

5. How do you hold in tension the “two ropes” of God’s sovereignty and your human responsibility?

6. How does the family road trip analogy help you as you look to invite others to follow Jesus?

7. What is one way you could change the way you live in light of these texts?

Gospel Resilience
“Three Ways God Works in Your Life Every Day”

Romans 8:26-30

When we miss to see the active engagement and work of God in our midst and in the whole of history, we can lose trust in him and become less dependent on him.

Three Ways God Works in Your Life Every Day

1. _____ perfectly for you. [Romans 8:26-27]

We still _____ to God even when have no idea what to say.

2. Working all things, even truly _____ things, for good. [Romans 8:28]

Two Misinterpretations:

1. If you just love God enough, THEN he’ll work things for your good.
2. The “good” always equals how you see good.

Good is: _____.

“Trusting response to known _____.” (Thomas Smail)

“...those who say to God, ‘thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, ‘thy will be done.’” (CS Lewis)

We cooperate with the _____ of good.

3. Holding your _____ securely.

We move away from being passive or paralyzed into being _____ & able.

Ephesians 1: 11-13 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

"I liken them to two ropes going through two holes in the ceiling and over a pulley above. If I wish to support myself by them, I must cling to them both. If I cling only to one and not the other, I go down. I read the many teachings of the Bible regarding God's election, predestination, his chosen, and so on. I read also the many teachings regarding 'whosoever will may come' and urging people to exercise their responsibility as human beings. These seeming contradictions cannot be reconciled by the puny human mind. With childlike faith, I cling to both ropes, fully confident that in eternity I will see that both strands of truth are, after all, of one piece." (RB Kuiper)

Phillipians 1:6 ...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How does knowing the Holy Spirit prayers perfectly for you help you when you pray?
3. How have you seen God work a hard situation toward the good of you being more like Jesus?
4. What are some ways you can more practically live out a "trusting response to known love?"