

happened that at the time did not seem good, but later I could see they were the best thing that happened to me or they led to something really good.

When the early church was being persecuted, it seemed like a bad thing, but the good was it made the Christians leave Jerusalem and take the gospel to other parts of the world (Acts 8:4). Whatever we are facing in life, God promises that it will work together for good. Is it for every person or just a limited few? Look at the rest of verse 28.

b. Only for God's called .

This promise is only for those who love God and who are called according to His purpose. The passage implies that the promise is only those who continually love God. We have learned in Romans 6:13 that if we love God, we will present ourselves to Him. In 6:22 we learn that if we love God, we will grow in sanctification (or we will become more holy and Christ-like in our lives). In chapter eight, we learn that if we love God, we will walk according to the Spirit (John 14:21). The promise is for those who are called according to God's purpose. The word "purpose" means to place something before one's mind, to plan, to resolve. This verse implies that a called one is one who has heard the call and has accepted it and obeyed it (Romans 1:16, 10:17).

Now let us look at the purpose God had in making His plan. This purpose will help us to understand why God works through our difficult times.

2) The Purpose Behind God's Plan. (Verse 29)

a. To conform believers.

One of the purposes behind God's plan was to see those who love Him be conformed to the image of Jesus.

The word we translate "conformed" is a word that means a likeness inside and out. It describes a thorough change, not just an outward superficial resemblance. One of the purposes for God working in our lives through the difficult times is so that one day we will have the same resurrection body that Jesus has. We will look like Him. In the meantime we are to allow ourselves to be transformed into His image (2 Corinthians 3:18, Romans 12:2).

This is the destiny for those who love God. God does not want us to fail to reach this goal for our lives because it is part of a bigger plan for us.

b. To adopt believers.

The second purpose behind God's plan was for Him to have a large family. In verse 29 we are told that God wants Jesus to be the firstborn of many brethren. What this means is that God wants a big family. Jesus was resurrected and given a new body and now is seated at the right hand of the Father.

God wants a VERY large family. He wants many others to follow the path of Jesus. Remember, the reason we are given freewill is because God only wants those in His family because they love Him. Giving us freewill is the only way for God to know we love Him.

If Bill Gates came out and said he would adopt ANYONE who loved him into his family, how many people would say they loved him? Yet with all his billions of dollars, how would he know if people really loved him? When you have great wealth that would be one of the perils, knowing who really loves you for you or who loves what you have.

Most people when they die want to go to heaven. The question is, did they love God enough to live for Him while they had a chance? Or do they proclaim love for Him now to save themselves?

One of the ways I know my wife loves me is the fact that she had a choice. If my economic status were to someday change somehow, she would still love me for who I am. Don't you want people to love you for who you are? God is no different. God wants a big family!

3) The Process Behind God's Plan. Verses 29-30

a. He Foreknew .

Verse 29 talks about those whom God foreknew. In the context the word "foreknew" means to "approve of beforehand." What this means is that in eternity past, God's knew He would approve of anyone who accepted His Son. He foreknew that those who accepted Jesus would be accepted by Him. God approves those who are faithful.

b. He Predestined .

The passage says He predestined them to be conformed to His image. Once again, this deals with the fact that God decided beforehand that those who accept Jesus would be conformed to His image, that we would have a resurrection body.

c. He Called .

He says that those whom He predestined, He also called. The ones who are predestined to glory are those who accept the call of the Gospel. The call is open to EVERYONE (2 Timothy 2:4). Those who reject the call are lost, those who accept are saved.

d. He Justified .

The one's called are justified. Remember that being justified means that we are declared innocent. If you are guilty, you cannot go to heaven. We cannot declare ourselves innocent. God is the only one who can do that, and that is done for those who answer the call of Jesus.

e. He Glorified .

When it is all said and done, when Jesus returns, we will be glorified with Jesus. We will be a brother or sister of Jesus. Verse 29 uses the term brothers. We will receive our inheritance in full from God.

Conclusion

The purpose God has behind His plan and the process behind the plan are some of the reasons that God works through our trials and problems to make the work out for good.

God does not want us to fail or to think that Satan is more powerful than He is.

Pain and suffering are a reality of this world, as long as we live this life; it will be a part of life. All that will pass when we go to heaven.

Washington Irving said, "Great minds have purposes, others have wishes. Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune; but great minds rise above them."

We have a great God who will help us rise above the misfortunes in life. Don't be discouraged; look for the silver lining in the cloud of distress. God loves you and when we love Him, He will welcome us into His family. Do you want to be a part of that family?

God's Plan Is Greater!

No Limits

Roger Crawford is about forty years old. He makes his living as a consultant and public speaker. He has written two books and travels all across the country working for Fortune 500 companies, national and state associations, and school districts.

Those are good credentials but are they really all that impressive? Earlier he was a varsity

tennis player for Loyola Marymount University and later became a professional tennis player certified by the United States Professional Tennis Association. Still not impressed? You might change your opinion if you knew Roger has no hands and only one foot.

Roger was born with a condition called ectrodactylism. When he was born, he had a thumb-like projection extending out of his right forearm, and a thumb and finger growing out of his left forearm. He had no palms. His legs and arms were shortened and his left leg possessed a shrunken foot with only three toes. The foot was amputated when he was five.

