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Romans 8:19-21: Not just humans, but also the earth is under the effects of the curse: Genesis 3:17+18; "So I am putting a curse on the ground because of what you did..." "It will be painful for you to get food..." "the ground produces thorns and prickly weeds..." "You will have to work hard and sweat a lot (to survive). Of course, decay, earthquakes, disease and pestilence also entered life. (It was not until after the flood that four seasons, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods and droughts came about).

Romans 8:22: The earth is not groaning like a human groans but rather very uncomfortable. As man increasingly gets more and more evil (like in the days of Noah) the "birth pains" come closer and closer together until God's appointed time when He will restore all things and "birth" a new heaven and a new earth.

Romans 8:23 (At the end of Chapter 8 we will note all of the powers and promises that we are guaranteed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is another one): The Holy Spirit is our promise of a restored Eden like world (1,000 years) followed by an eternal New Heaven and New Earth. A promise that we will live there! This promise, because of the indwelling Holy Spirit also secures for us full family membership in God's family and a new glorified body.

Romans 8:24-25 Remember God's "Hope" does not have the same meaning as the English dictionary's definition. God's definition is found in Hebrews 11:1: "Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see". (N.I.R.V.) and "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". (N.K.J.V.) Example: "I hope on the fact that Jesus has risen indeed." I have not physically seen or touched Him but know for a fact that He rose again and lives today. If you have this "hope" because the Holy Spirit convinces us of this.

Romans 8:26+27 (This one is worth underlining in our Bible, or our hearts!) When we are absolutely devastated, curled up in a ball, and utterly defeated, the Holy Spirit stands before God not only to pray to God on our behalf, but

Also to use the words and intensity that are on God's own (2y) lips! The Holy Spirit is our prayer warrior with the intensity of as if we were the only person alive! I guarantee that we will all be speechless as to how many times the Holy Spirit interceded on our behalf, here on earth, when we get to heaven.

Romans 8:28 "All things God works for the good of those who love Him" is a tough one to swallow. But only because our finite minds can not fathom God's infinite grace, but some day we will. When we finally "know all things" and "see Him as He is" and "are conformed to His righteousness" and "our corruptible bodies are made incorruptible," we will see how our sufferings did indeed bring about the glorification of God.

Predestination

Romans 8:29+30 These two verses have divided churches and alienated people to a magnitude that is unmeasurable. But that again is because our finite minds can not grasp God's infinite Omniscience! God who "knitted us together in our mother's womb" (Psalms 139:13-14) also "chose us in Him before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4), seems to indicate that some are saved, some not. Some are predestined, some not. Nothing could be further from the truth! This is a lie from the pits of Hell! Predestined, in scripture, means nothing more than God sees everyone's life play out. He knows who will choose Him and who will reject Him. And to all is given many chances to "find" Him. This is made clear repeatedly throughout His word. Example: 2 Peter 3:9 (N.I.V.): "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise [to make all things right], as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance".

So to recap: God intentionally created every person exactly as they are. He interceded in their/our lives continually in order to entice them/us to want to seek Him. But He does not impose Himself on us. He instead; stands outside the door and knocks. He hides Himself in plain sight waiting for us to find Him, He chomps on the bit eager to answer the question we ask of Him. And to all who choose Him He saves. And since He knew who would choose Him, and who not, this is predestination. It's that easy to understand. And that is why He didn't take

you or I home when we were still in unbelief or rebellion (25)
Because we were not predestined to Hell; we were predestined
to be with Him, but the time was not yet arrived where

we would repent and turn to Him. And the same goes for our loved ones! Keep praying and have the hope (God's definition) that God's grace WILL prevail in their lives! We do not know what God may do in that split second between this life and the next. Maybe (just a theory, by no means doctrine), He plays out a persons life and shows all the times the Triune God was present and offers a chance to recognize Jesus the Christ as Savior, A thief on the cross moment.

Romans 8:31 "God is on our side" is a statement of fact, "who can be against us" is the question. But it's a rhetorical question because no one and no thing is greater than Him so nothing can be against us that is greater than God!

Romans 8:32 "God gave up His everything for us. And since He freely gave His most precious Gift, He will surely give us all the rest of His gifts."

Romans 8:33: Even a Manhattan district attorney can not fabricate any charges against us in God's court. Why? Because the Judge declared us not guilty before the trial even began. This is because there is no crime. We stand before Him, clothed in Christ, with a squeaky clean record!

Romans 8:34: Not only that but the 'prosecution can not ask for the death penalty on an individual who has eternal life.' And just to drive that fact home Christ is called in to the court room to make the prosecution and make them look foolish. The same foolish prosecutor that tried that with Jesus just a little less than 2,000 years ago!

Romans 8:35-39 The Holy Spirit's Hedge of protection:

The same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead in the end of verse 34 also seals us in Christ never again to be separated. For there is no power, no Angel, no demon, not time, not any place, not life, not death, not anything in all creation, not principalities, not length, height, width, or depth, nor absolutely anything can ever separate us from God's love because we are in Christ Jesus!

Nothing! (Look back at verse 1 of Romans 8) not a once saved always saved but close

Gifts/Powers of the Holy Spirit

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From Romans 8: vs. 1: The One who takes away our condemnation, vs 2: The One who writes God's law on our hearts, vs 3: The One who sets us free, vs 5: The One who helps us live Godly, vs. 6: The One who gives us life and peace, vs 9: The One who lives in us, vs 11: The One who raised Jesus from the dead and will do the same for us, vs 13: The One who guides our walk, vs 14+15: The One who grafts us into God's family as son's and daughters giving us a right to call God Father, vs 16: The One who bears witness of our belonging to God, vs 23: The One who will redeem this earthly body and purify it, vs 26+27: The One who intercedes for us in prayer when we are not able or are unaware of pending doom, vs. 30: Our "predestiner," the One who kept us from being taken out of this world prior to us receiving Christ, vs 30 (cont): The One who justifies and glorifies us, vs 33-34: The Omnipotent One who dwells in us, vs. 35-39: Our forcefield shield against all ungodliness.

Genesis 1:1-2: The One who was hovering over the waters when everything was formless and void in the beginning and in Revelation 1:4 the One who is head over the seven churches at the onset of the tribulation (the Holy Spirit is actually the head over all Judeo/Christian churches in the Old and New Testament respectively).

- The One who is our G.P.S. (God's positioning Sensor): Acts 16:6-10
- The One who anointed Jesus (and us) in His ministry in Matthew 3:16 and the One who raised Him (and us) from the dead at the end of His (and our) ministry (see above Romans 8:11).
- The One who is our deposit/downpayment guaranteeing our inheritance until God takes us home: Ephesians 1:13-14
- The One who opens up Scripture to us, who lets us understand God's word and also recalls Scripture for us when we most need it: 1 Corin. 2:10
 - The One who tells our hearts what to say in tough times: Matthew 10:19-20, 14)
- The One who "Stephanatizes" us: Acts 6:8 - Acts 7:60
- The One who is in charge of restraining the powers of evil on the whole earth: 2 Thessalonians 2:7

And that's just a few of the attributes of Him who lives in you. ^{hundreds, maybe} thousands more.