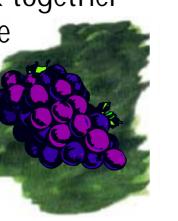
All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.



Romans 8:28

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# Joy in the Midst of Trials

God can change circumstances but He prefers to change people instead. Adversity is feature of this fallen world we live in represented by "thorns and thistles" in Genesis 3:18. But God uses adverse circumstances to accomplish a higher purpose: "tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4). As we grow in our relationship with God, we experience the fruit of depending on Him and His promises. For this reason, James said we "count it all joy when you fall into various trials" (James 1:2). Peter said that we should "greatly rejoice" because the "thorns and thistles" are short-lived in the shadow of eternity (1 Peter 1:6). If you are ready to have joy in the midst of trials, just ask Jesus into your life as your Savior and Lord… For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

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