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## Making It Easier to be Optimistic

By Amanda Key

A couple of weekends ago, my husband and I had the opportunity to sit down and chat with a dear friend from Pennsylvania. As the conversation progressed, we started talking about possible preaching positions and where we hope to end up after graduating from East Tennessee School of Preaching. I confessed that I was concerned about finding a congregation with which we could work. Our dear friend then reminded us that even if we were not hired right away, God has everything in control! How true indeed. Romans 8:28 states, *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

At that point in the conversation with my friend, I began to reflect upon the providence of God. I began to think back to all the difficult times in my life and how later on it all seemed to fit together and make perfect sense! Growing up, I went through some very emotional and discouraging times. I didn't understand why God was allowing it all to happen at the time. But those negatives added up to a big positive, as it led me to meet someone who introduced me to my husband. Now I can look back at everything and see how all the little pieces fit together.

God works in all of our lives today, just as He did in the life of Esther. It couldn't have been easy for Esther to become queen and risk losing her life, but God had everything under control. He used her to save her people, and turned what could have been a negative outcome into a positive outcome. Even when Job was tested by Satan, God was still in control. Despite everything he lost, he never turned away from God. Instead of blaming Him, he praised Him (Job 1:20-22). What a great attitude!

So, the next time you are going through difficult times, just trust God and know that He is in control. Even though you may not be able to understand it or see a positive outcome, He knows what is best. That kind of mindset makes it so much easier to stay optimistic, even during the darkest times.

**Today's Verse:** *Then Job answered the Lord and said: I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You (Job 42:1-2). Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning (verse 12a).*

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