



THE UPSIDE
TO A DOWNSIDE ECONOMY

Message Four: What Good Can Come From All This?
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In Romans 8:28, Paul wrote, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (NIV). We know this in our heads. Our struggle is to get it into our hearts. So the question today is, "What good can come from this?"

OUR FAITH WILL BE TESTED

The Bible is upfront about this.

Romans 5:3-5, We also have joy with our troubles, because we know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope. And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. (NCV)

James 1:2-4, My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience. Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need. (NCV)

An **untried** faith is an **unproven** faith.

1 Peter 1:7, *Trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much...honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.* (NLT)

The economic downturn may be bad for our pocketbooks and our egos, but it is not necessarily bad for our **souls**.

WE CAN SAY 'YES' TO GOD'S PROMISES

2 Corinthians 1:20, *Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus. In him, this is what we preach and pray, the great Amen, God's Yes and our Yes together, gloriously evident.* (Msg)

The economic downturn is a **golden moment** to experience the truth of God's great promises.

Jesus' words from Matthew 6:25-33, *Do not worry about your life...*

From Paul in Philippians 4:19, *And my God shall supply all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.* (NIV)

From the Psalmist in Psalm 84:11, *The LORD God is our sun and shield. He gives us grace and glory. He will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.* (NIV)

From Hebrews 13:5-6, *Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." So we can say with confidence, "The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"* (NIV)

WE CAN REDISCOVER THE POWER OF FAITH

Faith in the Bible was more than **conceptually accurate ideas**.

It was a **dynamic** that moved people into action.

James 2:20, You foolish person! Must you be shown that faith that does nothing is worth nothing? (NCV)

It was the **fountainhead** from which hope flowed.

Hebrews 11:1, Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

It was the central element of a **God-pleasing** life.

Hebrews 11:6, It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. (NIV)

From the difficulties of our day comes a new call for people to return to a life of faith and obedience to God, to seek his face, and to experience the strength of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 16:9, The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. (NCV)

God is calling us back to a life of obedience.

Psalm 119:67, Before you made me suffer, I used to wander off, but now I hold on to your word. (GW)