



Do We Really Trust God? by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

A really great passage of scripture is Romans 8:28. It sounds really good, but have you ever wondered if it is true? In the NLT version it reads,

²⁸And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

This sounds too good to be true and for many of us, we have not experienced this to be true in our lives. Today, I would like for us to examine this passage together.

I believe this passage to be absolutely true and our perspective in looking at all of the different situations in our lives becomes so vital in seeing the truth of this passage. Have you heard the story of the man who came upon a little boy on the beach after a big winter storm? The little boy found the beach to be littered with thousands of little starfish and the little boy was picking them up, one by one, and throwing them back into the ocean. The man asked the boy what he was doing? The boy replied, "Saving the starfish." The man said that it was hopeless because there were so many of them. The little boy continued to pick them up, one at a time, and threw them

back into the water. The man could then hear the boy say, "But it makes a difference to this one, and this one, and this one ..." as he continued to save the starfish.

The perspective of this little boy was that he simply did what he could and rejoiced in what he could accomplish. The perspective of the man on the beach was that he saw it as an impossible task and not worth anyone's time and effort. Romans 8:28 is a great passage of scripture when you can view it and the entirety of your life through the lenses of a loving God who has sacrificed so much for you that you have come to love, trust, and submit your life to Him.

The death of my parents, June & Kenei Kaneshiro has helped me to see the beauty of Romans 8:28. My mom, June, went home to be with the Lord on July 7, 1998. My dad, Kenei, went home to be with the Lord on March 11, 2007. Both died suddenly and unexpectedly in my brother Paul's home.

In the early morning hours of July 7, 1998, I was awakened by a call from my brother Paul. He had just arrived in a mainland city to attend a conference. In those early morning hours, he told me

to get up to his house as quickly as I could because mom was dead. I thought that I was dreaming, but as I wiped the sleep from my eyes, I realized that this was all true. I got there as quickly as I could and found my father and my brother's family in the front living room with police officers outside of the home. It did not take long to hear the story about how my nephew got up to use the bathroom and found mom slumped over the bathtub and already cold to the touch. Taking care of all that we had to in the next few hours seemed to be a blur of activities that left us numb. However, I remember on that same evening, my father accompanied me to a church where I conducted the funeral service of a dear friend. I was amazed that my father could go with me after we had just lost mom.

Then 9 years later on March 11, 2007, dad suddenly died. My brother Paul was doing a conference on the Big Island, so he and his wife, June, stayed with us in our home in Pepeekeo. On that day, after Paul and June left our home, Clarice and I settled down for the evening when we got a call from Paul saying that they had just got home

TRUST Defined:
Firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.

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Do We Really Trust God?

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and found dad dead. Paul and June had arrived home and Paul called back to my dad saying that they were home. They began to put things away from the trip when Paul thought it strange that he did not hear anything from dad. He then went to his room to check on him and there he found dad in his recliner, dead. Shock and numbness immediately began to flow through each family member as they began to receive word of this tragedy.

Both mom and dad had their share of medical problems but both of them seemed to be fine in the days and weeks before their deaths with no immediate dangers before them. In mom's case, there were a lot of speculations as to what happened until we got the coroner's report saying that mom died of a bleeding ulcer. Mom's tolerance of pain was rather high as she had to deal with the constant pain of a sciatic nerve problem and so she probably dismissed the pain of the ulcer as being another one of those "old age" pains.

In dad's case, the coroner's report said that dad died of an enlarged heart and a failing kidney. The coroner told us that probably what happened was that dad

went into his room that afternoon to watch TV and rest in his recliner. He probably closed his eyes to rest and when he next opened his eyes, he was in the loving arms of Jesus in Heaven.

We all could have looked upon the deaths of our parents as being an unfair tragedy. However, I can tell you that although we were in great shock and disbelief, our general attitude was one of great gratitude and love for our Lord. None of us had the chance to say good-bye or to verbally express our love and appreciation for them and so we could have felt cheated. We did not have the opportunity to prepare in any way for their deaths and we could have turned on the Lord and told Him how unfair that was. However, all of us knew that God was treating us and especially mom and dad in a very gracious and loving manner. God took both of my parents in such a loving way, ending their earthly suffering and taking them home to Heaven.

