

All Things for Good? Making Peace with Romans 8:28

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Get to Know Natasha

As we walk into Romans 8, let's allow a case study to force us to think pastorally as much as we think theologically.

How would you respond to Natasha?



"A word fitly spoken
is like apples of gold
in a setting of silver."

Proverbs 25:11

Five False Beliefs about Suffering

Let's be aware of our assumptions...

1. Suffering is a competitive sport.
2. The cross silences us about suffering.
3. Suffering means something needs to be forgiven.
4. Comforting sufferers encourages passivity.
5. God allows suffering because the benefits outweigh the pain.



“But if we hope for what we do not see...
...we wait for it with patience...
...Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness...
...For we do not know what to pray for as we
ought...
...but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with
groanings too deep for words....

Romans 8:25-26

...And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit...

...because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God...

...And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose

Romans 8:27-28

Ghost Words and Guilt Math

"...And we know that for those who love God all things work together for [ghost word] good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

* Allow Natasha to express mid-journey faith at a mid-journey point in her life.



Two Definitions of Good

- Good as counterbalance or opposite of **bad**.
- Good as eventual destination on a **hard** journey.

Q: Which fits Romans 8?

Q: Which does Natasha need?



Returning to Natasha

What does it look like to be an accurate **ambassador** of God's heart toward and agenda for Natasha?

How does that impact the way we utilize passages like **Romans 8:28** in counseling?

