

# Overcoming When Life Is Crazy

## Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 13

### Study Guide

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## I. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE

### Ephesians 6:11, 16

*<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... <sup>16</sup> taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.*

### 1 Corinthians 10:13

*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

### Philippians 3:14

*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

### Romans 8:36-37

*<sup>36</sup> As it is written, “For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

### 1 John 4:4

*Little children, you are of God, and have overcome them; for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

### Romans 8:34

*Who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?*

### 1 John 2:1

*My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

### Romans 1:15

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

### Hebrews 11:5-6

*<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

### 1 Peter 1:5-7

*<sup>5</sup> Who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

### Galatians 6:14

*But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

### James 1:12

*Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him.*

## **A. Uncontrollable Events**

1. There are times in every Christian's life when life circumstances are *crazy! Crazy*, uncontrollable events hit one after another until it appears that one's life is out of control (Ephesians 6:11, 16).
2. When something is out of control in our lives, we want to cut it off and make it go away, but that is not always possible. Sometimes it is God's will that we endure the circumstances until we finish the race (1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 3:14).
3. As Christians, God has NOT called us to be losers nor to give up before the finish. God has not called us to promote tragic stories as our testimony for Christian living. Neither, our lives put here on earth to become a tragic motif that does not matter in the Divine plan (Romans 8:36-37).
4. If you have Jesus Christ by faith, you are by definition a WINNER! A winner does not give up, and winners do not give into pressure (1 John 4:4).
5. Faith in Jesus Christ has teleported us into the very presence of God where we stand by grace in the white robe of Jesus' acceptance – at the right hand of God the Father (Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1).

6. I am not ashamed of the Gospel that takes born losers and turns them into born-again believers who are winners for the Kingdom of God (Romans 1:15).
7. God is not pleased to hear His people on earth whining about the trials and difficulties of life that are meant to prove a person's faith pure and to fix them as a winner (Hebrews 11:5-6; 1 Peter 1:5-7).
8. If there is no cross in one's life, there will be no crown at the end of life. So cling to the cross, and claim the crown of life (Galatians 6:14; James 1:12).

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### 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.*

### Jeremiah 29:11

*For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the LORD," plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

## **B. All Things Work Together**

1. Romans 8:28 states that ***all things work together for good*** to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. It does not say all things work together for good for everyone. One phrase in this verse is a condition and a qualifier for the truth that is offered here.
2. Romans 8:28 is not true for everyone, but only those who meet the conditions offered here. The promise is made with two conditions: first ***"to them who love God,"*** second ***"to them who are called according to His purpose."***
3. If you love God, all things work together for good in your life...PERIOD! (Jeremiah 29:11). Now that leaves absolutely no room for whining about anything that happens in our lives:
  - It leaves ***no room for a tragic motif*** to take over your testimony.
  - It leaves ***no place for a sense of injustice*** to dominate your Christian experience.
  - It leaves ***no place to exchange the truth*** that your life makes sense to God who loves you even when your life does not make sense to you at times.

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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.*

John 14:27

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

*<sup>1</sup> Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, <sup>2</sup> That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

Romans 12:2

*Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Colossians 1:10-11

*<sup>10</sup> To lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.*

Romans 13:8

*Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.*

1 Thessalonians 4:9

*But concerning love of the brethren you have no need to have any one write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another.*

1 John 4:7

*Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God.*

John 16:33

*"I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

Ephesians 4:1-3

*<sup>1</sup> I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

## C. We Know All Things Work Together

1. In the context of Romans 8:28, Paul says, “And *we know that all things work together for good* to those who love God...” It is time to look up and live a life that is built on faith and fellowship with people who are enamored with Jesus Christ.
2. The *end time* is NOT about *end-time trouble* (John 14:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2).
3. The end of time is about the joy of sharing Jesus with a lost and dying world all the way to the end:
  - *The end time* is about dynamic living in the face of fierce opposition and spiritual challenge that forms characters that are Christ-like (Romans 12:2).
  - *The end time* is about growing up in God instead of declining into pew paralysis (Colossians 1:10).
  - *The end time* is about love when war surrounds us (Romans 13:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 John 4:7).
  - *The end time* is about being the few who stand for God with a smile while facing the adversary without fear (Colossians 1:11; John 16:33).
  - *The end time* concerns the truth of Jesus Christ that stands against Satan’s kingdom and a lust-driven world that confuses pleasure for peace (John 14:27; Ephesians 4:1-3).