God also provided us all with a loving and understanding family. Both the immediate family and our church families helped us to deal with the pain and grief of losing mom and dad, and

to help us recover. My sister, Susan, said to me after dad's death, "Now I know what it feels like to be an orphan." Those words struck me and stay with me to this day. Knowing that I have been adopted by God almighty into His heavenly family has helped me to go through all of the pain and grief to the point where I have been able to truly thank the Lord for His mercy and grace in how He took care of mom and dad, and how he has taken care of all of us in the Kaneshiro family.

We have truly come to see Romans 8:28 as a great passage of scripture. I have seen its greatness in many other areas of my life and I am experiencing it even today in Valley Isle Fellowship. We can look at the challenges of life as being horrible and unfair or we can choose to see God's hand of mercy and grace working out all things for good because we love Him and are called according to His purposes. I am praying for all of you that you too will choose to see the hand of God through all of the challenges of your life. May His love, grace, and mercy guide you and protect you all the days of your life. God bless you.

AND WE KNOW THAT GOD CAUSES
everything to work together for the
GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE GOD AND ARE
called according to his purpose for them.
Romans 8:28 NLT

Blessed Assurance
John 20:1-31 (NLT)
AM Service - Pastor Darren Sarmiento

1. John **believed** in Jesus because he **believed** in the resurrection.
2. The Gospel **is not** the Gospel without the **resurrection**.
3. Jesus is **commissioning** them to go.
4. His disciples **encountered** Jesus.

Have you truly **encountered** Jesus?

Notes:

Knowing Jesus Is Priceless

By Darren Sarmiento

I want to share with you Philippians 3:8-11 (NLT). Paul wrote encouraging words to people that were taking care of his financial needs. He goes on to say,

“⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!”

Paul is writing this because there are evil people telling believers that in order to be saved, to be right with God, you have to be circumcised (Phil 3:2). Paul was telling the believers that circumcision is no longer needed. He was telling the people that living under the law of God to assure you that you are saved was wrong. In fact, it was of no value when compared to knowing Jesus. The irony of the Law of God and the knowledge of knowing Jesus Christ is its value!

Paul said that he counted everything (obedience to the Laws of God to be saved) as garbage when compared to the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus as his Lord (to be saved). Living under the law of God without Jesus Christ is of no value, it’s rubbish. Although, when you begin to truly know Jesus Christ, that has *infinite value*. Infinite means there are no boundaries, it’s endless. When used of Jesus Christ it means, “*Knowing Jesus Is Priceless.*” You can’t put a

value on knowing Jesus Christ because it never ends. The reason it never ends to know Jesus is because He is alive and we are in a relationship with Him, forever. Every day we can learn more about Him, spending time with Him, talking with Him and being filled with an amazement of His glory. We can know and feel His love for us that carries us on in life filled with joy, purpose, and the *blessed assurance* that we belong to HIM!

The question we need to ask ourselves and ponder with Jesus is this: Do I see You, Jesus, as priceless to me that I cannot live without You and go on in life? I believe Paul sees Jesus as priceless because of what he said in verses 10 and 11. Read what it says again and then spend time with Jesus so you can come to the point in your heart and mind knowing that Jesus is priceless to you. Your life will never be the same ever again.

Knowing Jesus Is Priceless

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSIONAL GROUPS SHARING: LOVE LIKE JESUS TONIGHT - 5:00 PM - VIF SANCTUARY

Bring Your Favorite Dish to Share - We will begin the night with a fellowship potluck and then worship & testimony to follow. Also, help us start our VIF Food Pantry Ministry by bringing a non-perishable food item tonight!

