



DATE	January 14, 2018
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	We Gotta Know
SERIES	We've all heard the phrase, "You should know better." But what does "better" look like, and how can we come to know it? Romans 8 reminds us that's what the Holy Spirit is here for. And as we trust and rely on Him, we can truly know better.

Romans 8:28 focuses on Paul's advice for living through the power of the Spirit, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Paul was no stranger to suffering (many near-death experiences, imprisonment, persecution, etc).

On the scale of optimism (glass is half full) vs. pessimism (glass is half empty), where would you put yourself? What do you think has contributed to your attitudes?

Have you been, or are you going through something right now that is so difficult that it is challenging to your faith? What items from the list of "all things" Pastor David gave did you experience?

How does Isaiah 55:8 relate to times of struggle and hardship?

Romans 8:29 -30 lists 5 verbs describing what God does. What do these verbs tell you about God's desires and plans in bringing good out of difficulty? How would you describe "good" from these verses? What differences do you see between reason and purpose?

Pastor David explained that God is not the author of evil (Deut 32:4 etc.) and that God works all things together for good (Romans 8:28). How can there be a good purpose in the terrible things that happen? Is there a purpose in our suffering or just in the way we are led through it?

When we fail to achieve something we believe God desired, how do we know that he is asking us to shift to another plan rather than work harder toward the goal. Is there a risk of stamping God's approval on our failures as a rationalization that spares us from further effort, struggle and emotional pain?

Do you feel called according to God's purpose? In what ways? If not, what can you do to get connected to God to feel your purpose from God?

Some might say "If God predestined everything, then we're just robots." How would you respond?

"The rugged hope of the believer is not that we will escape distress or peril or hunger or slaughter, but that Almighty God will make every one of our agonies an instrument of his mercy to do us good. "

www.desiringgod.org/messages/called-according-to-his-purpose