

Romans 8:26-30—God Causes Everything To Work Together For The Good Of Those Who Love God

Memory Verse

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Revision for Romans 8:14-25—Life in the Spirit makes us able to understand and endure suffering:

Last time in Romans 8:14-25 we saw that there is a purpose for suffering. Just like Jesus, as the Son of God, had to suffer before He was glorified, so do believers as sons of God. Just like Jesus had to carry His cross and die, so do we. We learned that the glory that will be revealed in us will be far greater than the suffering required to produce it—therefore it is worth it in the long run, in view of eternity—even though now we groan.

Romans 8:23 NLT

And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

1 John 2:2-3 NKJV

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1 Corinthians 3:13-14 AMP

The work of each [one] will become [plainly, openly] known (shown for what it is); for the day [of Christ] will disclose and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test and critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done. ¹⁴ If the work which any person has built on this Foundation [any product of his efforts whatever] survives [this test], he will get his reward.

1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV

But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

Romans 8:26-30—God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God

Outline:

1. The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses (v 26-27)
2. All things, even sufferings, work together for good for believers who are walking in the Spirit (v 28)
3. God’s unconditional blessings are guaranteed once a person chooses to be saved, thus giving the believer absolute assurance for the future (vs 29-30)

Romans 8:26-30 NKJV

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

1. The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses

Romans 8:26-27 NKJV

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought [as is necessary or needful], but the Spirit Himself makes intercession [pleads] for us with groanings [sighings] which cannot be uttered [cannot be expressed in words]. ²⁷ Now He [the Father] who searches [examines] the hearts knows what the mind [way of thinking, mindset] of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God [the Father].

Romans 8:26-27 NLT

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

The default human condition: weakness

v 26 **Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses:** This is such a reality check—we may think that we have it all together, but God sees us as having *many* weaknesses—and therefore in need of *much* help. May we learn to see ourselves as God sees us, so that we will be constantly running to, and depending on, our loving heavenly father, so that He will have a smile on His face, and joy in His heart, as He gets to help us and bless us with more than we could ever ask or imagine. Consider the following verses:

Psalm 103:13-14 NLT

The Lord is like a father to His children, tender and compassionate to those who fear Him [with reverence, worship, and awe]. ¹⁴ For He knows how weak we are; He remembers we are only dust.

Jeremiah 3:19 NLT

“I thought to myself, ‘I would love to treat you as my own children!’ I wanted nothing more than to give you this beautiful land—the finest possession in the world [God always wants to give us what is best for us]. I looked forward to your calling me ‘Father,’ and I wanted you never to turn from me [what brings God the most joy is His children walking in fellowship, (submitted to and in agreement) with Him].

Hebrews 4:14-16 NLT

So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ **This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses**, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find **grace to help us when we need it most**.

Hebrews 4:16 AMP

Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favour to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] **and find grace to help in good time for every need** [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 NLT

I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ **That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses**, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. **For when I am weak, then I am strong**.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 AMP

But He said to me, My grace (My favour and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for My strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in [your] weakness. **Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities, that the strength and power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me!**

¹⁰ So for the sake of Christ, I am well pleased and take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities and distresses; **for when I am weak [in human strength], then am I [truly] strong (able, powerful in divine strength)**.

Our greatest weakness, and therefore our greatest need, is praying according to the will of God

v 26 **For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought [as is necessary or needful], but the Spirit Himself makes intercession [pleads] for us with groanings [sighings] which cannot be uttered [cannot be expressed in words]:** Given our lack of eternal perspective—we tend to focus on what makes us feel good now—therefore, many times we don't know what to pray for. And given that we can't achieve anything of eternal value without prayer, this great weakness is our greatest need. So God the Holy Spirit prays to God the Father on behalf of us so that we may have every opportunity to have our needs met.

v 26 **Groanings [sighings] which cannot be uttered:** James tells us that when it comes to our human suffering, "the Lord is very compassionate [extremely sympathetic, with much affection, of great mercy] and merciful [of great mercy—and therefore always ready to forgive]" (James 5:11). We may not know how to express what we are feeling, but the Spirit knows, and He prays for us with full understanding of exactly how we feel and what we are going through. *If you have ever wondered if your heavenly Father knows what you are going through or how you are really feeling, then rest assured, He knows, and He cares.*

v 27 **According to the will of God:** The reason why our prayers are often not heard, or are not answered, is because we are often not praying **according to the will of God**. Whenever we are walking in the flesh, seeking to satisfy the evil desires of our sinful nature, then we are not, in fact we cannot, pray **according to the will of God**, because our minds are focused on “my will be done”, and not “God’s will be done”—I am focused on what will bring *me* pleasure and glory.

