



**Victory in the Spirit Part 3
God's Family in Christ is Eternally Secure and Protected
Romans 8:31-39**

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Romans 8:31–39

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring charges against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? Just as it is written: “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE REGARDED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.” But in all these things



we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NASB 2020)

Here in Romans 8, Paul has taken us from the glorious realization that in Christ, there is no condemnation, we have indeed been set free. We have learned that the expectation of life in this new regime of the Spirit means no longer living and exhibiting the works of the flesh, but instead, we see the Holy Spirit producing His fruit in our lives.

We also have learned that to fully enable that changed lifestyle requires a type of power we are not able to produce on our own. And we learned that upon salvation, not only does the Holy Spirit come into us to help us now live as citizens of heaven, but if we ask Him, He will also come upon us in power to do extraordinary service for Him, allowing our flesh to move further and further into the background and allowing His Spirit to rule and reign in our life. As we move into this new citizenship of heaven, we experience the fruit of the Spirit and step out in faith and power to be Spirit led in all that we do.

We have also discovered that we have a future that is incredible, mind-blowing in fact. We are all, as followers of Jesus Christ, destined to be glorified and given bodies just like His.

Then we discovered that as citizens of heaven, yet still in these mortal bodies, our Lord anticipated the issues doing life we would have as we pray and doing so as we should. So, for our day-to-day walk, we have the Holy Spirit’s enabling of our prayer life with the Lord.

As we pray, the Holy Spirit is involved with everything we are saying to the Father and He “intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (Romans 8:26b)” And that is a really big deal because “He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:27b)”

We know, as a solid fact, that all things work together for good for those of us who love Him and are indeed His followers, believers. If all things work together for good, then what you and I may perceive as being negative, isn’t. Not when examined through the lens of the eternal God.

And now, because we follow Him, we have a future in the family. We are being made to be more like Jesus right now and will indeed be just like Him at a day coming in the very near future. That goes along with the new citizenship we obtained when we did believe.

God, by the way, has always known that we who believe, would indeed believe and He has so looked forward to that exact moment that He begins lavishing gifts on us beginning with new life and the Holy Spirit. He also has a plan for us to help us conform to life as a family member and to assist us in becoming more like His Son, Jesus Christ who also happens to be our Savior as well.

God has always known you and me. We learned that too. God foreknew us. This means that He knew us before we were ever even here on this planet in the first place. Paul is not saying that God knows of us, He knew us. We are also, because we have said yes, are called predestined to be conformed to Jesus, called, elect, and we were indeed justified when we first came to Christ. At present we are being sanctified and are indeed looking forward to the day very soon when we will be glorified, receiving our new bodies and are out of here.

And now we have landed here, in the planned security and protection He has for each of us.



Romans 8:31–32

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” (NASB 2020)

What are doing when we worship? We are answering the first question posed here. “What then shall we say to these things?”

All praise and honor and glory to God. That would be a good start and something we will also be able to do for all eternity and that will never be enough for what it is He has done for us. He has saved us from death and eternal punishment to be with Him instead for all eternity.

I think the fourth verse of John Newton’s hymn, Amazing Grace, adequately paints the picture for us as to just what it is God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we first begun.

What we realize is this, fear is now gone and it is gone forever.

Ray Stedman puts it this way. “The response of the heart is, “Father, I love you.” And that is what God is after. He is after the love of men -- the uncoerced, unforced love of men, despite their pressures, their problems, their heartaches, whatever they go through. Therefore, the rest of this letter is a beautiful description of how to love God.” (Stedman 2026)

And leave it to God to go further and outline for us, as He does here in the next few verses, three ways that we know He does indeed love us. The very first one is here in the second part of verse 31 going into verse 32. We touched on this last time, God is for us. He is.

You and I may respond, “Great, God is for me, sounds good. And who can actually be against us as a result, that too is good to know. But how do we know for certain this is true?” Simple.

Romans 8:32

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” (NASB 2020)

Let’s stop and meditate on that for a minute or two. God is for us and He rhetorically asks who, because the God of the universe, the Creator of all things is for us, can be against us? The obvious answer is no one, but the reason why is what makes all of the difference.

