

## Romans 8:29-30

John 11 records the occasion when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Jesus approached the tomb, had some people remove the large circular stone enclosing the tomb and called out in a loud voice: **Lazarus, come out.** The call of Jesus was a predetermined decision that Lazarus knew nothing about. In response to the call of Jesus, Lazarus got up and came out of the tomb.

A lot could be said about this event but notice this: The call of Jesus to the dead man was **effective**. *It was a call that created what it commanded.*

The same is true when God calls people to salvation.

**God issues the call, God empowers people to respond AND...people do indeed respond.**

Hopefully, you will notice two things in the Romans passage:

- 1) God is able to save those He has called.
- 2) God is able to keep those He has saved.

And God does this even in a world with struggles, suffering, hard times, persecution.

**God works in all things to both save people and to keep them saved.**

Whatever happens to you, as in, the “all things” mentioned in 8:28, fits into God’s purpose of growing you to become more like Jesus. All things will be used by God *in the process of conforming you* to the character of His Son Jesus.

An expression of God’s love for you is this: God is relentless in His desire for you to be like Jesus. God loves you so much that He wants nothing less than to see you follow Jesus, become like Jesus, embrace the mission of Jesus. *God knows that your greatest good is to be like Jesus.*

Right now, your position is perfect in Christ, but your practice is anything but perfect. What God is doing in all things that occur in your life is to conform you to the likeness of Jesus.

That is a process that began at the moment of your salvation.

The completion of glorification will occur when you go home to be with God in His eternal presence.

Your glorification is so secure that it’s written in past tense, as if it has already happened.

All the other components are past tense as well. Each one of these has equal certainty as the rest of them.

God foreknew. Predestined. Called. Justified. Glorified.

All of those are treated equally.

That tells us that from beginning to end, the elements of salvation are equally secure.

The ending is as secure as the beginning. This is God’s grace from beginning to end.

God saves people, God is able to keep those He has saved.

The strength of your salvation rests solely on the strength of God as it is demonstrated in His sovereignty.

*In other words, your salvation is as secure as God is strong.*