BAPTISMAL SERVICE

On **Sunday, August 31st**, we will be having a Baptismal Service right after the 1st service. We will be having at least 2 people baptized. If you know of anyone else that is ready to be baptized, please have them call us (244-0865) and we can look forward to a glorious time.

He that
believes
and is
baptized
shall be
saved.
Mark 16:16



LABOR DAY PICNIC

Don't forget to sign up for the MCBA Labor Day Picnic at **Waihikuli Beach Park** on **September 1st** from **10 AM to 3 PM**. Be sure to bring your beach chairs and drinks! There will be lots of fun activities - singing, jumpy castle, horseshoes, swimming, fishing, volleyball, and a water slide too! Please RSVP as soon as possible by signing up at the back table today! You can find the picnic flyer on our website: www.vifmaui.com. Stay tuned for updates!

A CALL FOR HELP

We have several maintenance and repair projects that we have to do at our High Street property. Andy Sniffen has volunteered to head these projects and he is in need of some people to help him accomplish these tasks. We are in need of people to help with electrical, carpentry, roofing, and painting projects. It would be helpful to have people who have some skills in these areas, but all you need is a heart that is willing to follow instructions. By doing all of these projects, we will be able to make our property safer and therefore more glorifying to the Lord. Please get in touch with Andy if you can help (264-0526).

Also, although we have voted to stop our progress towards building our building in Waikapu, we are still responsible for maintaining that property. Of major concern is that we will have to cut and poison all of the weeds on the gravel drive and parking area. If the weeds take over, we will have to do the grading and gravelling all over again. Up to this time, Pastor Jeremy and I have been doing the major maintenance on the property. We could really use your help. If you are willing to help, please call me (419-8100). – Pastor Stephen

A NOTE FROM PASTOR STEPHEN



Over the past few months, I have been burning the candle at both ends. Therefore, my dear wife has talked me into taking a few days off. I will be taking off tomorrow (Monday) through Thursday (**8/25 – 8/28**). We will be taking a short “staycation” and will still be available if an emergency arises (419-8100). I will be back in the office on Friday morning (8/29).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIF FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such a faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."
James 2:14-17

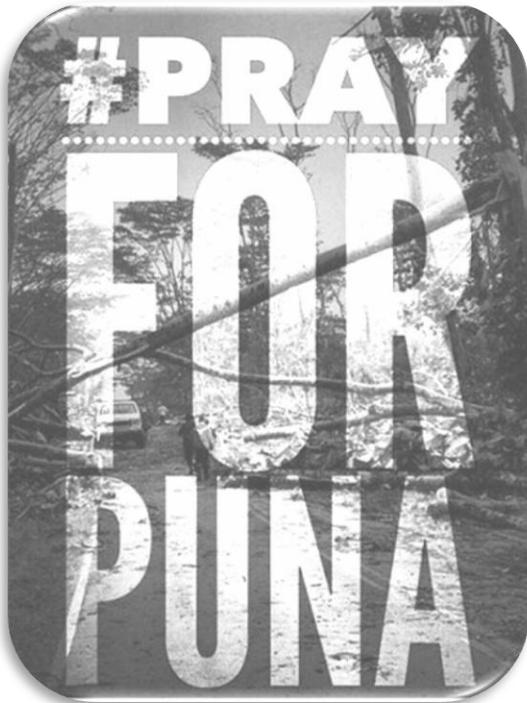


After much prayer and as we have been led to live out #lovelikejesus, several Missional Groups are beginning a food pantry for those in need both within our church family and in the community. GOAL: To create an opportunity to share God's love in real and practical ways that will open up avenues for the Holy Spirit to transform lives - our own and those we serve. The ministry will begin by asking our church family to donate non-perishable goods to stock the pantry shelves. The vision includes asking for donations monthly, distributing food monthly to start, and then seeing where God takes us!

