

Nobody Can Harm Us Except We Ourselves

by Zac Poonen

God's power can make all things work together for our good, but only if we are zealous for what is good and have no ambition outside of His will.

Scripture: Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 5:44, Romans 8:28-29, 1 Peter 3:13

Topics: "Gods Sovereignty", "Spiritual Protection"

Description

Zac Poonen emphasizes the powerful promise in Romans 8:28 that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, highlighting the importance of aligning our ambitions with God's will. He explains that nothing can harm true believers who fully accept God's will and that even the actions of others, whether good or evil, will ultimately work for their best, shaping them to be more like Christ. Poonen also delves into the lesser-known verse in 1 Peter 3:13, stating that those who are zealous for what is good will not be harmed by anyone, emphasizing the significance of maintaining a good heart towards all people.

Transcript

"Who can harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?"(1 Pet.3:13)

God is so powerful that He makes ALL THINGS work together for the good of those who love Him and who are called according to His purpose - that is, for those who have no ambition on earth outside of His will for their lives (Romans 8:28). One who has selfish ambitions cannot claim this promise. But if we accept the will of God totally, we can claim this promise every minute of our life on earth. Nothing can harm us.

Everything that others do to us - good or evil, accidental or deliberate - will go through the filter of Romans 8:28 and will come through working for our very best - conforming us each time a little more to the likeness of Christ (Rom.8:29) - which is the good that God has planned for us. This filter works perfectly every single time for those who fulfil the conditions listed in this verse.

Further, 1 Peter 3:13 tells us that no-one can harm us if we are "zealous for what is good". Unfortunately this is not as well known a verse as Romans 8:28 is. But we must popularise it now. However, this promise too is applicable only to those who are zealous to keep their hearts good towards all people. It will be impossible for any demon or human being to harm such a believer.

So whenever any Christian complains that others have harmed him, he is indirectly admitting that he does not love God, is not called according to God's purpose and has not been zealous for what is good. Otherwise, whatever those others did to him would have only worked for his good, and then he would not have had any complaints at all.

Actually, the only one who can harm you is you yourself - by your unfaithfulness and your wrong attitudes to others.

I am nearly 60 years old now and I can honestly say that no-one has ever succeeded in harming me in my entire life. Many have tried to do so, but EVERYTHING they did only worked for my very best and for the good of my ministry. So I can praise God for those people too. Those who have opposed me have been mostly so-called "believers" who have not understood God's ways.

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