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### 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.*

### Jeremiah 29:11

*For I know the plans I have for you, “declares the LORD,” plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

### 1 Corinthians 2:16

*“For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.*

### Philippians 2:5

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.*

### Colossians 3:12-13

*<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> forbearing one another and, if one has a*

*complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

#### Philippians 4:6-7

*<sup>6</sup> Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

### **D. Called According to His Purpose**

1. The second condition of Romans 8:28 is “to them who are called according to His purpose.” When the LORD calls, He does not call one to a path that leads to futile living.
2. The LORD’s call does not expose to grief and ruin as part of a divine trick (Jeremiah 29:11). He calls according to His good purpose in Christ Jesus, which contains three solid truths:
  - Truth Number 1: Your life matters to God.
  - Truth Number 2: Your life has meaning in His eyes.
  - Truth Number 3: God has a definite plan and purpose for you.
3. To know God’s purpose, one must surrender to the call of God in Christ Jesus. Yet, a person can submit to God’s plan by faith before knowing the purpose of God (1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5).
4. We can submit to God’s plan and purpose by choosing to have an attitude of gratitude for the pleasure of simply being in His care (Colossians 3:12-13; Philippians 4:6-7).

## **II. GOD’S GRAND DESIGN**

#### Romans 8:29-30

*<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

#### Colossians 1:18

*He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent.*

#### 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

*<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

*<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed*

*into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

Romans 4:24-5:1

<sup>24</sup> *It will be reckoned to us who believe in him that raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,* <sup>25</sup> *who was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*  
<sup>1</sup> *Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

John 10:28-29

<sup>28</sup> *and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.* <sup>29</sup> *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*

### **A. The Foreknowledge of God**

1. Simply stated, the foreknowledge of God means God knew you before you knew yourself. God chose you before you chose Him (Romans 8:29-30).
2. God determined that your life would be a changed life before that change ever started in your life (Romans 8:30).
3. In Romans 8:29, Jesus is the “firstborn” among many brethren. He is the key to all good things that come in life.
4. In the context of Romans 8:29, Paul is not talking about Jesus’ birth in the manger. He’s talking about Jesus’ birth in the Resurrection.
5. In Colossians 1:18, Paul says Jesus is the firstborn from the dead that in all things He may have the preeminence.
6. What Jesus is because of the Resurrection, we will one day become because of Him. What He has become is what we are becoming today because of Him (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).
7. God’s acceptance of Jesus in the Resurrection is proof that God accepts us right now by faith in Jesus Christ. All that He has become is a foretaste of what we can become if we follow Him all the way by faith (Romans 4:24-5:1).
8. So how does God treat people who are unfinished works dealing with the crazy things of life while called by God and claimed by Christ? What status does the believer enjoy today even though his or her life course is not yet finished in the plan of God? (Romans 8:30)
9. In the context of Romans 8:30, Paul uses the past tense in these three statements to show that your past, your present, and your future is a done deal with God!
10. If you belong to God, there is no confusion in His mind as to what the outcome will be for you. If you belong to God, your future is fixed if you do not give up on Him (John 10:28-29).

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Proverbs 16:7

*When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

1 Peter 1:5-7

*<sup>5</sup> Who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

*<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; <sup>17</sup> then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

Romans 8:31-35, 38-39

*<sup>31</sup> What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; <sup>34</sup> who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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.*

Jeremiah 29:11

*For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the LORD," plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Ephesians 6:10-17

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the*

*flaming darts of the evil one.* <sup>17</sup> *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

## **B. The Plan of God**

1. In the plan of God, even the hatred of your enemies becomes a blessing as God turns the wheel of grace in your favor (Proverbs 16:7; Romans 8:31).
2. In the plan of God, every arrow of the enemy that hits you hard only injects your life with more faith and more power to overcome for God (Jeremiah 29:11; 1 Peter 1:6-7).
3. In the plan of God, His Kingdom is built and Jesus returns to receive His people as evil forces stand against them at the end of time (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).
4. The very thing that threatens to destroy His people at the end of time will open the door to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and His intervention to save them (1 Peter 1:5).
5. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31) What is the proof of this fact? (Romans 8:32-35, 38-39)
6. **Jesus is proof that God is with us every day, forever!** It is time to quit whining in the Christian walk. By faith in Jesus, you *can* overcome the *crazy* things of life! (Ephesians 6:10-17)