

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# God's Response to When You're Really Feeling Down

---

Romans 8:28

**1 We all have our spiritual ups and downs, don't we? A young man, prior to being ordained into the ministry, was required to preach a trial sermon as a part of his denomination's clergy examination process. In front of him sat some of the most distinguished people he knew. Also in the audience was his beautiful fiancée to cheer him on. The situation became so tense that he lost his train of thought and failed to be approved by his examination board. A short time later, his fiancée broke off their engagement.**

**For a time this young man went through a battle with depression. However, on his knees he was able to pray this matter through. He focused on Romans, Chapter 8, verse 28, **2 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.****

**After taking the examination again, he passed and was ordained. G. Campbell Morgan became a**

profound preacher who authored several Bible commentaries and wrote over sixty books on theology. His published sermons still thrill the hearts of people today. He put his life in the hands of God, and God fulfilled His promise to work this out for good.<sup>1</sup>

Your faith has to be based on more than just the way you feel at any given moment. Understand that your spiritual downs strengthen your faith so that your next spiritual high is higher! All things do work together for your benefit when you genuinely love God and have been called according to His purpose!

So, what does the Bible mean by this? The answer to these three questions helps us to understand.

## I. What is It That Works Out for Good? <sup>3</sup>

The first question is what is it that works out for good? <sup>4</sup> The answer is “all things”. The Living Bible says it this way, **All that happens to you**. Even the

---

<sup>1</sup> “Morgan’s Crisis”, Our Daily Bread, October 6.

adverse things? Yup! <sup>5</sup> Verse 35 gives us a partial list of the “not so fun” stuff. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>6</sup> First on the list is **trouble**. <sup>3</sup> The King James Version translates it “tribulation”. It means to suffer affliction from other people or circumstances beyond your control.

<sup>7</sup> The next is **hardship**. <sup>4</sup> This is translated “distress” in the King James Version. It literally means “being in a narrow place”. So, it’s when you are being crowded or pressured by others.

<sup>8</sup> Then, there’s **persecution**. <sup>5</sup> That’s an affliction that continues to irritate.

<sup>9</sup> There’s **famine** <sup>6</sup>; an individual’s prolonged hunger.

---

<sup>2</sup> v35 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

<sup>3</sup> Θλιψις.

<sup>4</sup> Στενοχωρία.

<sup>5</sup> Διωγμός.

<sup>6</sup> Λιμός.

10 There's **nakedness** <sup>7</sup> which is exposure from being under clothed. It's the need to cover the private parts of your body.

11 **Danger** <sup>8</sup> here, is translated in the King James Version as "peril". It implies the danger of losing your life.

12 Finally, the **sword**. <sup>9</sup> This was the Roman soldier's short sword, similar to a Bowie knife. So, this means to be murdered or killed.

The idea here is that none of "these things", as adverse as they are, will be able to separate us from the Lord's love!

14 Because this is true, what do you, then, become when you are "in Christ"? The answer is in verse 37; <sup>15</sup> **we are more than conquerors!** The Living Bible says it this way, **Overwhelming victory is ours!**

---

<sup>7</sup> Γυμνότης.

<sup>8</sup> Κίνδυνος.

<sup>9</sup> Μάχαιρα.

**16 Why can you still have victory in spite of your trials?**

**17 Because God is still in control! Many of us focus so much on the problem that we tend to forget that. The other reason is that **18 the Lord has promised that upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.** <sup>10</sup> As a member of the Lord's church you are a recipient of that promise!**

## **II. How Do They Work Out for Good? <sup>19</sup>**

**The next question is how do they work out for good?**

**20**

**Have you ever been to a concert performed by a symphony orchestra? If you recall, before the concert the individual musicians are tuning their instruments. Everyone is playing a different note. The noise is horrible. Then someone steps to the podium, usually an assistant conductor. He or she has one musician play a definite note. This is "Concert B Flat". Then other musicians, one at a time, duplicate that note**

---

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 16:18.

tweaking their instrument's pitch. Finally, all the instruments play that one note together.

The conductor is introduced, makes a few remarks, steps on the podium, lifts his baton and the first cord is played. The sound is absolutely awesome!

During the tune-up session everyone was playing their instruments at the same time. At the first chord of the song everyone is also playing. <sup>21</sup> The difference is they are working out together. Their instruments are tuned. As professional musicians, they play the notes from their music accurately. The result is a musical product that is very pleasing to your ears.

<sup>22</sup> They work together continually. In the original language the word "work" <sup>11</sup> means to work continually. <sup>23</sup> Elements in your personal experience are working together continually for your benefit! <sup>24</sup> God is continually making you!

---

<sup>11</sup> Greek Present Tense.

**25 Several years ago Christians used to wear lapel pins that said “PBPGINFY”. As others would ask, “What does that mean?”, the Christian could reply, “Please Be Patient. God Is Not Finished Yet”. Your life now is going through God’s process of making you the way He wants you to be in your future life!**

### **III. Who Do They Work Out For? 26**

**The final question that helps clarify this issue is who do they work out for? Our scripture brings out two answers here. 27**

**Those who are loving God. 28 The word “love” 12 means to love God continually, as a way of life. 29 People who love you want to be with you and visit with you often. So, talk to God often. He loves it! 30 People who love you want to please you. Study God’s word so you will know how to please Him. Then obey it!**

---

<sup>12</sup> Αγαπάω. Again in the Present Tense.



**31** The second answer is those who are called according to His purpose. **32** Christians are those who have submitted themselves to God. **33** Have you accepted Lord Jesus as Savior? **34** Are you acknowledging Him as Lord of your life? **35** Have you repented of your sins? Have you made up your mind to orient your life towards God's way instead of the world's? **36** Have you confessed your loyalty to the Lord and begun witnessing for Him? **37** Have you identified with the Lord Jesus in Christian baptism?

**38** Christians are those who are fulfilling God's purpose for their lives. **39** The Living Bible paraphrases this, **those who are fitting into His plans.** **40** You were called to enjoy salvation and fellowship with one another. **41** You were also called into Christian service according to the gifts His Holy Spirit gave you. Develop these gifts and use them for the Lord's honor.

**There's a fruit found in West Africa called the Miracle Berry. <sup>13</sup> After eating this berry, everything you eat for several hours tastes sweet, even very sour things. Romans, chapter 8, verse 28, is the Christian's Miracle Berry.**

**<sup>42</sup> If you love God and seek to live within the center of His will, you can give thanks in every circumstance knowing He is shaping the events in your life to bring them to a glorious conclusion!**

**<http://biblelifemessages.org/>**

---

<sup>13</sup> *Synsepalum dulcificum*. Also called agbayun, taami, asaa, and ledidi. Today, it is being cultivated in Ghana, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, and South Florida.