It’s only when we are walking in the Spirit, submitted to God and allowing Him to live His life through us (see Galatians 2:20), that our prayers will be **according to the will of God** (I will naturally pray for what will bring glory and pleasure to God, and not myself). This is why we so desperately need the Holy Spirit to be constantly praying for us **according to the will of God**, because we are often unable to do it ourselves.

How should we pray and what is the purpose of prayer?

v 26-27 **For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought [as is necessary or needful]... according to the will of God:** The following is an application from Jon Courson’s Application Commentary.

“Let us ever remember that while prayer is to be directed to God, it is not to be directing God. Most people, at least for part of their pilgrimage, try to direct the Lord, thinking that’s what prayer is about. “Let me explain the situation, Lord. Here’s what you need to do,” we say with great authority and audacity.

“We do not know how to pray,” said Paul.

Someone comes to us and says, “Pray I’ll get the job.” “Pray this project will prosper.” Wait a minute. So many things I thought would be wonderful have proven to be detrimental, a distraction, and a curse. Conversely, so many things I thought would be terrible have proven to be a huge blessing.

The same is true nationally. It might be that the Lord wants to close us down. That’s a possibility. Maybe the best thing that could happen to our country would be a collapse economically, politically, or militarily—because that’s what it might take to heal us spiritually. I don’t know. I’m not God. Therefore, I’m not going to give Him direction on what He should or should not do. Instead, I just groan, “Lord, You see what’s going on in the nation. You see what’s going on with that person. You see what’s going on in our congregation. *I don’t know how to pray. I don’t know what Your will is. But I just give it all to You to work out according to Your perfect and beautiful plan.*”

Now, if we don’t know how to pray, then why pray at all? Understand this: Prayer is not getting my will done in heaven. Prayer is getting God’s will done on earth. It’s not me giving directions to the Father, but rather me saying, “Father, direct me. I open the door for You to work. I hold up this need for You. I place this situation in Your hand.” I do this all through prayer because the Word tells us that God has chosen to work through the vehicle of prayer. *And if we do not pray we will limit what He would do, what He could do, what He desires to do* (James 4:2).

Therefore, if I don’t pray, I will never know if God got His way with Peter-John, this congregation, or our nation. But if I do pray and say, “Lord, here’s the situation. I’m not directing You, but I’m just looking to You to have Your will done”—then I can be at peace. *Whatever happens, I know I played my part; I opened the door, and since the Father knows best, I can rest.* The Spirit groans through me, the Son intercedes for me, and the Father will do what’s right concerning me. *But if I don’t pray, I’ll always wonder if things would have been different if I had.* (Jon Courson)

2. All things, even sufferings, work together for good for believers who are walking in the Spirit

Romans 8:28-29 NKJV

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 8:28-29 NLT

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹ For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

God's sovereignty and man's free will

v 28 **And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God:** This is where God's sovereignty and man's free will are demonstrated in the clearest possible way. Joseph is probably the greatest example of this principle in the Bible.

Genesis 50:20 NLT

[Joseph said to his brothers] You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

Joseph's brothers exercised their free will to hate Joseph and do their best to hurt him. However, God, because He is sovereign, has the ability to use what other people and even satan genuinely intends for evil, and turn it around and use it to bring about good (This is because God has complete foreknowledge—He knows everything before it happens—we'll come back to this later).

There are many testimonies of people who are now Christians because a period of intense suffering that they had to endure. Without that time of suffering, who knows if they would have ended up being saved? God knew what it would take, and although the person who hurt them had no intention or desire to cause them to be blessed with eternal life, that's exactly what God had in mind when He allowed it to happen.

"All things" includes suffering caused by trials, persecution, and temptations

v 28 **All things work together for good to those who love God:** Remember that a tree that never struggles against the wind will eventually fall over because the roots never have a reason to grow strong. We have already learned that we must face *the sufferings of this present time* (Romans 8:18).

Simply put, nothing happens in our lives without a reason or purpose—all of life's circumstances are *working together* towards a common goal—**to be conformed to the image of His Son**. Thus, we can't just look at an isolated incident and wonder why. Rather, the picture is much, much bigger than that, and very often we aren't able to step back far enough to see it. It will only be when get to the other side, when we finally get to see who God had been making us into, that we will finally understand and appreciate how all that God allowed in our lives had the cumulative effect of transforming us into the image of God.

I am my own worst enemy

v 28 **To those who love God:** God has included a very important caveat here, that being that it's only the things that God allows to happen to us as we are walking in the Spirit that produce life and growth in us. If I am not walking in the Spirit, then I am producing *death* in my life, the fruit of my sinful nature (see Romans 8:5-6, 13). This death (the sinful and destructive fruit of the sinful nature) is never described as being good, only destructive. The love of money or greed is a good example of how the believer can sabotage their own life by choosing to deviate from God's good plan for their life (see Ephesians 2:10).

