

WEEK 6 – Steadfastness Wednesday - "All Things Work Together..."

BIBLE STUDY:

Read Romans 8:18-30 before reading our Devotional

DEVOTIONAL:

Dear Church Family,

Are you restless? Are you anxious about the future, your family, your career, your dreams? These are uncertain days we live in. And in these times, some of us are desperate for a change. Even in better times, I have known many friends who grew restless in their lives. Usually this need, this desire, this thirst for change leads to terrible decisions.

Our God is faithful. In Romans 8:18-30, I am encouraged by those beautiful words: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." This means, if we are following after Jesus, God can take even our greatest mistakes and alter them for good.

In other words: you cannot undo the plans of God. Not even our failures can undo God's plans. We rely entirely on Him for our salvation and for being made right.

So, I do not wish that we sulk or lament over bad decisions that have already been made. Rather, I would hope you would learn to pause and rest, even during pain, before you leap and hurt yourself again.

We as Jesus Followers live in the hope of Christ's return. The fact He saved our souls so that we could be with Him forever is what defines and rules over every facet of our lives. So profound and deep is this hope. This hope, when clung to, will fill you to overflowing with joy. You say: no, my circumstances are too deep. The pain in my family is too immense. The wickedness of our nation is too great! To all that I say this:

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death

nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:31-39 ESV)

Church family, do not run out of fear, anxiety, anger, or any such motivations. Only be moved by the love your God has for you. Lean into His hope and let that powerful hope motivate and shape your future. Those who wait upon the Lord shall find their strength renewed.

Do not lose hope, brighter days are ahead for those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

Sincerely,

Ty Weaver

CHALLENGE:

God has a plan for your life. Do you want His plan? Well, what follows next is not complicated. But it is difficult.

Plan a day of rest right now. Jot it in the calendar or have the person who manages your calendar write it down! May I be demanding? Do it now! Schedule, right now, a day of rest, worship, and prayer. If you struggle to pray and give time to God, then join up with others who will hold you accountable. Reach out to your pastors if you need help or advice to make this possible. We were never meant to walk this life alone.

True rest is in God's presence. And it is when we learn to rest that we learn steadfastness.

PRAYER:

Let's conclude with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel lead. Listed below are some topics that could help guide this time of prayer.

- Pray for God to steady your heart; to still the storms raging within you and around you
- Pray for Jesus' living hope to fill your thoughts
- Pray for God's direction and help to trust Him more in the coming days