Roger's parents were determined to give him the best chance possible for living a normal life. They raised him to feel loved, to be strong, and to develop independence. "You're only as handicapped as you want to be," his father used to tell him.

When he was old enough, they sent him to regular public schools. They involved him in sports. They encouraged him to do everything his heart desired. And they taught him to think positively. "Something my parents never did was to allow me to feel sorry for myself, or to take advantage of people because of my handicap," observes Roger.

Roger appreciated the encouragement and training he received from his parents, but didn't really understand the significance or the extent of his achievements until he was in college. He had received a phone call from a man who had read about his tennis victories, and Roger agreed to meet him at a nearby restaurant. When Roger stood to shake hands with the man, he discovered that the other guy had hands that were almost identical to his. Roger became excited because he thought he had found someone similar to him but older who could act as a mentor. But after talking with the stranger for a few minutes, he realized he was wrong. Roger explains, "Instead, what I found was someone with a bitter, pessimistic attitude who blamed all of life's disappointments and failures on his anatomy."

Roger soon recognized that their lives and attitudes couldn't have been more different. The other man had never held a steady job, and he was sure this was because of discrimination. The man admitted he was constantly late, frequently absent, and failed to take any responsibility for his work. His attitude was the world owed him, and the world disagreed. He was even angry at Roger because he didn't share his despair.

What was the difference? Real and lasting limitations are created in our minds, not our bodies. Trust in God's great plan and He will cause you to prosper.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, October 30, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 2

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 3

Senior Adult Event, First Baptist Church Saint Joseph.....10:00am

G Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, November 6, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatirck, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Monday, November 7

Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

Wednesday, November 9

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am
Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 10

R Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

November 3 — Senior Adult Event, 10:00 am, FBC, St. Joseph

November 6 — Daylight Saving Time Ends (fall back 1 hour)

November 7 — Women's World Day of Prayer, 2:00 pm

— Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

November 9 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

November 13 — The Insanity of God Simulcast 6:00 pm

November 14-21 — Operation Christmas Child Collection Week

November 20 — Thanksgiving Dinner and Business Meeting at Noon

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Hope to see you here at 6:30.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Come to Pray!

SJBA Senior Adult Event
November 3, 2016
10:00 am
First Baptist Church
Saint Joseph

**Please remember to set your clocks back 1 hour,
Saturday night,
November 5.**

The Insanity of God
-A simulcast-
November 13, 2016
6:00pm, here at
Calvary Baptist Church

Operation Christmas Child
Collection Week:
November 14-21

A Message from Muriel——

Please share the following announcements with your church. These did not make it into the latest SJBA Newsletter.

1. McCarthy Baptist Church will have The Spencers in Concert on Sunday, October 30th at 1:30 pm.
2. Maysville Community Choir in partnership with First Baptist Church of Maysville will be presenting "One Small Child" Christmas Cantata on December 4th at 2:30 pm and 7:00pm at First Baptist Church at 300 W. Main in Maysville.
3. Copeland Baptist Church ~ New Creation Music Ministry will be at Copeland on November 13 at 6:00 pm. All people and churches are welcome to attend.

Thank you for sharing these announcements with your church and especially those who might be interested.

Have a wonderful week!

Muriel Elder

SJBA Administrative Assistant
St. Joseph Baptist Association
4608 Mitchell Ave.
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-233-2504

For the Record-

Attendance: October 23, 2016

Sunday School.....	45
Visitors.....	7

Total.....	52
Contacts Made.....	10
Morning Worship.....	55
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Sunday Night	12
Wednesday Night	??

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,040.52
 Offering Received ... \$ 942.51

Offering Received by Mail:

November Counting Team:

John Lewis and Bill Schottel

November Van Driver:

George Burgess
 Remember to call 232-3747
 before 8 am if you need a ride.

November Birthdays:

07...Alva Lou Schottel
 13...Shirley Wilson
 14...Ann Riddle
 16...Nancy McCamy
 22...Linda Dotson
 23...Floetta Conard
 25...Maxine Ferbert
 27...Linda Kerns

November Anniversaries

Bill and Donna Dunn
 November 3, 1995
 Jack and Flo Conard
 November 4, 1956
 John and Dottie Wildberger
 November 23, 1962
 Jim and Brigida Winans
 November 28, 1975

Prayer Requests ...

Madeline Swink—recovery from falling
 Troy Griswold—cancer
 David Beavers—recovery
 Larry Danner—cancer treatment
 Cynthia Burdick—cancer treatment
 Jim Winans—Laverna Village
 Maxine and George Ferbert—strength
 Sarah Waters—knee rehab
 David Schottel—knee replacement

Karissa and Matt Long
Nellie Reynolds—strength
Betty Campbell—healing
Pat Puckett—eyes, healing
Marcia and Don Hart—future plans
Robbie Hutcherson, Loleta's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
 Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris
 Richardson's sisters
Audrey Dugan Bob Barquist
Kathryn Beavers Ann Riddle
Louanne Laurence Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Sue Higgins Bobby Griswold
Bill Haskins Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