1 Timothy 6:9-10 NLT

But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.¹⁰ For the love of money is [a] root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

The bottom line is that when I choose to walk in the flesh, chasing and being driven by the desires of my sinful nature, I bring death (the negative fruit of my sinful nature) into my life, and so experience an incredible amount of unnecessary suffering—suffering that I bring upon myself. I should never get angry at God for the consequences, the self-inflicted sufferings that are the direct result of my own sin. If, as a believer, I choose to sabotage my own life by doing what I want instead of what God wants, then I must take responsibility for my own actions and recognise that much of what I suffer is because of my own foolish choices.

1 Peter 4:14-16 NLT

If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you.¹⁵ If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs.¹⁶ But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!

The same applies to how I react to the trials that God sends my way—if I am walking in the Spirit, I will embrace them and see them from the perspective of God growing me **to be conformed to the image of His Son**, then I will grow and change for the better. However, if I resist the trials that God allows, then instead of becoming better, I will only become bitter, angry and frustrated. Remember that, while it is right to resist being cut open by a knife wielding madman, it is not right to resist being cut open by the Good Doctor who only wants to bring health and healing into my life.

Hebrews 12:15 AMP

Exercise foresight and be on the watch to look [after one another], to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure God's grace (His unmerited favour and spiritual blessing), in order that no root of resentment (rancour, bitterness, or hatred) shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment, and the many become contaminated and defiled by it.

Walking in the Spirit means full surrender to the Father's will and desires—not what I will [not what I desire], but as You will and desire

v 28 **Called according to His purpose [not my own]:** This is why submission, surrender, and humility are so important in the Christian life. We must come to the place where we follow Jesus' example of full surrender to the Father. Nobody will ever face a trial that is anywhere near the horror of what Jesus faced on the cross, yet Jesus was still able to trust that the extreme suffering He was about to endure was the best thing for Him.

Matthew 26:39 AMP

And going a little farther, He threw Himself upon the ground on His face and prayed saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will [not what I desire], but as You will and desire.

Every believer must come to that place of realising that the purpose of their life is not found in themselves, but rather in God. I must put to death my will and desires (what feels good), and pray that God's will and desires become my will and desires. We must trust that when we see what is accomplished by what we suffer (our anguish), then, like Jesus, we will be satisfied and content.

Isaiah 53:10-11 NLT

But it was the Lord's good plan to crush Him [Jesus] and cause Him grief. Yet when His life is made an offering for sin, He will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in His hands.

¹¹ **When He sees all that is accomplished by His anguish, He will be satisfied.** And because of His experience, my righteous Servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for He will bear all their sins.

I am literally here for *God's* good pleasure and glory (not my own), and to walk in the good works that God has planned for me. It's only as I realise and submit to this truth, that I will experience contentment and fulfilment—Why? Because this is the purpose for which God created me for.

Consider how a formula one race car is perfectly suited to elegantly zooming around the smooth race track, but will soon be hopelessly bogged down if driven on the beach. In the same way, we will find that it's only as we live the life that God designed us for—a life submitted to Him, and therefore in loving fellowship with Him—that we will experience contentment. If I take the path of living my own way and doing my own thing, then I will never experience God's love, and will always feel empty or bogged down. By rejecting God's will and plan for my life, which I do when I choose to not walk in the Spirit, I forfeit experiencing God's love and so spend my life chasing other things in an effort to try to fill the void in my life that can only be filled by God's love (see John 4:13-14 and 15:9-11).

Isaiah 43:7 NKJV—Created for God's glory

Everyone who is called by My name, **whom I have created for My glory**; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

Ephesians 2:10 AMP—God has a plan for each believer

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

3. God's unconditional blessings are guaranteed once a person chooses to be saved, thus giving the believer absolute assurance for the future

Romans 8:29-30 NKJV

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30 NLT

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

God's Foreknowledge

v 29 **For whom He foreknew [to know beforehand, to know before being told]:** A very important attribute of God is that He knows everything, even the free choices that people will make who haven't even been born yet.

Psalms 139:2-4, 16 NLT—God knows everything, even the thoughts we haven't thought yet
You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.
³ You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. ⁴ You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord.

¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

Predestination or foreordaining

v 29 **He also predestined [determine or decide beforehand, decide upon ahead of time, foreordain]:** This is when God exercises His sovereign will and says that something will be, regardless of any other factors or circumstances.

Isaiah 46:9-10 NLT—God is sovereign over the nations

Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. ¹⁰ Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

Predestination according to foreknowledge

v 29 **For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son:** Paul is telling us here is that God knew ahead of time the *free choice* that some people would make to receive His free gift of salvation that God has made available to the whole world. God then makes a unilateral decision, based only on His loving and merciful nature, to unconditionally bless those people who chose to receive His free gift of salvation (forgiveness of sins or justification) with many spiritual blessings (see Ephesians 1:3-6. These extra blessings include: adoption into God's family, sanctification (being transformed into God's image), and glorification (the receiving of a perfect and eternal glorified body just like Jesus already has since He rose from the dead). Peter also teaches the same thing, that God chooses or elects those who He knows will exercise their free will to choose Him. Let's look at some Scriptures that reveal this to be true.

