

June 4, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28 NASB)

The Greek word for *work together* is *sunergos*, which means in association and connected together. This passage is a statement about God's faithful love to those who truly love Him and are following Him with their lives.

Joni Eareckson Tada said, "God allows what He hates, to accomplish what He loves." In other words, He desires, more than anything, for us to be made more and more into His likeness. He will strip away anything that takes our focus away from what He wants to do in our lives. Many times, people read and even memorize this verse and think that all things will be easy or like we think they should be. That's not God's way. His way is to strip away anything that keeps us from abiding in Him.

My mom used to say that I was hardheaded. I didn't really know what she meant by that, but I do now. Sometimes we are so stubborn and want to do things our own way. Even though God gives us free will, He desires us to turn our will over to Him. When we do, we can know that God causes all things to work together for good: ***Consider it pure joy, my brother and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4 NIV)***

Dear Father, we praise You for always being at work because of Your great love for us. You love us too much to leave us alone; instead, You desire us to live in Your presence and learn from You. Help us desire You more and more each day. In Jesus's name, Amen.