

Focusing on God's Good

Recent studies - imagining God's good intentions in any & every situation. This came out of Jam 1:2 – Vines def of hegeomai – guide your imagination

List & imagine the **agathos** good God is producing out of our adversities.

Recent experience – many hurting and discouraged people struggling with difficult circumstances that God has allowed in their/my life.

Man habitually envisions the negative – adversity à imagine scenarios of loss; hard habit to break, but can/must be broken & replaced with will of God.

(Rom 8:28-39) God produces good out of any/every category of adversity

Vs. 28-30 God works all together for good

Vs. 28	Ones who love God	those committed to growth in the relationship
Vs. 28	Works together	sunergeo – all events mixed together to make good
Vs. 28	Good agathos	spiritual good cp kalos – desirable, enjoyable

- God uses everything He allows to produce spiritual good – not pleasure
- To orient to God's good, must abandon our worldly goals in this life
- God's good: edifies the church & glorifies the Lord
 - Vs. 29 – preordained us to become conformed to the image of His Son
- The ultimate good – God will use this life to transform us to be like Christ

(Rom 8:31-37) Six questions objecting to idea that God produces good

1. What shall we say to these things? Title question about to be answered
2. If (1CC) [True] God is for us, who can stand against us?
 - 1CC [if & it's assumed to be true] God is definitely for us – on our side
 - Who can kata (dominate) us – the answer: nobody can defeat God.
 - Adversity – someone is against us; God uses it to edify & glorify
3. Didn't spare His own Son; will he not freely give us all things?
 - Adversity – appear to be lacking something – answer: not lacking anything spiritual or necessary to edify & glorify – we already have all things
4. Who will legally accuse God's elect? Answer: God is the One who justifies
 - Act 19,23,26 Paul accused of violating the law – Zec 3:1 satan accused Josh
 - Adversity: sins brought up before God; Answer: payment & imputed +R
 - Your sins do not define you; should they be the basis of how others view you
5. Who will condemn God's elect? Answer: Christ died & raised, now prays
 - Condemns – **katakrino** – judged worthy of punishment – guilty of sin
 - Christ died & was raised took our condemnation – 1Jn 21:1 our Advocate
 - Adversity: judged worthy of rejection; answer: Christ bought our worth
6. Who can separate us from love/Christ? Totally conquer through Him
 - Who? Satan? Satan wants to use adversity to separate us from His love
 - Changes from who to what – who brings these things to believer's life?
 - Adversities: Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword
 - Answer: We super-conquer through the love of God in Christ
 - Rom 8:38-39 Nothing in creation can separate us from God – security
 - Eternal security is essential part of the system of good from adversity

- Security based on justification frees us to fail and for God to use even our own sins and failures to produce **agathos** in our lives.
Rom 8:38- persuaded [P.f.PI] – totally convinced by God: neither death, life, angels, rulers, present, future, powers, height, depth, any other kind of created thing
Rom 8:39 – able to separate – have the power, ability to break God's hold on us
- God has totally convinced Paul that we are eternally secure in Christ

1. Our natural, habitual, human reaction to adversity: anger, fear, frustration, doubt, complaining, grumbling, fighting, human solutions

Jam 4:1-3 denied what you want → anger, frustration → quarrel, fight
 Jam 1:6-8 doubt/fear in prayer under extreme persecution
 Num 14 Exodus – fear, wept, grumbled, negative imaginings, rebellion, violence
 Rom 8:31-37 the objections to God working it all for good – what if?

Old Man Belief System – focused on this life; needs from people; worldly, materialistic goals, worldly approbation goals; Worldly success / respect / materials >> +Happiness

- Adversity threatens the worldly images we hold – can't afford the loss, angry, fearful, swearing, complain, solutions out of your flesh
- Habitual reaction to adversity is to conjure negative images, movie clips

2. Breaking habitual negative reaction / adversity:

Logic basis: God works / good; Conformed / Christ > worldly, material good; reward/eternity > success / time

Mental Mechanics:

- a) **Awareness** – Psm 26:2 Examine me Lord; 1Cor 11:28 examine self; Mt15:18 heart defiles; aware of inner images & dialogue;
- b) **Confess sins connected to negative reaction:** 1Jn 1:9;
- c) **Reject images & dialogue that are unbiblical** – stop talk; detach faith/negative; recognize & admit your lies; visualize negative scenarios

- If you believe that God wants you to stop awfulizing as reaction adversity, then make a commitment to break your bad habit – reroute neurons
- Consistent rejection of false scenarios will result in victory – super-victors

3. Replacing false scenarios with biblical scenarios: Jam 1:2 hegeomai – to lead your imagination; to intentionally generate scenarios

(Rom 8:28) God uses everything, including adversity to produce **agathos**

- Adversity → God knew & allowed → God intends to produce good
- Make a written list of all possible good that God might intend to produce
- Create scenarios with images // dialogue for each item on the list
- Visualize scenarios, pray for wisdom/insight; pray for God to make good
- Wait & watch for God working, prepare to participate, pray w/out ceasing

Biblical Examples of Contemplating God's Good under Adversity

2Cor 1:4-7	Paul sees his own suffering as preparation to comfort others
2Cor 4:7-12	Suffering so the power may be of God & not ourselves
2Cor 4:16-18	Outer decays, momentary light affliction reveals eternal weight of glory beyond comparison; not focused on material world but spiritual world
2Cor 5:1-9	Paul's death evokes images of being face to face with the Lord
2Cor 6:3-10	Suffering as an opportunity to demonstrate themselves as servants of God
Phil 1:12-18	Paul's imprisonment has caused the gospel to be spread
Phil 1:29-30	Suffering for Christ is a gift
Phil 3:7-11	Paul lost all of his earthly wealth, position, family – considered all that he lost to be as dung and worth losing for the sake of knowing Christ.
Heb 4:14-15	Sufferings of Christ prepared Him to be compassionate toward us
Heb 10:34	Joyful because of the seizure of property knowing that they had a better possession waiting for them
Heb 12:5-11	God's training program – produces peaceful fruit of +R
Jam 1:2-4	Count it all joy Mature, complete, lacking nothing
Jam 1:12	Blessed is man who perseveres under trial à Crown of Life
1Pet 1:6-7	Distressed by trials that the proving of your faith, more valuable than gold, results in praise and glory at the coming of the Lord

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.