

# “GOD’S AMAZING PROMISE”

## Romans 8:28

Last night I conducted a poll on Facebook. It involved one question—*What is your favorite Bible verse?* Interestingly, most of the responses centered on God’s many promises—Jeremiah 29:11, Proverbs 3:5-6, Philippians 4:13, John 3:16.

We’ve made promises to our family, to our friends, and even promises to God. Promises are made. Promises are broken. You need to know that when God makes a promise, HE KEEPS IT! Today I want us to focus on “*God’s Amazing Promise.*” Turn in your Bible to Romans 8:28. Let’s say it together . . .

**Romans 8:28... And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**

The truth that radiates out of this astonishing promise is this...

## YOU CAN COUNT ON GOD!

This verse is misused by many who rip it out of its context. Last week we unpacked the rich truths of Romans 8:18-27. We live in a broken world where suffering forces believers to deal with the harsh realities of life. At the same time the Lord's disciples can rest assured that **THE BEST IS YET TO COME**. We examined three keys to living in a broken world.

- (1) Develop the right perspective.**
- (2) Look forward to redemption.**
- (3) Pray with genuine confidence.**

In Christ Jesus, we are eternally secure even when we go through hard times. With the context firmly established, let's examine Romans 8:28—*God's Amazing Promise*. First, I want you to see that this is a...

## 1. A CONFIDENT PROMISE

“And we know” . . .

**“Know”**—This word refers to an absolute, positive awareness which the Holy Spirit makes real in our hearts and minds. What you “*know*” can change your perspective! Our ability to have this kind of confidence is based on the character of God . . .

- **God is faithful.**
- **God is truthful.**
- **God has unlimited power.**
- **God is sovereign.**
- **God is full of grace and mercy.**
- **God is good.**

Paul had confidence in God’s promise, because he had confidence in God’s character. Many of you know that this verse is true *instinctively* and *experientially*. You’ve seen God take bad stuff that you were going through and turn it into

something that would prove to be beneficial in your life and ultimately brought glory to the Lord!

## YOU CAN COUNT ON GOD!

This is a confident promise. Secondly, it is ...

### 2. A COMPREHENSIVE PROMISE

“**That God causes all things to work together for good**”—Those first three little words. . .

“**That God causes**”— are pregnant with meaning. He is sovereign over every aspect of your life.

If you’ve travelled down Houston Levee road near the construction of the new Global Methodist Church, you’ve noticed signs that read “*Men At Work.*”

There are times in our lives when we are swept up in the whirlwind of pain, heartache, and suffering. Don’t miss this. . .

**God is always, energetically, powerfully, and purposefully at work in your life as a believer.**

You might not understand why you are going through what you are going through at the time, but you can rest assured that “*God Is At Work.*”

**“All things”**—These two words encompass the *sufferings* of verse 17 and the *groanings* of verse 23.<sup>1</sup>

**We love this verse when things are going great in our lives. We struggle with this verse when things are going badly.**

In Psalm 27, David was dealing with the rebellion of his son, Absalom. He was vacillating between faith and fear. His experience speaks volumes to us as we wrestle with God’s amazing promise in Romans 8:28. . .

**Psalm 27:13–14...** I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

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<sup>1</sup> John R. W. Stott, [\*The Message of Romans: God’s Good News for the World\*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 247.

**14** Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.

MacArthur spoke to this struggle when he wrote:

**No matter what our situation, our suffering, our persecution, our sinful failure, our pain, our lack of faith in those things, as well as in all other things, our heavenly Father will work to produce our ultimate victory and blessing. The corollary of that truth is that nothing can ultimately work against us.**

Is Paul saying . . .

- "Whatever happens is good." **No.**
- "Suffering and evil and tragedy are good? **No.**
- "Things have a way of working out? **No.**
- "We'll instantly understand God's actions? **No**

**"Work Together"**— This is a translation of a Greek word from which we get the English word, "synergy." This word means that different things work together to accomplish something greater than they could produce individually.

Recalling his boyhood days, Randy Alcorn shared how he often watched his mother bake cakes.

**One day when she had all the ingredients set out—flour, sugar, baking powder, raw egg, vanilla—he sneaked a taste of each one. Except for the sugar, they all tasted horrible. Then his mother stirred them together and put the batter in the oven. Randy recalled, *"It didn't make sense to me that the combination of individually distasteful things produced such a tasty product."***

Here's the bottom line. . .

**YOU CAN COUNT ON GOD!**

This is a *confident promise* and a *comprehensive promise*. Thirdly, it is...

### **3. A CONDITIONAL PROMISE**

**"To those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose"**

**Love God**—This is a biblical concept that spans both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

**Deuteronomy 6:4–5**... “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! **5** “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

**Mark 12:28–31**... One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” **29** Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; **30** AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’ **31** “The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

This is not a sentimental or emotional love. It is a sacrificial, consistent love that is characterized by obedience . . .

**John 14:23–24**... Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My

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word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. **24** “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.

This verse is not a blanket promise to everyone. It is a promise to all believers!

**A vital ongoing love for God is the necessary prerequisite for his active intervention in the affairs of our life.<sup>2</sup>**

**“To those who are called according to His purpose”**—God’s calling here is the calling to salvation. The Holy Spirit convicts a person of his/her sin, clarifies the person and work of Jesus Christ, and compels them to come to Him for salvation. Do you know what God’s purpose is for your life as a believer? God wants you to be like His Son!

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<sup>2</sup> Robert H. Mounce, vol. 27, *Romans*, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 188.

**2 Corinthians 3:18**... But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

**1 John 3:2**... Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

## CONCLUSION

Romans 8:28 is, without a doubt, one of the most astonishing promises in the Bible. Ron Dunn made the following comment on this verse:

**I've been looking for loopholes in this verse. I've read all the liberal commentaries, compared all the translations, studied the sentence structure and word definitions in the Greek—in an effort to find something wrong with it. In short, to prove that it doesn't really say what it seems to say. This is the verse I preached from three days after**

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**we buried our son. I had preached it plenty of times before, but that didn't seem to count anymore.**

God proved to Ron Dunn and his precious wife that His promise is true *all the time* and *in every circumstance*. The truth that flows out of this verse is a powerful one.

## **YOU CAN COUNT ON GOD!**

**This is a confident promise , a comprehensive promise , and a conditional promise.**

Life is not the random mess it sometime appears to be. We do not always understand what God is doing, let alone welcome it. We are not told that He is at work for our comfort. But we do know that in all things He is working toward the believer's supreme good.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> John R. W. Stott, [\*The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World\*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 248.

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Are you a believer? You've been called by God to love the Lord and to fulfill His purpose for your life. This amazing promise is for you in the good times and in the bad times. Wait on the Lord. Trust the Lord.

If you're not a believer, I invite you to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord so you can get in on this AMAZING PROMISE!

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