



Spring 2025

Elisha: Seeing the Hand of God at Work

Sermon Title: Nothing Can Stand Against Us

To be used with Session 5: God's Hand in Facing Opposition

The Point: God is more powerful than those who oppose us.

Scripture: Romans 8:31-38 Spring 2025

Connection with the Study: It does not take a very long time to see that our world is in turmoil. Everywhere we look there is trouble, heartache, war and distress. Christians across the globe are experiencing strong persecution, yet faith in Christ continues to grow, especially in areas where persecution is the greatest. How can this be? Why would people turn to a faith that could bring harm to themselves or those they love? The fact is that when we experience true life in Christ, there is no physical or spiritual enemy that can ever cause us to leave the presence of Christ. Humanity, searching for something that is true and real, will never find anything more fulfilling than God's love for us. He will always have the final victory.

Introduction: Against all odds, faith in Jesus flourishes in persecution across the globe even today. Over the last four decades, the number of Christians in China has grown from one million to over a hundred million.¹ The number of Christians in Iran has grown from next to nothing to nearly one million.² From the very beginnings of the church, under the heavy hand of the Roman Empire faith in Jesus was sure to bring persecution. Yet people seeking something greater than what this world has to offer continued to flock to Christ. The truth is that there is nothing greater, nothing stronger, than the love of Christ, and we never face opposition alone.

1. No Opposition Can Stop God's Plan (Rom. 8:31-32).

This passage begins with Paul asking a rhetorical question about what we should say regarding "these things." In referencing "these things" Paul was reflecting back to what he had just written: we are sons of God, and regardless of what trials we may face, we are gifted with the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, God is making all things work together for our good. In the midst of struggles and persecution, this can be difficult to embrace, and it may even be difficult to believe. Yet Paul reminds us that we can believe this fully, because God has given us His own son. Jesus endured the

¹ <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2023/why-is-christianity-growing-in-china>.

² <https://cbn.com/news/world/irans-jesus-revolution-mosques-close-1-million-muslims-accept-christ>.

worst kind of suffering. He took our pain upon Himself so that we may know the truth and may experience His great love for us. In facing opposition, God's hand is ever present, and we know this to be true because Christ took on every kind of opposition on our behalf.

2. No Opposition Can Stop God's Son (Rom. 8:33-36).

In this passage Paul continued asking rhetorical questions of who exactly is greater than God. We learn from Scripture that the one who would bring an accusation against us is Satan, who has already been defeated. There are moments when we give attention to those accusations. Satan reminds us of our failings. He makes us to feel unworthy of Christ or incapable of following Jesus fully. We may feel defeated by the affliction and persecution that the world brings. Yet Paul made it clear that no accusation can stand against those who are in Christ! Jesus, who took on our sins upon Himself, continues interceding on our behalf at the right hand of God. No opposition on this earth, including the brutal attacks of Satan, can have any impact on the children of God. Christ daily defends us, and He has eternally conquered sin, death, and all opposition that may come against us.

3. No Opposition Can Stop God's People (Rom. 8:37-39).

These verses are among the most cherished of Scripture. These words give enduring hope that there is nothing whatsoever that can defeat the people of God acting in the will of God. We have been named as conquerors of any opposition. No matter what circumstance we find ourselves in, and no matter what opposition we face, we simply cannot be defeated. Even death itself cannot defeat the work of God's people, for we have gained the ultimate, eternal victory in knowing Christ. We will be present with Him throughout eternity. Paul wrote that he was persuaded that these things are true. Paul gave up a life of relative ease and clear authority in order to embrace this very truth. Nothing he had before could compare to knowing the love of Christ. No force can defeat us. No power can harm us. Nothing can shake us from God's mighty hand, and nothing can separate us from God's mighty love.

Conclusion: Listening to the headlines can be discouraging. It is a common understanding that the news is generally depressing. Yet for the believer, the good news of Christ supersedes any bad that we can encounter. The victory is His, and this is our inheritance! As the world offers little more than despair and opposition to the gospel, millions around the globe are turning to Christ as the only hope. In Jesus, we experience victory! We experience love, peace and joy unlike anything the world could ever offer. As we are tempted to live according to the world's standards, let us recall the great love of Christ and the victory that is ours in facing any opposition. Let's walk in the grace and victory that is ours in Him alone.

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