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DAY 16

GOD PROMISES TO WORK FOR YOUR GOOD

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KEY SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 8:28

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

God will work it out. What a beautiful thought. What a promise to hold onto. That sentiment has been made into a recent song even. We love the idea that all things can work together for good, right? The problem however, is that too often this verse is misunderstood and misrepresented.

God can use any situation – good bad or indifferent for His glory and purpose. Hallelujah, end of story! The original language identifies the word “good” as useful or purposeful. God works together for making His use and purpose thrive. Here’s the rub: His promise to bring it in every situation is not available to everyone – contrary to what many would suggest. Paul says it’s only available to those who love God. That’s the caveat. If all things work together, it only works for those who love God. It may seem harsh, but the reality is that if you don’t love God, this promise is not for you.

There’s a huge difference between simply believing in God and loving God. The verse does not read, “I believe in God, so He can make everything good for my purpose.” Loving God means submitting your will to His. Allowing him to guide you. The key here is obedience.

John 14:15 says, *“If you love me, keep my commands.”* What is the root of that? Obedience. Some of God’s commandments aren’t easy to keep – or they might go against what we want to do naturally. But the commands that challenge us . . . those ones are telling us about obedience. Look at the word obedience. In the middle of it is a 3-letter word: die. It’s imperative. Being obedient to Christ means **dying** to self. My will is not my will anymore. God’s will becomes my will and it is the most important one in my life.

God works for the good of those who truly love Him. Those who are obedient. To love God means to follow God. Everyone on this planet has an opportunity to be loved by God. But it’s not until we accept His will and His salvation message that we can embrace that God is for us.

REFLECTIONS

- ▶ Have you made the step from belief in God to loving Him through obedience?
- ▶ Do you find the commands in the Bible that challenge you to be obedient fairly difficult to follow?
- ▶ Is there a situation from your past where you can look back and see that the hand of God worked it out for your good?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You so much for working things out for our good. Even when we cannot see You at work, even when it feels like our situation is out of control, we look to Your promise today that You will work things out for those that love You. Help us today to keep Your commands. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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