

# Destined To Be Like Jesus

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*"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:28-29)*

It is God's will for all believers to be conformed to the image of His Son. Jesus was a perfect son and it is God's desire have many more sons like Him. God uses the circumstances in your life to bring this about. Everything that happens to the believer is permitted by God to make you become more like Jesus. No matter what life may have in store for you, all things can turn into blessings if you love God and are called to His purpose. You can have the confidence that God will be at work to fulfill His good will for your life.

There are four points to note as to how God works all things for the good of those who love Him.

1. "All things" means nothing is excluded. God is sovereign. He controls all the events happening in each nation and in the world. He controls by ruling all things for the sake of His dear Son.
2. "Work together" means to create and eliminate, to place and replace, connect and disconnect, to inter-relate and group, to shape and forge, to press and stretch, to move and function, to control and guide, to arrange and influence. It is God at work for our good. He knows best!
3. "Good" means ultimate good. We cannot see things that result from one single event, much less the results of all events. God can! Therefore He can work them out in our lives for our good. Thrust Him and be assured. This is your confidence. Remember what Joseph said to his brothers despite the wrong they did to him? "You meant it for evil against me; but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20).
4. "To those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." There is a condition that must not be overlooked. God only gives this promise to those who love Him and are called to His purpose. What is God's purpose?

**Firstly**, they belong to Him and are His sons. "But as many received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name" (John 1:12). It is only sons that will love the Father and the Father, the sons. The son's love for God will reciprocate God's work in his life for his good. The choice is yours - to love or not to love Him!

**Secondly**, God's purpose is that His sons be holy (set apart for God). His purpose is that they be like Him. "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29). What happens to them happens with God's permission. When it has done its work in them, He will deliver them. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalms 34:19).

You must want to fulfill God's purpose. Your utmost desire should be to become more like Jesus. Allow God to take you through whatever He permits to mould and change you. This was God's purpose when He saved you from sin. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned. Nor shall the flame scorch you" (Isaiah 43:2). But if you continue living in sin, wickedness and your own selfishness, then, what happens is a consequence of sin in your life.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). God knows the sufferings and the struggles of the believers. Irrespective of how hopeless the situation may seem, God can turn it around for the good of the believer. God has predestined the future of all believers - they will be like His Son. Why? "That Christ might be the firstborn" (Romans 8:29). God loves His Son and wants many more like Him. They will be Jesus' younger brothers. "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things, He may have the pre-eminence" (Colossians 1:18).

To be like Jesus, you must believe and obey God's word. God has also given us the Holy Spirit to help us. You will witness a change inwardly and outwardly and fulfill God's will for your life.