“He did not spare His own Son.”

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.” (NASB 2020)

God loves you and me so much that He gave His only Son to die our death on the cross, to pay our penalty for sin, so we wouldn’t have to. Paul told the church in Corinth this.

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (NASB 2020)



This gets back to the conversation we had weeks ago about the doctrine of imputation. Our sin is set up for a potential accounting transaction to be moved from our personal accounting ledger to His. If we do not accept His sacrifice for us, then it remains on our ledger, and we pay the penalty for it being there. But when we come to Christ, He then completes the transaction and moves His righteousness onto our ledger to replace it. The sin is no longer there, it has been replaced with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Through faith, Christ's righteousness is imputed to us. Now we can stand before God sinless, just as Jesus is sinless. We are not righteous in ourselves; rather, Christ's righteousness is applied to us. (Got Questions Ministries 2014-2021)

And if He did not spare His own Son in order to do this for us, why would we ever doubt anything He says to us as to what He promises to do for us. As Dr. McGee puts it, "since God gave his Son to die for you, don't you know that He is going to give you everything that is necessary in this life and in the life to come?" (McGee 1997, 706)

Because of this, we can fully agree with David.

Psalms 27:1

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; **whom shall I fear?** The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of **whom shall I be afraid?**" (ESV)

God has given us His Son, on the cross, so that we can know that He is for us. If you have come to Christ, you are secure in Him. What we see, as we look and meditate on this is this, God chose you and me prior to the creation of everything as He knew we would say yes to His Son. He sent His Son to die and if you were the only person on the planet, He would have still done it just for you. If He has done that for us, He will indeed give us all things.

This changes how we pray; it changes how we live.

John Murray adds one more thought to this as we meditate on what God and Jesus Christ have done for us. God "did not withhold or lighten one whit of the full toll of judgment executed upon his own well-beloved and only-begotten Son. There was no alleviation of the stroke, for "it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief" (Isa. 53:10). There was no mitigation; judgment was dispensed upon the Son in its unrelieved intensity." (Murray 1968, 323)

He wants you and me to be with Him forever and He has made all of that possible for us. Why would we ever think He is holding out on us? He always has our best interests in mind. We may not necessarily agree with what His plan is, but it is His plan and rather than try and take a ship in the opposite direction, like Jonah did, just rest in the Lord and let Him do His work.

I find that a whole lot more attractive than getting swallowed by a fish and then vomited out onto a beach three days later. But many of us go through discipline because we forget what we are learning here. He is for us, He is always for us, He will never not be for us. Fear is gone, and that is the first sign we love Him and are His.

And with fear gone, just think of the great exploits we can do on behalf of the King.

Why would we ever doubt this? Satan. The lies of Satan. The condemnation that Satan pours out onto us and the accusations he makes against us in the throne room. Here is what God thinks about those so-called charges being asserted by Satan. Here is part one of the next question then.



Romans 8:33

“Who will bring charges against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies;” (NASB 2020)

What Paul is asking about here is since we are now citizens of heaven, walking in the Spirit, and more than that, are the objects of God’s grace, love and mercy, who could even dare to condemn us? We should know the answer to that, and we also know he has already been defeated by Jesus Christ on the cross. He has a future you know.

First, he will lose all access.

Revelation 12:9–10. “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. **Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night.”** (NASB 2020)

That is followed by some time in prison followed by a short release.

Revelation 20:1–3

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.” (ESV)

And then finally, Satan and all of his followers, all of the fallen ones, are rounded up and condemned to an eternity in hell. Joining with those who have been there since the end of the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 20:10

“and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (ESV)

Right now, Satan accuses us, and we do have someone to represent us in the courtroom there in heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, His name is Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 7:25

“Therefore He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**” (NASB 2020)

And it is Christ, who is there at the position of power on the right hand of the Father and He is continually defending us and interceding for us with the Father. Incredibly effective intervention all the time on our behalf and we know what He asks of the Father on our behalf is indeed a done deal. We know that from the prophetic picture drawn by David of the Father speaking to the Son in Psalm 2.

