

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## All Things New - Part 3

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### Introduction

Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him", is a verse that has often been quoted out of context by well-meaning believers. While it is certainly true that God can bring about his good outcomes despite the circumstances, we should not interpret this verse as saying that God is the CAUSE of every situation before us. When God gave mankind the gift of freewill, He gave the choice for each person to choose or reject Him, to do good or to do evil. Every choice we make has consequences - such is the nature of fallen humanity.

While God can use every situation to demonstrate His glory, not every situation we face is from Him, and our choices do not always reflect His will. Such is the process for us to grow and become more like Jesus as we learn from our choices, both good and bad.

### Read

Rom 8:28-39

### Discuss

1. What is your understanding of the difference between "God causes everything" and "God causes everything to work together"? Discuss and share your stories.
2. Think of some biblical examples where people faced difficult circumstances and may well have felt like God was abandoning them, and yet God ultimately used their situation for His Good? Discuss.
3. A common translation of Romans 8:28 is, "God works for the good of those who love him." How would you express "God working for your good" in the context of your current reality?

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4. When a person puts their faith in Jesus, it is quite common to see what is called a “redemptive lift”, whereby through God, they change their lifestyle or attitudes in a way that brings improvement to their life. Do you agree with this? Have you seen this? Why might this be the case?
5. We are all on a journey in our faith to become more like Jesus. Looking back on your own life, what has been one significant turning point (positive or negative) that has had a significant impact upon your current faith trajectory? Why was this the case?
6. Read Genesis 50:20. What was the ultimate good that God was working for in this story? What was the redemptive lift for Joseph? For his wider family? For the Israelites?
7. What is one lesson that you can learn and apply from Joseph today?

### **Respond**

God's ultimate good, and the end goal for every believer, is for us to grow more like Jesus. This is a journey that we won't conclude this side of heaven. What is one thing you can do or change this week to be one step further along in your journey to grow more like Jesus?