

Polly's Pondering

"We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Have you ever had one of those days when everything you try to tackle seems to go haywire? You begin to wonder what am I supposed to learn from this mess? I mean if God works all things together for good then I am thinking there must be something here with which I can work. Right?

That got me to pondering. What do I believe when I say all things work together for good?

I am not saying that everything that happens is good. Obviously, there are a lot of things that happen that are ugly, difficult, painful, traumatic, senseless, etc. The Bible tells us that we are not to "render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good," 1 Thessalonians 15.

I am also not saying that good things only happen to those who love God. And I am not saying God only loves those who love Him. Look at the words contained in Matthew 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love only those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing? Don't even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete."

What I do believe is that God can use all things to mold and make me more into the person I was meant to be. I believe difficult times teach me to rely on Him. I believe hurtful experiences can both teach me to be compassionate, learn empathy, and open my eyes to my own ways and words that might be hurtful to others. They also give me an opportunity to practice forgiveness. I believe that pain helps me to learn boundaries, to reevaluate priorities, and sometimes it teaches me to push through barriers I believed were impassable.

I know that my faith has always been sharpened, strengthen, and secured it the most difficult moments of life. And if that is what it takes for me to love God, depend on God, trust God more fully then bring on the difficult days. Cause my goal is not to go through life without pain, suffering, trouble, difficulty, loneliness, and fear. My goal is to grow in my dependence on God, to grow in my faith in His power to work all things for His good, and to believe so strongly in His promises that I will live them in the most difficult circumstances for His glory until that day when I see Him face to face in that Heavenly place where there will be no more suffering, sorrow, hatred, and hurt. Until then I will work to find the blessings in difficult times, the lessons in traumatic experiences, the way to love in a world where hatefulness is too easy to find.