Psalms 2:8

“Ask it of Me, and I will certainly give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth as Your possession.” (NASB 2020)

Yes, God loves you and me so much, that He has packed the court in our favor.



Romans 8:33–34

“Who will bring charges against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? **Christ Jesus** is He who died, but rather, was raised, who **is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.**” (NASB 2020)

Did you catch the very important point made about our status before the King; we are justified if we are in Christ. And note who the one is that did that, “God is the one who justifies.” If God is the one who has justified us, made us righteous with the righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ, how secure do you feel now?

We still have elements of the sin clinging to us.

The sin that Adam and Eve kicked off by thinking there just might be something that God was holding back from them. But now we discover, He has held nothing back. Satan though wants to destroy my joy and your joy so yes, this is indeed a point he will attack.

David Seccombe talks a bit more about this issue Satan is trying to leverage. “Distrust of God leads us to think his laws and purposes for our life are to limit and control and destroy our joy. So we disobey and keep our distance from him. Doubts about God’s intentions cause people to erect barriers against the gospel. They are afraid of what might happen if they let God come too near. It is precisely this attitude which drives people to the ultimate horror of a godless eternity. Faith is the conviction that God is for us. Such a confidence in God draws us close to him and makes us willing to reject our way for his. Our way leads to misery and death, God’s way leads to life and joy. (Seccombe 2013, 158)

There is no reason to distrust God, He is for us and He has justified us and He has provided Jesus for us as our intercessor. You see, God will not and does not listen to these accusations of Satan as He is the one who has justified. Do not let Satan lie to you about this. Recall again, Romans 8:1.

Romans 8:1

“Therefore **there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.**” (NASB 2020)

God has given us Jesus. God has personally justified you and me. He has provided the Holy Spirit to live in us. Don’t let Satan keep ripping you off. Ray Stedman continues the idea, “Therefore we refuse to be condemned. We don’t do this by ignoring our sin or trying to cover it over, or pretending that it isn’t there; we do it by admitting that we fully deserve to be condemned, but that God, through Christ, has already borne our guilt.” (Stedman 2026)

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (NASB 2020)

Of course, He will forgive us when we return to Him. He loves us and wants us to be with Him forever and even though He already knows us better than we know ourselves, He still wants a relationship with us. When Paul asks the question about who is it that condemns, he too already knows the answer that the only one who can do that is Jesus, and Jesus is not the one doing it.

He isn’t, because He died for our sin on the cross and then resurrected from the dead ascending to the Father where He is currently seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for you and me. He is not condemning us; **HE IS INTERCEDING FOR US.** That is a huge difference.

You and I are eternally secure in the salvation provided by Jesus Christ. Francis Schaeffer puts it this way, “Is it possible to make too strong of a case for the belief that once a person is saved, he or she is



always saved? It is impossible to make the case any stronger than the Bible makes it.” (Schaeffer 1998, 229)

1 John 2:1–2

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But **if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**” (ESV)

Will the sins that you and I commit after we come to Christ cause us to lose our salvation? No, because we have an advocate with the Father who is seated at His right hand right now. And God Himself is the one who justified us. When Jesus makes the case for us, He does so based on His own righteousness which is what we are clothed with.

If you have come to Jesus, you are saved. Once again, recall what we saw in Hebrews 7:25.

Hebrews 7:25

“Therefore **He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**” (NASB 2020)

He saves forever those who come to God through Him. And we are guaranteed to stay in that place because He personally is there with the Father making intercession for you and me.

No, the Holy Spirit did not make a mistake when He encouraged you to come to Jesus. God does not make mistakes.

