

Security in the Spirit, Part 8

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 8:28.

B. We are secure because of all that the Spirit of God does for us.

C. Because of this, we know that all things work for the believer's good—the Spirit makes it happen.

II. Our security is so great that all things work together for good.

A. All things are unlimited. (II Corinthians 4:15, I Corinthians 3:21, Romans 8:32, Isaiah 25:10)

B. This does not mean that all things are in themselves good—all things work together for good.

C. Paul has in mind the good here and now and the good in ultimate glory.

D. Nothing can cause a person to lose his salvation if all things work together for the believer's good. (Deuteronomy 8:16, Jeremiah 24:5, II Corinthians 4:15,

E. God works out good for us in His power. (Deuteronomy 33, II Corinthians 12:9, Acts 1:8, Romans 2, Hosea 14:4, Micah 7:18, Psalm 9:15, Philippians 4:19, Psalm 37:25, Acts 20:32, Hebrews 1:14, II Corinthians 1:24, Hebrews 10:24)

F. Bad things work for our good (not saying that bad things are good). God uses bad things for our good.

1. Suffering. (Ruth 1:21, Jeremiah 24:5, James 1, I Peter 5:10, II Chronicles 33:11)

a. Suffering is formative.

b. Suffering teaches us to see the evil in us.

c. Suffering drives our souls to God.

d. Suffering conforms us to Christ.

e. Suffering drives out sin. (Job 23:10, Zechariah 13:10)

f. Suffering reveals that we are children of God. (Hebrews 12:6-8, Job 5:17, Jeremiah 48, Psalm 119:67-75)

2. Struggling.

- a. Temptation sends us to our knees in prayer. (Psalm 42, Matthew 4)
- b. It causes us to lean on the strength of Christ.
- c. It makes us desire heaven.

3. Sin.

- a. God even rules over our sin for our good.
- b. The sins of other people generate holy wrath in the believer.
- c. Sin in the life drives a Christian to cry out to God.
- d. Sin drives a Christian to God.
- e. Sin that God overrules teaches humility.
- f. Sin that God overrules leads us to praise God.
- g. Sin in our lives leads us to hate sin.

G. The good that comes is not just temporal—it is eternal.

Application questions:

1. Does Romans 8:28 mean that everything is good? Explain.

2. Why is it important to have perspective on suffering?

3. What have you learned from a time of suffering in your life? How can you see God in it in hindsight?
