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Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

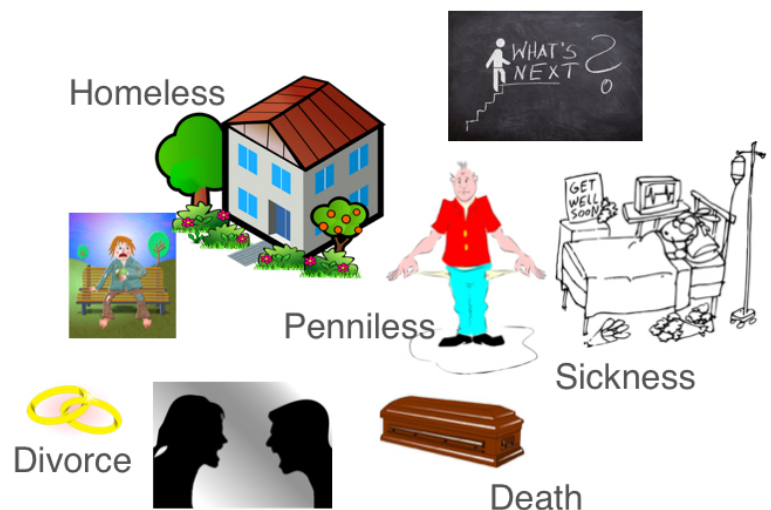
Thought for today...

The Apostle Paul wrote a scripture verse that followers of Christ around the world love to quote: 'And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.' Romans 8:28 (NKJV).

The NIV version translates the verse as follows: 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.'

Yet another version (the NLT) states: 'And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.'

Though at times we may wonder whether God really is working in **all** things - the job loss, sickness, homelessness, lack of finances, painful dissolution of marriages and friendships, death of loved ones and much more - each translation is clear that in order to claim this promise, we must both love God and be called according to His purpose.



Despite the emotion that we may feel as a result of our circumstances, as followers of Christ who love God and are called according to His purpose, we can choose to trust and believe that He is working in all things, that He is causing everything to work together, that He is working all things together for good, even in our present situation.

Why should we choose to believe that? Because this is what our Father has promised: **“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”** Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV).

The LORD says **“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”** Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV).

Although our predicament may be dire, the Word from the LORD is: **“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”** Isaiah 43:2 (NIV).

As followers of Christ, it is certain that we will face hardship and trials. While on earth, Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind from birth. His disciples asked him, **“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”** John 9:2 (NIV). **“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,”** said Jesus, **“but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”** John 9:3 (NIV).



Although we may not understand why we are facing the situation we are in now, let's choose to trust that God is working in it for our good and His glory, so that the works of God might be displayed in us.