Whenever and whatever Satan throws at you and me to try and discourage us or make us doubt who we are in Jesus Christ, God reminds us He is the one who justified you and me, personally. Yes, followers of Jesus can indeed commit sins that will embarrass them and the name of Jesus Christ, I know several personally, who have done that through very public failures in the church. But Jesus is the one who died on the cross and then rose from the dead and the Holy Spirit lives in you to never leave. Jesus is at the right hand of the Father making intercession and when even the worst sinning follower of Jesus repents and returns, fellowship is restored. It may not be like it used to be, but fellowship is restored. Why?

Hebrews 7:25

“Therefore **He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**” (NASB 2020)

Our eternity is based on Christ, not you and me. He is praying for us from heaven, the Holy Spirit from earth, our hearts actually. We cannot lose. So, saying that, here is the question from Paul.

Romans 8:35

“**Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?**” (NASB 2020)

Based on all of this, not just what we have looked at today, but what we have seen since we hit chapter 8, Paul posits a question for us. Who will separate us, the called, justified, elect ones, from the love of Christ? As that question is asked, I think we need to recall something that the writer of Hebrews said about Jesus as He was going to the cross.

Hebrews 12:1–2

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to



Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (ESV)

Joy set before Him on the way to the cross? Really? His joy was completing what it was He came here to achieve on our behalf, our redemption. The joy before Him was the view of all of us who would trust in what He was doing on the cross as the only means for us to be saved and to become believers. The joy was the redemption He was giving to us since He loves us so much.

In light of what Jesus has done for us, can this idea of being separated from Him even be possible? The answer is no.

Remember when we first started this chapter, I said we will start with no condemnation and end with no separation. There is no separation. We are eternally secure in Christ. Paul then lists some of the common hazards of his day facing the follower of Jesus some would say cause separation.

Please note what this is not saying. It is not saying that if these things show up in your life, it is a sign that God no longer loves you. Paul would know since he experienced all of these in the list. Contrary to what prosperity gospel types would teach, these are not a sign of a faith problem, it is a sign that you and I live in a fallen world that hates Jesus and anyone connected with Him.

It is not a pointer to prayerlessness, faithlessness or anything else that certain super spiritual types would like to throw at you. We live in a fallen world, and these are hazards.

This first group of things are what we as followers of Jesus Christ can expect from the world around us as we stand for the Lord. Θλίψις (thlipsis) στενοχωρία (stenochoria) and διωγμός (diogmos). When you look at these words, it really does indeed sound and look like the culture today. Thlipsis is translated tribulation in our text, but it also means pressure, gelding, oppression, affliction, mortification. (Montanari 2015)

Isn't that just like what we see today, the inordinate pressure brought to bear by the culture onto those who stand for Jesus Christ, or just simply for doing the right thing. Just look at the brave 12th juror in the Clancy trial who never wavered. They will pressure us and try to, in every way they can, to remove our ability to even reproduce by making disciples. All of that in this word in the Greek.

The next word is also all about our culture today. Stenochoria is translated as trouble in our text. The Greek word means that, but also means “narrowness, tightness, difficulty in passing; brevity, scarcity, indigence, anxiety.” (Montanari 2015)

Not only does the world try to pressure us and try to prevent us from reproducing new believers, but they will cause trouble by imposing things like the inability to find a space to meet, or a space that is only available at certain times and not even then either. The intent is cause anxiety in us to believe the lies of Satan and that the one who we are serving may not be adequate enough to take care of these needs we have. Paul says bunk to that. It is just another thing that will not separate us from the love of Christ.

How about diogmos? Yes, that word does indeed mean persecution and that is something even Jesus promised us as believers. It can also mean legalized court driven persecution as well.

John 15:20

“Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.” (ESV)



All three of these things we have seen here at Calvary Chapel, tactics which the enemy has thrown at us to make us turn our eyes from Jesus and His love and sufficiency. Just because we encounter this, doesn't mean He has turned against us, it means we are causing a level of concern in the camp of the enemy. These three things are things that a hostile and ungodly world wants to and tries to impose on those who stand for Jesus Christ. Let's look at verse 35 again.

Romans 8:35

"Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, **or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?**" (NASB 2020)

As we go about doing what He has commanded us to do, make disciples, these are various levels of pressure that the world will indeed rely on to try and mold you and me.

