

INTRODUCTION:

8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. God searches all our hearts. There is no exception. He knows exactly what is within our hearts. And at times we don't know how to pray and what to pray for (8:26). However, God can read and understand what our groanings and needs are as the Holy Spirit interprets for us. God knows the mind of the Holy Spirit because God is in complete harmony with the Spirit. The Spirit intercedes for the saints, for He prays according to the Will of God, thereby, knowing exactly what He is requesting for us. So, it is God who searches the heart; and the Holy Spirit makes intercession! Intercession is made for us not only by God the Son (Romans 8:34), who sits at the right hand of the Father, but also by God the Spirit (Romans 8:27) who dwells within the believer. There is perfect agreement between the Holy Spirit and God the Father. We are certainly covered by prayer. God will answer our prayer and meet our needs. He will deliver and save us according to His Will.

LESSON:

I. GOD'S PURPOSE ROMANS 8:28

8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. What do we know? We know from the above scripture (v.27) that we are certainly covered by prayer. Therefore, when we don't even know what to pray for, God the Son (Hebrews 7:25), and God the Spirit (Romans 8:27) are interceding on our behalf. Therefore, we know that God is working all things together for good. Our good may not be in line with His good because His purpose for us to succeed may be spiritually. *Have you lost a job and you thought that you couldn't get another one, but started a business in the process? Or came through a horrific ordeal but through it your faith was built up the more?* Those kinds of things worked for the good. They weren't pleasant to go through at the time. It might have taken a long time to get the business up and running, but it came out for the good because there were many lessons to learn. And the horrific ordeal may be lost of love one in an accident or left you incapacitated. This is where we really need assurance that God is still there with us and He's worked all things for good to them that love Him, and to those who are the called according to His purpose. We don't always know God's Purpose.

1. Our assurance is that 1.) we love Him! What God wants is love and He shows love consistently. The choice is ours. God is not going to force His care upon any of us. He is not going to make mechanical robots out of us, for this is not love! We either turn our lives over to Him in love, or we continue to take our lives into our own hands.
2. Our assurance is that 2.) we are the called according to His purpose. The believer's deliverance is purposed by God. God calls us for the glorious purpose of being saved, even while going through struggles and sufferings in this life.
 - a. Positionally, God chooses the believer by setting him apart through the Holy Spirit and through belief of the truth of His Word. "...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation...he called you by our gospel..." 2 Thes.2:13-14.
 - b. In behavior, God calls the believer to a life of purity and holiness. "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" 1 Thes.4:7.

Those that love God, and are the called, don't really always know His final purpose, but they do know that the genuine believer's call to God's purpose can only receive what He has been promised, for it will work together for good! All things are working for good, and for His purpose! And His purpose will always mature us!

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II. GOD'S PLAN ROMANS 8:29-30

8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1. The believer "**whom God foreknew**" (knew beforehand) "**He also did predestinate**" (set in order)—God knew beforehand; saw it even before the world begun, and set His plan in order that the believer is going to be conformed to the image of His Son. Point blank! The words "**conformed to the image**" meaning both an inward and an outward likeness. The "**foreknowledge**" of God is used three different ways in Scripture. It's really broken up into two words: "**knowledge**" and "**before**", which means...
 - to know something beforehand, ahead of time.
 - to know something intimately by loving and accepting and approving it.
 - to elect, foreordain, and predetermine something.

Within our nature, our being, our person, we shall be conformed to the image of God's Son! This means:

- To become a partaker of the divine nature (2Pt.1:4).
- To be adopted as a son of God (Eph.1:5).
- To be holy and without blame before Him (Eph.1:4; 4:24).
- To bear the image of the heavenly: which is an incorruptible, immortal body (1Cor.15:49-54).
- To have one's body fashioned (conformed) just like His glorious body (Ph.3:21).
- To be changed (transformed) into the same image of the Lord (2Cor.3:18).
- To be recreated just like Him (1Jh.3:2-3).

So, that means that nothing was going to stop the glorious process that was already foreknown and predestinated (set in order) for the genuine believer. Every believer is destined to be an adopted brother of the Lord Jesus Christ, for He is the firstborn among many brethren eternally.

8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

2. The believer "**whom God predestinated**" (set in order) "**He also called them**"—for it is the Spirit of God who called and stirred the heart, causing one to believe in Christ by faith. Without that call man cannot be saved. Thereby responding to the call to come to Christ, we are then justified. Our call is set eternally by God, but regrettably many refuse the call. However, "**what God has begun, He will continue till the day of Jesus Christ.**"
3. "**Whom He called, He also justified**"— God justified us, that is, He declared us and began to treat us as righteous, because of the atoning death of Jesus Christ (5:1). Believing in God's Son, God honors and takes our faith and counts (crediting) it as righteousness. Justification is set eternally by God. **What He has begun, He will continue till the day of Jesus Christ.**
4. And "**whom He justified, them He also glorified**"— "**Glorification**" (ultimate perfection of the believer) is the final work of God. We will share in His glory, for we will have glorified bodies. It is that completion of being conformed to the image of His Son. Our mortal bodies will be transformed to resurrected bodies that will experience glorification with God.

