like Jesus - "For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." Romans 8:29.

Could the situation you're in right now, be good cause for you to REPENT and RETURN to God's right way of living? Let's humble ourselves, pray in the spirit (in tongues), seek His face and turn from our own ways and surrender your will to Him.

See you at Prayer School tonight 7pm Newmarket.

Link to all devotionals: iccbrisbane.org/journaling