



# Presence

## NO MATTER WHAT THE CHALLENGE

Romans 8:28 – 30

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### MESSAGE NOTES

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified. – Romans 8:28 – 30 (NIV)*

*"... that they may have the full measure of My joy within them." – John 17:13 (NIV)*

*So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. – John 16:22 (ESV)*

#### **How to Experience God's Joy in Life's Challenges:**

- **God's love carries us**

*We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. – Romans 8:22 (NIV)*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? – Romans 8:35 (ESV)*

- **His purpose shapes us**

*... all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son ... – Romans 8:28 – 29 (NIV)*

- **The best is still ahead**

*And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified. – Romans 8:30 (NIV)*

### MESSAGE SUMMARY

**In Romans 8:28-30 we saw that following Christ doesn't remove hardship, but anchors us in lasting joy. God's love carries us through every challenge, and His good purpose is shaping us to become more like Jesus. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, nothing can separate us from His love and our future with Him is secure. This invites us to trust God in difficulty, rest in His joy, and live in the hope that the best is still ahead.**



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use as many or as few of these questions as are helpful for your group or family discussion.

- Discussion Starter: If you could choose one superpower to help you get through a tough day, what would it be and why? How do you think God's "superpower" of joy compares?
- Read John 16:22 and John 17:13. How does Jesus describe joy in the midst of difficulty?
- Read Romans 8:28–30. What stands out to you in these verses about how God works in our lives?
- What does it mean to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29)? How does this give hope even when life is hard?
- In Romans 8:35, Paul asks what can separate us from the love of Christ. How does naming specific hardships (tribulation, persecution, famine, etc.) shape our understanding of God's love?
- What does it look like for someone to trust God's joy and His purpose even when the waves of hardship feel overwhelming?
- How have you experienced God-given joy or strength carrying you through a difficult season? Share a story if you feel comfortable.
- What are some daily practices that help us stay aware of God's presence and good purpose during challenging times?
- Think about someone you know who is struggling right now. How could you practically share God's love with them? Take some time to pray for them as a group.