Famine, or λιμός (limos) in the Greek. The word does mean famine or hunger and it is physical as well. The lack of food. Famine or hunger in Jewish and pagan culture was thought to be a sign of God's displeasure and that is indeed true.

What we learn here is that is is also a weapon that can be used by the enemy as a means to try and get you and me to cease relying on the Lord; to believe He has abandoned us. He hasn't.

The next term is nakedness, γυμνότης (gymnotes). Again, there is more than just being naked and that being used by the enemy to squeeze. The word means "nakedness, emptiness, poverty." (Oepke 1964, 775)

Jesus promised food and clothing in the Sermon on the Mount.

Does a lack of this mean a lack of favor and an abandonment by the Lord? Not at all, this is again, a tool used by the enemy to try and bring us to the side of questioning God and what He is doing.

I find it a bit strange that in our culture, the current standard of clothing is less is more. An absence of this does not mean He no longer cares. Also, an absence of designer jeans, shorts and shirts does not mean that either.

How about danger? Danger is part of life but what we see here is it being used as a weapon by the enemy. Paul was in danger a lot and not all of it was physical. The word is κίνδυνος (kindynos).

It means "danger, risk to, run a risk, expose oneself to a danger, to encounter dangers, expose oneself to risks, contest, enterprise, danger, adventure, judicial danger, trial, danger of death." (Montanari 2015)

We have seen that in our culture, First comes the persecution, then the threats, then actual actions taken to try and prevent followers of Jesus from simply expressing their love for Him in the public square. And, as we have seen in several locations now in this country, that is followed by arrest and extended court proceedings intended to drain the pocketbook and obtain compliance to the state.

The enemy will use the threat of or actual danger to try and get our eyes off of Jesus. Paul tells us that, based on his own rather extensive personal history on this topic, doesn't work at all.

Then there is the sword. Do not think of folks wandering around with broadswords or rifles, this is much more personal based on the word he uses, μάχαιρα, (machaira). This is the weapon of choice carried by a Roman legionnaire. It was for up close and personal combat operations where the target was a specific individual and not a group. Think a handgun rather than a rifle. There is indeed a risk of danger and possible death as we serve the Lord. Charlie Kirk's martyrdom showed us that.



Yes, the enemy will indeed turn to this and has done so for thousands of years. Our experience here in this nation up until recently, was not typical of how the church has been treated historically. Now we are seeing, even in this nation, the potential violence being used against those who speak out for the Lord. Here is the question, will that stop you and me from speaking out for Him? Jesus talked about where our mindset must be as we follow Him.

Matthew 10:37–39

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. **And whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life because of me will find it.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Matthew 16:24–27

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, **“If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it.** For what does it benefit a person if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life? Or what can a person give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.” (NET 2nd ed.)

To follow Jesus and be His disciple is indeed costly. It does indeed mean that we have given everything to Him and He is indeed the Lord of our life. But we also know that He is worthy of this trust since He has given us everything and more. That is what Paul is talking about here and he is also assuring us that in light of these things the enemy will throw at us to try and dissuade us from following, to try and get us to thinking God does not have our best interests at heart, He has and does and always will.

To prove up his point, Paul then quotes from a psalm. A willingness to follow Jesus, no matter what to include, if necessary, martyrdom. Jim Elliot, a missionary pilot who was killed by the Auca Indians he was trying to reach for Christ, said this, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose!” (Motyer 2022, 181-182)

Romans 8:36

“Just as it is written: **“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE REGARDED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”**” (NASB 2020)

The nation of Israel was and is being persecuted by the nations and David expressed this thought while also asking the Lord to come to the defense of the nation.

Psalms 44:20–26

“If we had forgotten the name of our God Or extended our hands to a strange god, Would God not find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart. **But for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. Wake Yourself up, why do You sleep, Lord? Awake, do not reject us forever.** Why do You hide Your face And forget our affliction and oppression? For our souls have sunk down into the dust; Our bodies cling to the earth. Rise up, be our help, And redeem us because of Your mercy.” (NASB 2020)

Seeing these seven things here brought up by Paul, and it is not an extensive list of those things the enemy throws at us, can indeed cause us pain, suffering, misery and loss. When we encounter any of these things, are we alienated from Jesus? Hardly.



