

## Session Two – God works all things together for our good

We begin this lesson with a question...

- We all struggle with the pressures of life. The author states, “Problems come in all shapes, sizes, and levels of intensity. Some are mind-numbing and earth-shaking. Others are trivial, yet sometimes the smaller problems upset us more than the larger ones.”  
**Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?**

The goal of this study is to accept Romans 8:28 with optimism and realize the greatness of the promise. The promise includes the Trinity. God is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent.

**Omnipresence** is God’s characteristic of being present to all ranges of both time and space. Although God is present in all time and space, God is not locally limited to any time or space. God is everywhere and in every now. No molecule or atomic particle is so small that God is not fully present to it, and no galaxy so vast that God does not circumscribe it. God is naturally present in every aspect of the natural order of things, in every manner, time and place (Isaiah 40:12; Nahum 1:3). God is in a special way attentively present to those who call upon His name, who intercede for others, who adore God, who petition, and who pray earnestly for forgiveness (Psalm 46:1). Supremely, He is present in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:19), and mystically present in the universal church that covers the earth and against which the gates of hell will not prevail.

Just as God is sometimes separated from His children because of sin (Isaiah 52:9), and He is far from the wicked (Proverbs 15:29) and orders the godless subjects of darkness to depart at the end of time to a place of eternal punishment, God is still there in the midst. Likewise, He will also be in heaven, manifesting every blessing that we cannot even begin to comprehend here; He will be there displaying His manifold blessing, His manifold love, and His manifold kindness—indeed, everything other than His wrath. The omnipresence of God should serve to remind us that we cannot hide from God when we have sinned (Psalm 139:11-12), yet we can return to God in repentance and faith without even having to move (Isaiah 57:16).

**Question: Is the devil omnipresent?**

Another part of the Trinity is **God the Father is omniscient**. One of the most comforting elements of God’s character is His omniscience. Omniscient means “having complete or unlimited knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving all things..” God created all things, controls all things, and knows all things.

The Bible teaches that God is all-knowing or omniscient. The word "omniscient" comes from two Latin words *Omnis* signifying all, and *Scientia* signifying knowledge. When we say that God is omniscient it means that He has perfect knowledge of all things. He does not have to learn anything, and He has not forgotten anything.

### **Is the devil omniscient?**

Now we come to **God the Holy Spirit who is omnipotent**. Omnipotent meaning having unlimited power; able to do anything. God has the power to overrule every situation in our lives through our prayers. He providentially works all things for our benefit and His glory.

The word *omnipotent* comes from *omni-* meaning "all" and *potent* meaning "power." As with the attributes of omniscience and omnipresence, it follows that, if God is infinite, and if He is sovereign, which we know He is, then He must also be omnipotent. He has all power over all things at all times and in all ways.

Job spoke of God's power in Job 42:2: "I know that you can do all things and that no plan of yours can be thwarted." Nowhere is God's omnipotence seen more clearly than in creation. God said, "Let there be..." and it was so (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, etc.). Being omnipotent, God can do everything that is in harmony with His Holy character. The Bible reveals that He cannot do things which are contrary to His Holy character.

The great mystery is that this power can be shared by believers who are united to God in Jesus Christ. Paul says, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (2 Corinthians 12:9b). God's power is exalted in us most when our weaknesses are greatest because He "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20). It is God's power that continues to hold us in a state of grace despite our sin (2 Timothy 1:12), and by His power we are kept from falling (Jude 24). His power will be proclaimed by all the host of heaven for all eternity (Revelation 19:1).

### **Is the devil omnipotent?**

So, then God works all things together for our good because He is

Omnipotent

Omniscient

Omnipresent

**God the Son** guarantees the promise of Romans 8:28 by His blood purchase of justification.

To justify is to declare righteous. Justification is an act of God whereby He pronounces a sinner to be righteous because of that sinner's faith in Christ.

**Question: does justification make you holy?**

Let's read Romans 3:21-26 and Romans 5:1

Some facts about justification we need to know:

- Justification comes apart from the law, that is, we cannot earn justification through rule-keeping or our own works.
- Justification is made possible in the sacrificial death of Christ; it is based on His shed blood.
- Justification demonstrates the righteousness of God.

So, let's begin to analyze Romans 8:28. We know. The words "we know" are not necessary to the promise but the Holy Spirit wanted to begin with these words. He began the sentence not with an emphasis on what God is going to do but with an emphasis on what our attitude should be about. The primary subject is the pronoun "we" and the primary verb is "know." God wants us to claim this promise with total confidence.

We don't hope, hypothesize, or hallucinate. We don't postulate, speculate, or fabricate. Let's define these words...

We don't toss and turn in anxiety. We simply know. We know God; therefore, we know His power, understand something of His providence, and can trust His provision. It's certain. For sure. Positive. Fail-safe. Inevitable. It's God's guarantee and it can never be otherwise.

Now, I have Scriptures for each of you to read like you really believe it – be emphatic!

Job 19:25

1 John 5:13

Psalm 100:3

2 Kings 10:10

Psalm 4:3

Deuteronomy 7:9

John 6:69

1 John 3:2

1 John 3:5

2 Corinthians 8:9

John 8:32

John 9:25

Romans 8:28 requires that we have confidence in God's word. We have confidence through faith, which is the ability to tackle life with confidence, no matter what happens, knowing that the trustworthy promises of God are precisely as real as the transient circumstances around us. Faith isn't a matter of sticking our heads in the sand and hoping for the best. It's confronting the realities of life from the perspective of God's immutable, unbreakable, unfailing Word.

Biblically speaking hope is not synonymous with "maybe." Biblical hope refers to sure and certain expectations, which, because they're still in the future, create in us a sense of anticipation.

In our lives there will be many circumstances that are not good—medical catastrophes, financial disasters, relationship crisis, family members with addictions, loss of a job, or unexpected bereavement.

**Question: How can we look beyond the circumstance by the "we know" of Romans 8:28?**

**Question: Does anyone have a biblical example of when all things looked bleak but worked for the good?**