

**M**any struggle with Romans 8:28, trying to perceive how a, perhaps tragic, life changing experience could possibly be explained by what this Scripture seems to imply. The difficulty is in understanding the full meaning and spiritual depth of “good” as it’s applied in this particular Scripture. Where’s the good, we may ask? Who benefits? Typically, these are two essential questions we’re driven to contemplate in our frantic search for meaning.

After Genesis 3:6, we all come into this world with our sin nature, a selfish fear driven attitude. So, from birth, we experience the result of a devastating divorce from our Lord’s Holy Spirit with its accompanying wisdom and counsel. This separation was not only a tragic rejection of our Creator’s Spirit, but also the abandonment of what had been a coordinated, orchestrated, unity of all humanity. Because of this we, even today, experience and view life from our inherited independent position. We are, as individuals, naturally driven to evaluate encounters from our immediate “self-need” point of view rather than through God’s plan for His corporate unity and ultimate eternal purpose.

When Paul penned Romans 8:28 he was expressing our Lord’s perspective, not ours. These words are focused on God’s ultimate purpose, Christ centered eternal relationships being reinstated as they would have been in the beginning. We were not created to experience life as independent beings, and God’s purpose has not changed with humanity’s disobedience.

After creating all atomic matter, including plants and animals, God’s plan culminated in relationships with humanity. Relationships, either with God or with each other, incorporate three essential components, the first being a dedicated and individually focused mutual purpose driven love (*a verb, not just an emotional feeling*). The second is dedicated mutual need and the third, resulting from the first two, is the accompanying mutual joy. God sees humanity’s disobedience to be only for a season and our return is for all things to be reunited, working together for eternal good, as originally perceived.

With this three component view of a quality relationship, we must recognize our need to love God, a concept we are usually able to understand. However to complete this first component and be truly able to love God and others, we must be able to understand and receive God’s unconditional love too. This may, believe it or not, become difficult and challenging for some because we’re all still carriers of the dysfunctional disease from the fallen nature and perhaps our own early environments too. These, many times, teach the world’s satanic message that we’re not worthy recipients of anything good. There’s that word “good” again. This disease positions us as needy candidates to receive the free gift of Christ’s “GRACE” that provides a *blameless innocence* we could never earn and with it, ownership of the *Spiritual Authority* to release God’s transforming power, a power we could never create. As Christ followers, we are now blameless, but we’re never completely faultless.

This brings us again to that second component of a quality relationship, mutual need. Saying we don’t need God would be blatant sin, but we have the other side of this concept, God needing us! What’s with this? God needing us!!! Why??? Simple, we are made in His image (Gen. 1:26). God, after describing Creation as a spoken event established that we, His children, would, by faith, become the authority to release His Spiritual power. Many Scriptures remind us; manifestations of God’s power are the result of faith driven prayers. Satan knew that controlling the tongues of humanity (Gen. 3:6) was his only way into God’s world. When we received our Lord’s Holy Spirit we became agents of His power. We then became Satan’s target and his method to avenge God, his real enemy. Please read “Tongue Authority” also on this website. [www.skipelmore.com](http://www.skipelmore.com)

Our new identification provided by the innocence and authority of Grace will then introduce resources to serve and deliver the joy component to complete our relationships, both with our Lord and with each other as we unite as one where all things work together for eternal “good”.

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