



# God is Working Out My Good and His Glory

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## Kick Start:

How did God speak to you through this message?

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## Main Point:

In order to continue growing in our faith, we must constantly encourage ourselves and one another by remembering the greater good God is working out in our lives and the future glory that is uniquely ours.

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## Introduction:

In one of the greatest chapters in the Bible, Paul reminds believers that through Jesus, condemnation is finished and they are adopted children of Abba Father. He urges them to follow the Spirit instead of their sinful natures. He declares that today's suffering will be exchanged for tomorrow's glory and that God is always working things for our good. Certain spiritual freedoms in this chapter help us walk through any valley of life.

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## Message Outline:

### *I. Freedom from Judgement*

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, no sin a believer can commit—past, present, or future—can be held against him, since the penalty was paid by Christ and righteousness was imputed to the believer. Our only way of escape from the law of sin and death was to access the law of the Spirit of life through faith in Christ.

#### ***Romans 8:1-4***

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## Talk About It:

1. How does understanding that you are no longer condemned in Christ affect how you see yourself and your relationship with God?
2. How does the message of “no condemnation” shape how we should share the Gospel with others?
3. How does understanding the limitation of the law help us appreciate the work of Christ?
4. What practical steps can we take to live more fully in the freedom described in these verses?

### *II. Freedom from Defeat*

Believers have no obligation to do what their old sinful nature urges them to do. It is not who we are as Christians any longer. In fact, as adopted sons and daughters, God specifically calls us to abandon that lifestyle and to live free in the power of God's Spirit. His children aren't meant for sin and selfishness any more.

## ***Romans 8:5-17***

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### **Talk About It:**

1. What is the difference between walking by the Spirit and walking by the flesh as we used to do before we were Christians? (see v5-11)
2. Reflect: What areas of your life reveal whether you are walking by the Spirit or by the flesh?
3. How should Paul's description of walking by the Spirit be of comfort to us in our own battles with sin?
4. How does calling God "Abba, Father" impact your prayer life and communication with Him?
5. What are some practical steps you can take to live out your identity as a child of God in your family and community?

### ***III. Freedom from Discouragement***

Christians participate in the everyday suffering experienced by all of creation. We all groan together as a woman in labor while we wait for God to reveal His children. As His children, we are waiting for the Father to complete our adoption by redeeming our bodies so that we can be with Him. God's Spirit helps us in the season of waiting by taking our unformed prayers to God. We trust that God uses every circumstance in our lives for His purposes.

## ***Romans 8:18-28***

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### **Talk About It:**

1. How does understanding the temporary nature of present sufferings change your perspective on current challenges?
2. How does the promise of future restoration and freedom from sin and suffering encourage you in the way you live today?
3. How does knowing that the Holy Spirit communicates with the Father on our behalf on a level beyond our human understanding encourage you in your prayer life?
4. Read Romans 8:28 again. What emotions do you experience when you read this verse?
5. How has our conversation help you understand what "good" means in the context of Romans 8:28? How can this shift your expectations when life doesn't go as planned?

6. When has God caused difficult circumstances to work together for good in your life?

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### **Conclusion:**

How can we Christians ever face judgement, defeat or discouragement when we already share the glory of God? We are free from judgment because Christ died for us and we have His righteousness. We are free from defeat because Christ lives in us by His Spirit and we share His life. We are free from discouragement because Christ works for our good and is coming for us and we shall share His glory.

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### **Make It Practical:**

#### **OUR GOOD AND HIS GLORY**

Have you ever thought about the implications of God's sovereign control over everything? If God is in control of everything, then everything you and I have been given to us is a direct result of God choosing to do so. Because nothing is random with God. He is working out the details of everything, not just watching it transpire. He is working out the details toward His intended goals and His glory.

- The Bible teaches that no matter the circumstance, God can be trusted. Seeing God's hand in our lives means recognizing His guidance, provision, and presence in both ordinary moments and significant events. It involves trusting that He is at work for our good, even when we don't fully understand the circumstances. (Proverbs 3:4-5).
- Man may make plans but God determines his steps (Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 139:16; Matthew 10:30).
- God ordains the rise and fall of kings and nations (Job 12:23; Psalm 47:8; Proverbs 21:1).
- God's hand is always moving for the believer's ultimate good. This doesn't mean all circumstances in a believer's life are good in themselves; it means God works them all together for good, defined as conformity to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:28-30).
- God moves most powerfully in our lives to save us through the preaching of the gospel and the power of the Spirit (Romans 1:16).
- God uses trials, temptations, and hardships to remove our impurities, as a refiner of gold uses a furnace (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7).
- God may permit adversity in our lives to prevent us from falling into sin, as He did for the apostle Paul. Paul indicates in 2 Corinthians 12:7 that God allowed an adversity, which he called a "thorn . . . in the flesh," to prevent him "from becoming conceited."

The Lord of lords and King of kings is in control. Our Heavenly Father knows what is best for us. Sometimes, that doesn't align with what we think is best for us because He may be permitting trials in our lives to develop our character, draw us nearer to Him, or prevent us from falling into sin. We must have the trust of little children (Matthew 18:3) and realize our Lord does have the whole world in His knowing, loving hands.

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## Prayer Points:

- We thank you gifting us freedom over judgement, defeat, and discouragement.
- Thank you for your work in our lives, even the parts we don't like or understand.
- Thank you for your indwelling Spirit and help us to walk with Him and not our flesh.
- Help us to be more diligent in our prayer life knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us.
- Help us to be more trusting of your sovereign control over everything.
- Help us to live for your Glory not ours.
- Pray for the needs of the group