Romans 8:37–39

“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NASB 2020)

Paul tells us that as we encounter the attacks of the enemy trying to convince us that Jesus is not really the caring God He says He is, just another variant of the lie from the Garden of Eden, He says this. We overwhelmingly conquer.

We are sheep, we are serving our Lord. How in the world do sheep go from prepping for slaughter to being conquerors. In all of the times I have ever been in or around sheep, I have never seen any of them carrying weapons. They don't go out at night and taunt the wolves, or the coyotes. They huddle together with the shepherd and look for his protection of them. That right there is why we are able to overwhelmingly conquer. We are able to do this because of the Shepherd and through the power of the Shepherd. In Christ, we are able to prevail completely. Back to Jim Elliot and the Auca Indians.

At the World Congress of Evangelism held in Berlin in 1966 one evening, “two Auca Indians from Ecuador were giving their testimony. One of the Aucas had been among a troop that had killed five missionaries. The other was a leader in the tribe. The Aucas spoke only their own dialect and were culturally distinct from all the other delegates to the Congress, but they gave their testimony through a translator and it was thrilling. They told how they had been held in superstition, how they had feared the gods of the jungle, how they had marked their lives by the great episodes of spearing brought on by warfare between the tribes. They told how they had killed men in their ignorance and how later they had learned the gospel of salvation from sin through the death of Jesus Christ. They told how they had believed. Now they said they wanted to tell that good news to other tribes scattered downriver. That was their story.” (Boice 2000, 42)

Talking about conquering, Nate Saint was the pilot, and he was killed that day as well. “Four of the six Auca men involved in the killing—Dyuwi, Gikita, Komi, and Mincaye—becoming dedicated Christians. Dyuiwi and Komi actually became pastors/leaders within the Auca Christian community. Later, at her request, these two men baptized Nate Saint's youngest daughter in the very river where her father had died. Another of these men, Mincaye, literally adopted Nate Saint's son, Steve, teaching him how to hunt and survive in the jungle. Years later, Steve's children lovingly called Mincaye “grandfather” until his death in April of 2020. These Auca Christians declared that the Word of God changed their lives. (Foster 2020)

Romans 8:37–39

“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NASB 2020)

The power of Christ is what allows you and me to overwhelmingly conquer. And Paul also knows something else too. Death cannot separate us from the love of Christ; it takes us directly into His presence. What was the attitude of those who were being subjected to death in the early church?

In one of his letters, Ignatius wrote this to the church in Rome. “Now at last I am beginning to be a disciple. May nothing visible or invisible envy me, so that I may reach Jesus Christ. Fire and cross and battles with wild beasts, mutilation, mangling, wrenching of bones, the hacking of limbs, the crushing of my whole body, cruel tortures of the devil—let these come upon me, only let me reach Jesus Christ!” (Holmes 1999, 173)



So much for death, how about life, which is the next topic. There are times that seems difficult, but as we have learned, in Christ, not a real problem.

Paul continues by going into the unseen realm and tells us that since they are also created, angels, most likely fallen ones and principalities, which is a title of divine being also most likely in rebellion, both are unable to separate us from the love of God in Christ. Powers are just another defeated fallen divine being. What about my present circumstances? Nope. How about, what is coming in the future? Not that either. Height or depth, yep, nothing in the physical universe can.

In fact, anything you can dream up to mention, nope. No created thing, and that is everything, can separate us.

Nothing at all can ever separate you and me from our savior and Lord or His love for us. If we are in Christ, we are secure, eternally so and so secure, that there is nothing at all in the universe that can change that fact. Not even bad theology which does indeed try to do so.

John 14:23

"Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him." (NASB 2020)

1 John 4:19

"We love Him because He first loved us." (NKJV)

Do you love Him?

Romans 3:21–24

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."" (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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