

“OFFICE SUPPLIES” DEVOTION

Rubber Bands

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

Rubber bands can be annoying or even dangerous. They make for great slingshots. Sometimes they get tangled up with each other, and you can “snap” them at people when they’re not looking. And when they break, “OUCH!”

But of course we need them to keep things together. That bunch of pencils, index cards, magic markers, or pens in our desk drawer that we’ve been meaning to sort out for the last few weeks. Some people use them to create hairstyles or to wrap up boxes that would otherwise fall apart. They come in all different sizes and colors. They can stretch and hold a lot more than first appears. No properly run organization would be, well, *organized* without them.

Romans 8:28 is one of my friends' favorite Bible verses. He's impressed that “all things” work together for good, and relies upon this verse whenever things seem to be going wrong for him or for others. “The Bible never says that ‘God works in mysterious ways’”, he says, “but this verse comes very close.” This devotion isn't looking at the “all things” part of the verse, however, but rather at the words “work together”. It doesn't matter how many things (or people) are working for God individually; for us to be truly doing God's calling, we must *work together* – *we must be together* as a whole, not scattered, bouncing and rolling all over the workspace in different directions.

We need to be held tightly by an outside agency, one that makes sure that we never drift apart from one another in our endeavors to do the work of the Lord. It won't do to set off, each on his or her own compass heading, when our spiritual road map has already been laid out for us. Can you think of Someone who may be our “rubber band”? To steal a lyric from Neil Sedaka and covered by The Captain and Tennille, “love will keep us together”.

Sing the song to yourself later. First, let's pray.

Dear God, be our “rubber band” when we try to go our separate ways, apart from You. Be the binding force so that we can indeed work together for good, according to Your purpose. In Your Holy Name we pray, AMEN.