

Week 8 Day 4 | *Promises in the Bible: All Things*

Kim grew up in a working-class family that made sacrifices to give her a private education. She excelled academically with a strong work ethic and an innate desire to do her best. She was a skilled volleyball player who was well liked by her peers. As a regular churchgoer, she had a religious background and she also had a grandmother who doted on her. It was a modest childhood, but a good one with many advantages others miss. Kim essentially walked the straight and narrow . . . until one day, she didn't.

At 15, Kim got pregnant. This was a shock to her friends and family and was devastating emotionally. "How could I, of all people, let this happen?" Battling through feelings of guilt, regret, and pain, she seemed to have a decision to make. Yet in her mind, there was never any question what she would do. She promptly ignored the advice of some of those around her. Then, at the ripe old age of 16, Kim gave birth to a beautiful, healthy son.

The story doesn't end there. With support from her family, she finished high school on time with a 4.0 GPA, while working a part-time job. She finished college early, with another 4.0 GPA; again, while working a part-time job and rearing her son. During this time, Kim realized that her "religious" background was not enough. Going to church was not enough. Believing in God wasn't enough. Certainly knowing the "right" answer was not enough. She decided she needed a personal relationship with her Creator. Then, for the first time, she truly surrendered her life to Christ.

After college, Kim was accepted into law school. However, she quickly recognized it would require too much time away from her son. She decided instead to go to graduate school part-time and get a master's in business administration. She had also been promoted a few times at her job at the bank. That led to being recruited for a position in the operations department of a trust company for a non-profit.

Around this time, Kim started dating a man who grew to love her unconditionally. He loved her not just in spite of her past, but, in part, because of it. After getting married and receiving her graduate degree, she was recruited again. This time she was going to run the operations department of a trust company with \$2 billion in assets.

Fast-forward 10 years and three more children later, she is now a full-time mommy. She has volunteered as an encourager in a running group at her church. Kim gives regular talks there to single-moms who are facing what she once faced. Most recently, she helped start a crisis pregnancy center that helps people in unplanned pregnancies and post-abortive situations. They need love, support, and help where often none exists.

If you were to ask which is her favorite verse, Kim would quickly tell you:

"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."

—Romans 8:28 (NIV)

There are several interesting things about this verse. First, it says, "in all things." Not in some things, or a few things, or in part of things, but in "all things."

We also see that "God works." He doesn't leave it solely up to us. He doesn't expect us to be the ones to do it all in our own power. Why? Because we can't! But He can and He wants to.

Also notice that He works "for the good of those who love him." That's us! He works for our good. For my good. For your good. For Kim's good. We are called to love Him with a pure heart and to follow His purposes for us. Then, He works on our behalf for our good. He works, but we benefit. What a deal!

Through the disapproving stares of strangers heaping shame on a pregnant teen, God worked! Through the incredible loss and torment experienced by Job, God worked! Through the adultery and murder by King David came Solomon. God worked! Through the death on the cross of His perfect Son, God worked! Through the countless failed diets, attempts to exercise, eating disorders, or lethargic lifestyle, God works! He works for our good for His purposes.

It's no wonder Romans 8:28 is Kim's favorite verse. It's no wonder why I married her.

Prayer

Father, thank You that nothing is wasted in my life, that You can use it all. Will You forgive me when I try to do the work. Will You forgive me when I don't trust Your purposes in my life? Please help me to always love You purely and completely. Amen.

Meditation

There is nothing that You can't work for my good.

Daily Spiritual Exercise

Meditate for three to five minutes on the promises found in Romans 8:28. As you think about "all things," narrow them down. One by one, lift up areas of your life that you need Him to work for your good. Nothing is off limits and there is no past issue that cannot be redeemed for His purposes.

Remember, nothing is wasted on God. He can use it all for His glory and our good. We are merely called to love Him and follow in obedience.