



8/22/25

On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, we talked about the good news and the bad news... Believe me... the good news is way better and far reaching than the bad. If you'd like to listen to the episode, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Romans 8:31-39

If I had to pick my favorite chapter in the whole Bible, Romans 8 would have to be it. It holds so much hope. It challenges my faith and my thinking. It tells me what I need constant reassurance of... God's unconditional, unfading, unwavering love that is NOT dependent on my thoughts, feelings, or actions... It is all dependent on Him... and He IS love.

What derails that assurance when I struggle to believe it is my FEELINGS! Sometimes (too often) I give more credit to my feelings than to the truth. But even if I anchor myself into my feelings, it doesn't change what's true. Here's what's TRUE...

*Vs. 31-34 ~ God has justified me and He is FOR me. Paul says, "What shall we say to these things?" To what things? To the fact that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... to the fact that I have the Holy Spirit who helps me overcome sin and who bears witness that I'm not a slave to fear but an adopted child of God and who helps me in my weakness and who intercedes for me according to the will of the Father because I don't know what to pray for... to the fact that God works all things together for my good... to the fact that I have been called, justified, and glorified in Him...
What shall we say to these things? "If God is FOR us who can be AGAINST us?"*

This is massive. God is FOR me. My feelings may say otherwise, but my feelings are wrong. And if the God of creation who has all authority and power, who holds the universe together with His powerful word, and who loves me is FOR me, does it really matter in the grand scheme of things that anyone else is against me? Even the things that are done by others for evil against me... even the things I do against myself... God can and does work for my good because I am

His.

What proof do I have that He loves me? He "did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all." So... "how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things (that work together for my good)?" God does NOT resent sending Jesus for my sins. Jesus does NOT resent being my sacrifice. The Holy Spirit does NOT resent having to help me in my weakness.

If anyone brings a charge against me of why I don't DESERVE that kind of love, God Himself is the one who justifies me... He acquits me from all my guilt! No one can overturn God's ruling... not even me. If anyone tries to condemn me, my advocate, Jesus Christ, who has the power to condemn me, does NOT condemn me. In fact, He died for me and was raised for me so that "there is therefore now NO Condemnation for those who are IN Christ Jesus" (vs. 1). Not only is Jesus not condemning me, but He's at the right hand of the Father interceding for me. He says, "Yes, this one has missed the mark and fallen short of My glory, but I have hit the mark for her and given her glory." Wow! If I spoke this truth to my heart regularly rather than letting my feelings or circumstances dictate what I think, how much would my life change??? O Lord, please help me to anchor myself in Your truth! THE truth!

Vs. 35-37 ~ God IS love. Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ who is interceding for me. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?" Well... if I'm honest, I would prefer that His love did SEPARATE me from all those things!!! My feelings say what is quoted here from Psalm 44, when the Israelites were crying out to God that He had abandoned them... "For YOUR sake, we are being killed all the day long. We are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

What I love about this is that God can handle my misunderstanding of His plan... even when I cry out to Him and ask why He's abandoned me. He understands that I don't understand... and He doesn't reject me for my cry. He doesn't abandon me for my cry. He continues to remind me of His truth. He continues to comfort me with His word. When do I miss out on that hope? When I stop talking to Him. My feelings will look at my circumstances and say that God has abandoned me. If I then avoid Him, the truth of His love doesn't change, but I miss out on experiencing it. If I turn to Him and cry out to Him for help, He's right there to help me and to sustain me THROUGH the pain.

This is His promise as I keep running to Him even with blurred vision from tears... "No... these things will not separate you from His love... in ALL these things we are MORE than conquerors THROUGH Him who loved us" and proved it on the cross. The truth is... "But HE was pierced for OUR transgressions; HE was crushed for OUR iniquities; upon HIM was the chastisement that brought US peace, and with HIS wounds WE are healed. All WE like sheep have gone astray; WE have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on HIM the iniquity of US ALL. HE was oppressed, and HE was afflicted, yet HE opened not HIS mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, HE he opened not HIS mouth" (Isaiah 53:5-7). With HIS wounds, we are healed... and we are more than conquerors. O Lord, please help me to speak the truth to my heart that You have loved me to

the point of death... and You love me THROUGH the brokenness of this world. You never promised that I would be free from suffering this side of heaven. But You DID promise to love me through it. Your love sustains me.

Vs. 38-39 ~ NOTHING can separate me from the love of Christ and NOTHING can separate me from the love of the Father because I am IN Christ Jesus my Lord.

- *Neither death nor life... the suffering of loss is temporary, and my eternal life with Him is secure.*
- *Nor angels nor rulers... His angels would never try to separate me from the Lord and the evil rulers of this dark age have no power to separate me from His unwavering love.*
- *Nor things present, nor things to come... the brokenness of this world will only help me to cling more closely to Him, and the pleasures of this world will serve to show me that His treasures are priceless while this world's are temporary. The things to come will serve to make me crave the eternal with Him because I know that I will be in His loving presence face to face for eternity.*
- *Powers will only serve to show me that nothing is greater than His power.*
- *Neither the height of the mountaintop experiences nor the depth of the valleys will drive me away from Him.*
- *Nor anything else in all creation... because "He has established His throne in the heavens and His kingdom rules over ALL" (Psalm 103:19).*

O Lord, I pray that I will not question Your love. Your love cannot be measured. Sadly, my love for You can. Please change that in me. I praise You for Your mercy and grace... that all the times I don't love as You do, You still love me. Psalm 103 says You crown me with Your love, You are abounding in love toward me, Your love for me is as high as the heavens (much higher than the moon), and Your love for me is from everlasting to everlasting. Your love is my victory. Praise Your name.