"**Calling**" and "**justification**" take place in the believer's present experience, however, the "**glorification**" which begins now will not ultimately and completely be known until the future.

III. GOD'S PROVISION ROMANS 8:31-36

8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?— Therefore, the believer can be assured, and thereby say, to the things that have been said— "**If God be for us, who can be against us?**" Paul's assurance is in God— "**Who can be against us, if God is for us?**" Are you smiling? It is by faith in the calling and justification we have from God, that we can say this. When we say those words, we are

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empowered with strength to go on. When we say those words, we know that God foreknew and predestined us to be in the likeness of His Son. His purpose is at work and He has made every provision for us to get to this point!

8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?— God the Father spared not His own Son. The word "spared not" means that God did not hold back or refrain from giving up His own Son. God knew exactly what He was doing. He wanted man delivered, and He knew there was only one way for man to be saved—and that is, through His Son. He did not refuse or even hesitate to give up His own Son. Giving His own Son for us was the greatest gift to all the world. Nothing could ever cost God anything close to the price He has paid in giving us His Son. Paul tells the believers, "*how shall He not with Him freely give us all things?*" He's already done it! It has to be with Christ, that He will be able to give us freely all things. And it is in God's Son's image that we will be conformed.

8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. This question is asking "*Who shall bring accusation against the chosen ones of God, for it is God who pronounces them (us) righteous.*" The "called" are justified by God, so no one will be able to appeal God's verdict of justification. "*Every tongue that attempts to do so will be silenced*" (Isaiah 54:17).

8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. So, if no one can lay a charge against God's elect, then who can condemn God's elect? Christ is the one who died in our place. He does not condemn us, even though we deserve it. He forgives us! God raised Jesus from the dead, which also gives us new life. God was satisfied with Christ's atonement for us, that now Christ sits at the right hand of God. We can go to God through Christ in prayer because Christ is our Mediator, the One who makes intercession for us, the One who stands between God and man.

8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?— Paul is making a point to give assurance of Christ's love. There is no one strong enough or powerful enough that can compare to the love of Christ. Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or the sword may come and we may go through them. But, just because we go through them, it is not to separate us from the love of Christ. His love is there forever.

8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Scriptures declares loudly and clearly the love of God. Scriptures declares for Christ's sake we are killed in Ps.44:22 and like sheep for the slaughter in Is.53:7b. We face death at every moment. We are reckoned no better than sheep marked for slaughter. Therefore, we are not exempted from suffering or even from being killed, but physical death will never separate us from Christ. God made provisions beforehand.

IV. GOD'S POWER ROMANS 8:37-39

8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. This verse says NO! Nay! In all the things a believer will go through, the one who gains the victory by struggle, they will still be conquerors; defeaters, victors. We do not merely hold our own, in the face of testing, but through suffering we are drawn closer to Christ and become more conformed to His image. It's through Jesus by faith. His love is so strong that we can't be separated from Him. And this means the One who has proven His love makes us more than conquerors, because we are linked with Him, Jesus Christ.

8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,—Paul admits that he is so persuaded, so convinced, and have full assurance that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of the spirit or superhuman powers, nor things present

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Today, or things that shall come tomorrow will be able to separate him from the love of God.

- **Not death:** confronting death and leaving this world.
- **Not life:** no trial or pleasure or comfort of life, not any person nor any thing in this life.
- **Not angels, principalities, or power:** no heavenly or spiritual creature, no being from any other dimension.
- **Not any thing present or any thing to come:** neither present events, beings or things, nor future events, beings, or things—absolutely nothing in existence or any things in future existence.

8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Not height or depth:** nothing from outer space or from the depths of the earth.

If there be any other creature than the ones named, that creature has not the power to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SUMMARY:

Well, we know that God assures us that all things are working together for good. First, it works for them that love Him and second, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Yes, God has a purpose, and He's the only One calling us for the glorious purpose of being saved **(8:28)**.

Those whom God foreknew, He also predestined, and those He predestined, He called, and those He called, He justified, and those He justified, He glorified. So, this means that nothing was going to stop the glorious process of the genuine believer that's called to God's purpose. They can only receive what He has promised. Why is that? For it will work together for good! **(8:29-30)**.

Therefore, the believer can be assured and say— "*If God be for us, who can be against us?*" Paul's assurance is in God. God's purpose is at work and He has made every provision for us! There was only one way for man to be saved—that is, through God's Son, and God did not spare Him, but He delivered Him up for us all. Giving up His own Son for us was the greatest gift to all the world. Therefore, "*how shall He not with Him freely give us all things?*" He's already done it! It has to be with Christ, that He will be able to give us freely all things. The "*called*" are justified by God, no one will be able to appeal God's verdict of justification. Then who can condemn the justified? No one, for God was satisfied with Christ's atonement for us. And He also raised Jesus from the dead, which also gives us new life. Now Jesus sits at the right hand of God, and makes intercession for us. There is no one strong enough or powerful enough to separate us from the love of Christ. Scripture declares we face death at every moment. We are reckoned no better than sheep marked for slaughter, but death will never separate us from Him. **(8:31-36)**.

Yet, in all these things we keep on gloriously conquering through God who loved us. Paul is persuaded that nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord **(8:37-39)**.