

ENCOURAGING WORDS FOR DISCOURAGING DAYS

PROVIDENCE MADE PRACTICAL

ROMANS 8:28–30



The Heart of the Matter

In a context dealing with suffering, groaning, and weeping (Romans 8:18–26), the apostle Paul’s words give the reader reason for encouragement and hope. While a purely horizontal perspective tends to bring upon us a heaviness of heart, the first bright ray of hope comes with the introduction of a vertical perspective. In verse 27, we are told that the Spirit of God intercedes on our behalf “according to the will of God.” What a thought! But we need to know more. As the rest of the passage makes clear, we need to understand and accept that such intercessory support works effectively for our good and for God’s glory.



Discovering the Way

1. Wrestling with God’s Providence (Romans 8:12–13, 23–27)

We sometimes struggle with God’s providence because of our self-centeredness, our fear, and our pride. Two facts about God should remind us of where our perspective so often falls short.

2. Thinking through God’s Providence (Romans 8:28–30)

God provides us with an unconditional promise to work for our good and an unfathomable basis—conforming us to the image of His Son, Jesus.



Starting Your Journey

To come to grips with God’s providence, we must move past our initial *rejection*, progress beyond our *toleration*, and be encouraged by our *realization* of God’s faithfulness.



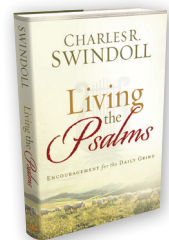
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