



What is Good?

“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.”

The Apostle Paul | Romans 8:28 (NLT)

We long for a perfect life... ample money, peace, health, love, no worries... fun! Perhaps living on a sunset beach? Or on an estate with gourmet dinners, fine wine...? A cabin in the woods? We want it so badly that we work obsessively towards it. Yet when we get close, we discover it's moved or doesn't satisfy as hoped. Determined, we set out again only to find our dream remains elusive.

Along your journey a jolt hits from out of the blue... a bad diagnosis, trouble with your child, job loss... You cry, “God, why did you let this happen?” Paul's words come, “Somehow God will fix this so I can get back on track...that would be good!” You wait... nothing. Perhaps good

has come, but not directly to you? You wonder, "... maybe God is not so good."

"Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"

"Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good." (Matthew 19:16-17)

This rich young ruler sought his perfect life through good works, is this not the way? Jesus bursts his dream in essence saying, "what you seek is too small, and not truly good."

What is good then? Is it not that anything "good" promotes our perfect life and "bad" comes against it?

Reflect: Can my "perfect life" really satisfy my deepest longings?

A friend emerged from a health battle he would not wish on his greatest enemy. It took all his strength to hang onto God in the midst. Now, his relationship with God has been forever altered. Only God was at his side... holding him, accepting his anger, leading him through. Noticeable, his dark battle yielded deeper intimacy with God. Could this have been obtained in any other way?

"In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering."

The Apostle Paul (Romans 8:17)

Wait, isn't God supposed to help us achieve our dream lives? When I accepted Christ, I don't recall thoughts of enduring a path of suffering, do you?

Consider: God's overarching goal for my life often conflicts with my dreams.

God seeks Oneness, a restored relationship with him. Obtaining it can come at the expense of our perfect life and, like my friend experienced, it can hurt.

"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." The Apostle Paul (Romans 8:29)

Paul went on to explain that all must ultimately fall in line behind Jesus, the "One that is good." Jesus suffered, so must we. Though this interferes with our perfect life, God ensures that our suffering yields good.

Imagine: Oneness, becoming one with the One, far exceeds my "perfect life."

Oneness comes to those "who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." In other words, embrace God and pursue your

Mission in all circumstances, especially when life is tough! In the midst, pray for God to help you advance your Mission. There is no greater way to experience God as he leads you into ever-deepening Intimacy. In fact, as you persevere, God will sharpen your focus, increase your urgency, remove hesitation.... and your Mission will advance...

This is Good!

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- Consider a past struggle. How has my relationship with Jesus deepened as a result of it?
- How has it affected my urgency to carry out my Mission?
- How might I reshape my "perfect life" to center it on advancing my Mission?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Intimacy is Good!

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

The Lord | Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)



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18160 Cottonwood Rd PMB 440
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