



How God Loves Me, Part 2

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Kick Start:

How did God speak to you through this message?

Main Point:

No matter what life throws at us, we need never doubt God's love for us. His unconditional love is absolutely the most powerful, stable, unchanging, uninterrupted, eternal force in all the universe. We can be assured that our salvation is secure in the hands of our loving and gracious God.

Introduction:

Of all the promises made to the child of God relating to our salvation, the most precious is the fact that those who are saved by grace are saved forever. The believer's security in Christ is absolute. We do not need to fear the past, present, or future because we are secure in the love of Christ. We can be encouraged and know this by five overwhelming evidences of God's love for us:

Message Outline:

I. Secure Because God is For Us

God is the One who foreknew, predetermined, called, justified, and glorified every single person who would respond to the Gospel call. Since He is for us, any earthly or spiritual opposition is ultimately powerless in the face of God's omnipotence.

Romans 8:31

Talk About It:

1. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" As believers, what are some fitting and faithful actionable responses to this promise?
2. Even the best of believers may be tempted to distrust God or question that He is really for us. What are some things that generally produce distrust in the heart of the believers? How might we encourage a fellow believer who struggles with this distrust?

II. Secure Because Jesus Died For Us

The Father is for us and proved it by giving His Son. He did not hold back anything when offering His very best and most precious gift. If when we were sinners, God gave us His best, now that we are God's children, will He not give us all that we need?

Romans 8:32

Talk About It:

1. Reflecting on past actions, what can they reveal about dependence on self rather than dependence on God (trusting Him to give us all we need)?
2. What are some ways that you remind yourself about your dependence on God for everything?
3. Where do you need to more fully depend on God?

III. Secure Because God Has Justified Us

When God declares the believing sinner righteous in Christ, that declaration never changes. Our Christian experience changes from day to day, but justification never changes. We may accuse ourselves, satan may accuse us, and men may accuse us, but God will never take us to court and accuse us. Jesus has already paid the penalty and we are secure in Him.

Romans 8:33-34

Talk About It:

1. How do we witness and experience accusation and condemnation from the world?
2. How does understanding that you are justified and no longer condemned in Christ affect how you see yourself and your relationship with God?
3. How do you still struggle with guilt or shame, and how can the truth of Romans 8 help you overcome your struggle?

IV. Secure Because Christ Intercedes For Us

The same Savior who died for us is now interceding for us in heaven. Intercession means that Jesus Christ represents us before the throne of God and we do not have to represent ourselves.

Romans 8:34

Talk About It:

1. How does knowing that Jesus intercedes for you as your perfect High Priest change the way you approach God in prayer?
2. Read together Hebrews 2:17-18 and Hebrews 4:15. How do you feel encouraged or strengthened by the fact that Jesus understands your struggles and temptations?
3. How does Jesus' ongoing advocacy influence your confidence in seeking forgiveness, guidance, or grace in your life?

V. Secure Because Nothing Separates Us

We must never interpret the darkness of earthly life as evidence of God's lack of love for us. Nothing we do can keep Christ from loving us, and nothing that happens to us can mean that Christ no longer loves us. Just the opposite is true. God loves us enough to bring us through any darkness.

Romans 8:35-39

Talk About It:

1. What are some barriers that attempt to separate us from God's love?
2. What does Paul's statement of believers being "more than conquerors" imply to us?
3. What are some strategic actions we can take this week to remember that our security comes from God, not ourselves?

Conclusion:

Nothing we do can make Jesus love us any less than does. He knew you intimately before you were born. He's heard every word you've ever said. He knows every thought you've ever had. He's watched every deed you've ever done. He has chosen to set His love on you and has determined to make you like His Son as you've walked through the steps of salvation. This is the promise that outweighs all promises, allowing us to stand in the presence of the One who loved you so much!

Make It Practical:

WHEN WE FEEL SEPARATED FROM GOD'S LOVE

The psalmist echoes Paul's conviction that neither death nor life can separate us from God's love: *"I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there!"* (Psalm 139:7-8, NLT).

God is present everywhere. There is no place we can go and be cut off from His presence. The Bible also tells us that God, by His very nature, is love (1 John 4:8, 16). And if God is love and exists everywhere, then it stands to reason that nothing and no place can isolate us from His love.

We may sometimes feel like our pain, sorrow, and loss distance us from God's affection. But to this deception, Paul asks, *"Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? . . . No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us"* (Romans 8:35-37, NLT).

When we feel separated from God's love, the problem is not any lack on His part. The hindrance comes from our perception. When instability and insecurity threaten us, our confidence must rest securely in the knowledge of God's love for us and not in our own feelings. Human love is often erratic, weak, fluctuating. Doubt, circumstances, and fear can obscure our awareness of the Lord's presence. We must stand on the sure promise of God's Word that His love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8). It is never-ending (Lamentations 3:22). The Lord's faithful love endures forever (Psalm 136:7, 13, 21).

God does not promise us a life free of affliction, but He does promise to be with us through anything and everything we face with His all-powerful, steadfast agape love. For believers in Jesus Christ, God's love is a constant supply poured out by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). His love can be counted on in the calamities of life and leaned upon in the crisis of death.

Prayer Points:

- Thank you that you are for us. You didn't even spare your own son, but gave Him for us.
- No one can condemn me because we are in Christ. Thank you, Father, for that truth.
- Help us to remember that truth when we feel like the world or even ourselves are condemning us.
- Help us to fix our eyes on you so that we know without a doubt your love; so that it takes over our lives; and that we share it with others.
- Thank you that nothing at all can separate us from your love.
- Thank you that we are more than conquerors in your love.
- Pray for the needs of the group