1 Peter 1:2 NKJV—The believer's election is based on God's foreknowledge of their choice

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 45:22 NLT—God's invitation (calling) goes out to all people

Let all the world look to me for salvation! For I am God; there is no other.

Romans 10:8-13 NLT—All people get to exercise their free will to accept or reject Christ
And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: ⁹ **If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** ¹⁰ **For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God,** and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. ¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, **“Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”** ¹² Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³ **For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

John 3:16-21 NLT—All people get to exercise their free will to accept or reject Christ
And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ **so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.** ¹⁶ **“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.** ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ **“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing** in God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, **but people loved the darkness more than the light,** for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

Jon Courson explains predestination according to foreknowledge:

“You see, the singular issue concerning predestination is neither intellectual nor theological. It’s moral. Through His foreknowledge, God sees the person who wants to continue to walk in darkness—and doesn’t choose him. So, too, before the foundation of the world, He saw those who, like you, wanted to walk in light—and chose them [see John 3:16-21 above].

Before the world was even spoken into existence, God saw the people who would respond to His love. Whom He foreknew, He predestined. He said, “I can see that Mitch is going to respond when I make Myself known to him, when the gospel is shared with him. Therefore, I predestine Mitch to be part of My eternal kingdom.”

“Well,” you say, “then why was someone who God knew wouldn’t respond to Him allowed to live in the first place?”

The answer is that if a person was not allowed to play his life out to the fullest extent, he could protest at the Great White Throne.”

“I got rid of you early because I could see that you weren’t going to respond to Me,” God would say.

“Oh, but I would have,” the unbeliever would protest.

“No, you wouldn’t,” God would say.

“Yes, I would have,” the unbeliever would insist.

And there would be a perpetual argument. So even though it is His desire that none should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9), God lets Joe Schmo live his seventy years to prove that righteous and true are His judgments (Revelation 16:7).

Then why does hell exist?

Jesus gave us the reason. Hell exists for Satan and his demons (Matthew 25:41). It was never God’s intent to allow anyone on earth to spend eternity in hell. In fact, the only way anyone can get there is over the dead body of His Son.” (Jon Courson)

Because of predestination, our sanctification is guaranteed—all believers will end up being conformed or transformed into the image of Jesus

v 29 **For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed [of the same same shape, fashioned like unto] to the image [likeness, representation] of His Son:** We may think of ourselves as failures, as a broken clay vessel that is too far gone to be of any use any more. But God is never finished with us until He has made us into what He wants us to be. He may have to remake us many times, but He will never give up on us.

Jeremiah 18:1-5 NLT—The Potter and the Clay

The Lord gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, ² “Go down to the potter’s shop, and I will speak to you there.” ³ So I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. ⁴ **But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over.**

⁵ Then the Lord gave me this message: ⁶ “O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? **As the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand.**”

Philippians 1:6 AMP

And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.

“However, our participation in this eternal plan is essential, reflected in its goal: that we might be **conformed to the image of His Son**; and this is a process that God does with our cooperation, not something He just “does” to us.” (David Guzik)

v 29 **That He might be the firstborn among many brethren:** This is God’s motive for doing what He does. God wants us to be a part of His family. God loves us and His greatest desire is for us to be in a love relationship with Himself.

Why predestination or foreordaining believers to receive the unconditional promises of God is so encouraging—why it is mentioned here in Romans in the middle of a passage talking about suffering.

v 30 **Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called [invited, sent for, summoned]; whom He called, these He also justified [complete forgiveness of sins—declared innocent or not guilty]; and whom He justified, these He also glorified [the promise of a glorious resurrection body like Jesus has]:**

Consider the following story. A couple just get married, and before they have their first child, choose to buy an expensive vintage car which their child will receive on their 17th birthday. It doesn’t matter if the child is obedient or rebellious, they will still get that car as soon as they turn 17 years old. You see, this gift has nothing to do with rewarding the child for anything good they did—the gift was purchased before the child was even conceived. It was given solely because the parents chose in advance to love and bless their future child—the reason for giving the gift was all in the parents, because of their loving nature.

In the same way, adoption, sanctification, and glorification are promised to every believer before they even exist. They are gifts that the Father chooses to give simply because He wants to, because by nature He is loving and generous. *This is so important because it shows that, no matter how badly believers may suffer in this life, God has promised them that in the end, they will still be **conformed to the image of His Son** (sanctification), and will receive a new glorious resurrection body when they die (**glorified**). There is hope!*