

“...we know that God is working-together [now & always] **all things** for the good of those who are loving God and are called according to His purpose”

#### Two Rabbit Trails

- 1) Notice it says “we **know**”.....not ‘we **feel**’ or ‘we **see**’  
 ---often it will not FEEL true or LOOK true  
 ---it **is** true EVEN IF WE DON’T BELIEVE IT...however, when we DO believe it, we are stable & peaceful
- 2) This is an astonishing promise....but it **does not apply to everyone**---it is conditional  
 ---to whom does it apply? what are the conditions?
  - a) those who LOVE God [agape = “choice love”]
  - b) called according to HIS PURPOSE....not living for our own plans and purposes

- we know that God is working-together... NKJ is misleading, as if the things themselves are working-together

---it is important to see God as the agent behind everything coming into my life as a believer...everything must pass through Him

--- cf: “...Him, who is always working out everything according to the purpose of His will.” Eph. 1:11

- working-together... the GR verb is **sunergeo** = “to fit things together into a plan or a design”

---we mustn’t judge the whole plan based on isolated events, esp. BAD ones---they are not the whole story

---“we view our lives like watching a parade through a knothole in a fence “ Jerry Cook

---“the reason we can’t see evidence of a plan in some isolated events, is that we are too close...we need to be able to back up and see things the way God does....the whole picture....then we’ll realize that IT’S **ALL A PLAN.**” CS Lewis

---all disappointment with God is PREMATURE....we’re judging the story too soon

- all things... “all” means ALL---no exceptions, nothing excluded....W O W !

---no matter if it is a GOOD thing or a BAD thing....He will work them together eventually into His **good** for us

---this is especially important to remember when a SEQUENCE of bad things happen to us...it means nothing to the final outcome if God is in control

---if it’s BAD, it’s not wrong to think that it’s bad...just be confident that when He’s finished with it, it will work for good

#### -----WHAT DOES “ ALL THINGS “ INCLUDE?-----

- \* MY MISTAKES? Can God STILL work them for my good, once I’ve repented?

---the most valuable “good” may be that I learn to never do that again

---David→Bathsheba→Solomon→Jesus

- \* OTHER PEOPLES’ MISTAKES THAT AFFECT MY LIFE? Even when they mean evil against me?

---remember Joseph....nobody prayed about any of the bad choices that affected him, yet he was every step of the way exactly where God wanted him to be

--- Joseph certainly knew it “You meant it for evil...but God meant it for good”

- \* SATAN’S STRATEGIES THAT ‘SUCCEED’?

---Stephen→Saul of Tarsus→Paul the Apostle

---the persecution of the Church that sent them **all over the world**

---even when weapons are used against us:

”no weapon that is forged against you will **prevail**...I have made the arm that wields the sword...  
 I have created the destroyer who wreaks havoc....this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord.”

Isaiah 54

- \* OFFICIALLY IMPOSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES? No such thing, from God’s perspective...it’s His SPECIALTY

---often in scripture He would PURPOSELY allow things to get WORSE just to prove it wasn’t impossible for Him

- for the good...

---good is not always the same as “easy” or “comfortable” or “fun”  
 many things that are very good for us are HARD or UNCOMFORTABLE or NOT FUN.....at least for awhile

-----WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE GOOD, BUT DON'T FEEL OR LOOK GOOD AT THE TIME?-----

\* **waiting**.....Isaiah says that “those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength”

\* **discipline** .... Hebrews says “no discipline seems pleasant at the time, but afterwards, when we are trained by it, it reaps a harvest of **good**.”

\* **broken dreams & plans** ..... time will show that God's ideas/plans were far better than ours

---”Some times for God's will to be done, **my** will must be **undone**.” Elisabeth Eliot

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THE CONDITIONAL PART OF THE PROMISE

- for those who **love** God.... agapao

---not an emotion, but a posture of choosing His best

---Jesus' definition of agape love: “if you love me, you will **keep** my commandments.” John 14:15

“keep” is tereo = “to pay attention to watchfully; to treasure; to guard; to comply”

- called according to His purpose (NLT: “for them”)

-----this simply means that we are not living for our own purposes & plans, but submitting to His