If you feel so led, please join us in the endeavor to be obedient to James 2:14-17. Bring non-perishable goods to stock shelves, donate time to assist in the distribution of food, be willing to develop relationships that will increase in-depth and substance as we embark on missional living. We will be advertising the food drive beginning this week. Our first Sunday morning service collection will be September 7, 2014. Even better, join us at tonight's special PM service to fellowship and share how we are growing to love like Jesus and bring canned goods there. Come and see what it means to live together far beyond Sunday morning services - to rejoice together, to grieve together, and always to encourage and edify each other in our relationships with our Creator. After all, that is what we are created to do!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Vince Bagoyo at: 357-3842 or bagoyofam@hawaii.rr.com.

HELP NEEDED WITH HURRICANE ISELLE RELIEF IN PUNA



Many calls for help are being called for in order to help the people in the Puna district of the Big Island. It is important that you give to organizations that you trust. The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief organization is working together with the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Disaster Relief teams to organize and send help to the people of Puna. The following website can give you information:

<http://www.hpbaptist.net/index.php/ministries/disaster-relief/533-iselle-disaster-relief-response-needed>

(You can find a direct link on our VIF website in the announcements section)

At this time, cash donations are the best way to immediately help recovery efforts on the Big Island and other areas impacted by Iselle. You can designate your gift to Iselle Disaster Relief and send it directly to the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention at 2042 Vancouver Dr., Honolulu, HI. 96822.

Let's be in prayer for the people in Puna and be willing to respond in whatever way the Lord would lead you. God bless you as you look to the need of others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of people to volunteer to clean our church facilities on High Street. Tasks include:

Sanctuary/3 bathrooms:

1. Vacuum floors
2. Empty rubbish containers
3. Straighten room/dust as needed



Please call or email the church office if you'd like to help. We ask that you choose one day of the following: Thursday, Friday, OR Saturday of the week that you are able to volunteer to do the work.

If three people were to volunteer each week, it would take only about an hour or so to complete. By joining together in this task, we can have fellowship, fun, and bring glory and honor to the Lord. Please pray about this need.

We are in great need of help for the 3rd and 4th weeks of September, October, November, and December.

child care Schedule

Today

August 24, 2014

Team 1

Jennifer Egami

Corey Egami

Donna Nozaki

Elijah Douglas

Christian Motonaga

Next Week

August 31, 2014

Team 2

Joycelyn Kiaha

Marion Kimura

Elaine Yamasaki

Avery Yamada

Zachary Yamada

Kaiani Kiaha

Daniel Olaso



High Street Cleaning Schedule

Week of August 28-30

Shum

Week of Sept 4-6

Blando

Week of Sept 11-13

Waki, Hashimoto



Today's Worship Songs

Jesus, My Redeemer

Lord Reign in Me

Cornerstone

Valley Isle Fellowship 2014 Calendar

August 2014

24 AM - Pastor Darren - John 20:1-31
PM - Missional Groups Sharing: Love Like Jesus

31 AM - Pastor Jeremy - John 21:1-25
Baptismal Service
PM - Pastor Darren



September 2014

1 Labor Day Picnic

7 AM - Pastor Stephen
PM - Pastor Jeremy

7-14 Sue Nishikawa State Missions Offering Week of Prayer

14 AM - Pastor Darren
PM - Pastor Stephen
Lee Strobel Event

21 AM - Pastor Jeremy
PM - Pastor Darren

27 "G" Force

29 AM - Pastor Stephen
PM - Pastor Jeremy

Valley Isle Fellowship

ph: (808) 244-0865
www.vifmaui.com

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Wailuku Elementary School Cafeteria
355 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

1st Service - 8:00 am

Child care available at High Street property

2nd Service - 9:45 am

Children & Youth Sunday School at High Street property

Assistant Pastor

Darren Sarmiento
Cell: (808) 757-1651

Email: darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com

Senior Pastor

Stephen Kaneshiro
Cell: (808) 419-8100

Email: icastephen@gmail.com

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

VIF Church Sanctuary
473 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

6:00 pm



"Valley Isle Fellowship Church"

Assistant Pastor

Jeremy Kaneshiro
Cell: (808) 280-2780

Email: vifjeremy@gmail.com