

Romans 8 - Part 17  
Living Positively in a Negative World  
02/27/2022

- Living Positively In a Negative World
- Most people really don't know how to live
- They simply exist
- Some people just endure

*John 10:10 (NIV) I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

- Hope is a choice for us all
- No one is as mean to you as you are

*Jennie Allen - "You have a God-Given, God-Empowered, God-Redeemed ability to choose what you think about. You have a choice regarding where you focus your energy. You have a choice regarding what you live for"*

*Phil. 4:8 (MSG) Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.*

- You can choose to cultivate anxiety, depression, rage, anger and negativity
- You can choose to cultivate hope, goodness, beauty and gladness

*Romans 8:28-32 (TLB) And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans. 29 For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son, so that his Son would be the First, with many brothers. 30 And having chosen us, he called us to come to him; and when we came, he declared us "not guilty," filled us with Christ's goodness, gave us right standing with himself, and promised us his glory.*

*31 What can we ever say to such wonderful things as these? If God is on our side, who can ever be against us? 32 Since he did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us all, won't he also surely give us everything else?*

**In Christ:**

1st) It's possible to live a life of ANTICIPATION.

*Romans 8:28 (TLB) And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans.*

- God takes the mistakes you make and weaves them into His plan for His purpose
- God's not stressed!
- Everything fits into His plan
- God never consults your past to decide your future
- Fact: God has a purpose behind my problems
- "... and we know..."

2nd) It's possible to live a life of **TRANSFORMATION**.

*Romans 8:29 (TLB) For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—should become like his Son,*

*Romans 12:2 (ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect*

- Study and apply the Word
- It guides us

*Psalms 119:105 (NIV) Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

- It challenges us

*Hebrews 4:12 (NIV) For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

- It shows us who we have been made to be

*James 1:23 (NLT) "For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like."*

- New can be messy
- New is a recovering alcoholic
- New is learning how to forgive someone who doesn't deserve it
- New is learning to forgive yourself

*Joshua 1:8 (MSG) And don't for a minute let this Book of The Revelation be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed. Haven't I commanded you? Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take."*

3rd) It's possible to live a life free from **CONDEMNATION**.

*Romans 8:30 (TLB) And having chosen us, he called us to come to him; and when we came, he declared us "not guilty,"*

*Romans 8:1 (NLT) So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.*

- The only people who are qualified to preach the Gospel are those who know how unqualified they are to preach the Gospel

*Rev. 12:10b (NLT) For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night.*

- The problem is the perfect you is a moving target -
- God totally accepts the current you not the future you
- Fact: God is not angry with me

*John 3:17 (GW) God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world.*

4th) It's possible to live a life without **ISOLATION**.

*Romans 8:31 (TLB) What can we ever say to such wonderful things as these? If God is on our side, who can ever be against us?*

*Hebrews 13:5 (NLT) For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."*

5th) It's possible to live a life without **DESPERATION**.

*Romans 8:32 (TLB) Since he did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us all, won't he also surely give us everything else?*

*Henry David Thoreau, "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.*

*Romans 8:18 (ESV) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*