

FOREKNOWLEDGE

"Pastor, you often discuss the importance of fulfilling destiny. How does God map out a person's destiny?" Romans 8:29 says, **"Whom He foreknew He also predestined."** Therefore, destiny is preceded by knowledge that God has beforehand. I believe it's important that we have knowledge of His foreknowledge! In other words we need to have a sense that 'God has already been here', as this will give us confidence in every situation. When God looked down the corridors of time to determine our destinies, He had prior knowledge of who we are and what we would do. The question is, "Did God determine our individual destinies based on foreknowledge?" If He did, then we may have a part to play in how this unfolds. Surely God doesn't randomly place a pin in His eternal map of the future to determine a person's destiny! After all, God gave us a free will and that free will allows us to make choices as and when we please.

Can you see where I'm going with this? When God determines each individual's destiny, He may do that based on foreknowledge! Therefore, I put foreword this argument.... Because God knows what we will do even before we do it, He can map out a person's destiny accordingly. Otherwise it would be like saying that a man can avoid doing anything to perfect his gifts, but because it is his destiny to succeed, success will be achieved anyway. In the Parable of the Talents we see that this isn't true, God holds us accountable for the gifts He has placed in us. Because God knows beforehand whether we are going to put in the time and effort to perfect our gifts, He may predetermine our success accordingly. However, I must point out that this view does not involve "God's grace," and under the New Covenant grace plays a major role in the outcome of everything we do. That is why Romans 8:28 says, **"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."** All God requires us to do is to love Him – the rest He works out for our good!

Remember, God has always possessed perfect knowledge of everyone and of all events. There has never been a time when anything past, present, or future was not fully known to Him. But it is not merely His knowledge of future events (of what people would do, etc.), which is important, it's knowledge based on His unconditional love for us. In The Old Testament, to "know" someone is to be joined to him or her like husband and wife. God's foreknowledge of us is centred on this truth. He desires to be in perfect union with us! And He knows us completely because He loved us first. Despite the absolute knowledge He has concerning our human failings, He chose to call us by name and declare that we are His (Isaiah 45:3). Nothing can separate us from that amazing love! **"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"** (Romans 8:37-39).