

Do You Qualify?
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

There is a Scripture in Romans that contains one of the greatest promises in the Bible yet is one of the most misunderstood and misquoted Scriptures ever.

That Scripture to which I refer is:

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Is it true that God makes everything that happens to Christians work together for good?

Everything?

Accidents, sickness, death?

Even the death of a lost loved one?

The consequences of sin that invade their families;
alcoholism, drug addiction, moral depravity?

Really?

There is an elite group of people for whom all things truly do work together for their good. The question is, are you one of those people?

Today we shall endeavor to understand this incredible promise from God.

It is obvious just from reading the promise itself that there are qualifications associated with it; actually, there are three.

I. Qualification number one; those who are “the called”.

A. So, who are called?

1. **Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them **who are the called**...

2. Isn't everyone called? Who are *these* called?

3. That question is answered in the next three verses.

4. **Romans 8:29-31**

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

5. We know that God's call is extended to everyone.

6. The "called" of verse 28 refers to the ones who have answered God's call, who have been justified and from God's perspective have also been glorified; even though for us the fullness of that is in time to come as Paul stated a few verses earlier:

7. **Romans 8:18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are not worthy to be compared* with the glory which **shall be** revealed in us.

B. Bottom line; this applies only to saved people; those who possess the Spirit of God dwelling in them.

1. Do you have the Spirit of God dwelling in you?

2. **Romans 8:9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

3. No one starts out with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit: that happens when we are born again.

4. I will explain that further later in the message.

II. Qualification number two, those "that love God".

A. Do all believers love God?

1. **Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to **them that love God...**

2. I would say that all believers likely do have feelings of affection toward God.

3. Feelings of affection, although important, do not equate to loving God.

B. Love is what you do, not just how you may feel.

1. **1 John 4:19-21**

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

2. Look how Jesus said it in **Matthew 25:31-40**

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

3. When are we loving God? We are loving God when we are loving God's people.

4. Loving people is something you cannot do well at a distance.

III. Qualification number three; those who live their lives "according to His purpose".

A. *When are we in accordance with God's purpose?*

1. To meet this qualification, we must align ourselves with God's purpose for which He saved us.

2. We must dedicate ourselves to the purpose for which God created us and to the duty to which He has assigned us.

3. Why did God create us?

Isaiah 43:7 *Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

4. That means that we must dedicate ourselves to His glory!

5. That is why, or at least should be why, we are in Church!

Ephesians 3:21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

B. Accordance with God's purpose is not just an event that takes place, it is a state in which we live.

1. This begins when, once we are saved, we go on to keep the New Testament commands of Christ.
2. These commands are what Jesus was talking about in the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

C. We are no longer under the Old Testament law, but we ARE commanded to observe the New Testament commands of Christ.

1. 1 John 2:1-14

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world.

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

2. These New Testament commands are simple and easy: I'll give you the short version; once you are saved:

- a. Get baptized, it's the first command for a new believer, (it makes you a member of the Church).
- b. Be faithful in Church, learn all you can, worship and serve the Lord with all your heart.
- c. Respond to everything the Lord shows you is true.
- d. Say yes to all that God calls you to do by the leadership of His Holy Spirit.
- e. Use your gifts for His glory in the Church.

3. These commands align us with God's eternal purpose.

Conclusion:

The Lord wants every one of us to receive the promise and blessing of Romans 8:28!

Qualifying for the promise of Romans 8:28 begins with the Spirit of God dwelling in you.

That does not happen naturally. It happens when we are saved, when we are born again.

Ephesians 1:11-14

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

We learned we could trust God's Word; Jesus is the Word made flesh.

We heard and understood the Gospel; how that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day.

Then we believed, which means we trusted Him to do that for us, to save us from our sins.

Upon placing our trust, our faith in Jesus, in the blood He shed for us, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit.

The rest comes easy as we obey Him.

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

And in 1 John, which is written ONLY TO BELIEVERS:

1 John 5:1-5

1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and **his commandments are not grievous.**

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

People who are the called, those who love God and thereby also love God's people, people who do what God commands them to do; they worship, they serve, they give... they find that living such a life is not a hard arduous way to live...even though bad things happen to them all the time just like everyone else.

Why? Because God causes all things to work together for their good!

So, Do you qualify?