

Wednesday Word 9/16/2026

Romans 8:28 *“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”*

My wife and I will be celebrating 25 years of marriage this coming January. While so much has happened since our wedding day, I still often think about our wedding and mainly the people who were a part of it. One such person was our ring Bearer whose name is Jeremiah. While he is in his late 30's now, he was about 12 years old or so that day. He was a great kid that was in our church, and we knew his family, so he was a perfect fit. He was an average boy who loved dirt, flashlights, and pocketknives. He fit every “stereotype” a young boy would fit in.

What I did not know until 20 years later was that he had been violently and sexually assaulted and trafficked as a 6-year-old boy at a family member's house when his parents were away. He detailed his attack in a sermon he preached and the steps he took to not only allow the Holy Spirit to bring him to wholeness, but how he was actively walking out and maintaining his healing.

He started a mentoring ministry that ran through a local church where he would help young people who struggled with school and loneliness. Under the proper context and setting he made himself available to talk, hang out, and support youth. He took the abuse and effects he suffered and turned them into something righteous. While he still suffers from his abuse in some ways, he has overcome what Satan meant to use to destroy him and leads people to Christ, healing, and stability.

I think there is a lesson in Jeremiah's life that we all could glean from. We can't always control what happens to us in our life or what other people do or say about us-but we can control our response and the fruit of that response. When we allow situations to fester in our lives, sometimes for years and even decades, the enemy will sow discord, resentment, or even retaliation into our responses. But if we surrender to God what was done TO US, we can allow the Holy Spirit to shape what we do to others, and He will make it good and righteous.

While this can be deep and require us to truly examine the course of our lives, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it can take what we cannot change and turn it into something righteous that builds the Kingdom of God.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg