

THE DAILY AMEN Devotional

January 23, 2018 by Amy Dalke

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment...” (1 John 4:18 NIV)

Sometimes I’m dramatic, but this isn’t one of those times. The truth about God’s love for you has the capacity to change your view on the thing that scares you the most.

These aren’t just words to be read or facts to memorize. This is the word of God for you, and it is alive and powerful.

God is love, so there’s no fear in him. Which means that in Christ, YOU ARE FEARLESS.

The word *fear* in 1 John 4:18 is the kind that torments and terrorizes and fills you with dread. Since God’s fearless character lives in you, there are literally ZERO THINGS that have a right to make you afraid.

How can I even say that about your life since I don’t have a clue what you face right now?

I didn’t say it. God did.

God’s word says he (God) gave you a spirit *not* of fear, but of power and love and self-control. (2 Timothy 1:7 ESV)

I don’t know what trouble or trial threatens you right now, but I do know that you do NOT have to be afraid of it. And I do know that since **your Father is LOVE itself, then fear is NOT the boss of you.** The forever, unconquerable love of Christ is your stability and the sturdy foundation of your courage.

In Romans 8:35-39 Paul made a list of things that could be perceived as a threat to us, and he knocked them off one by one.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Tribulation can’t. This word means internal pressure that makes one feel trapped. Sort of like you’re being hemmed in by pressure all around you. (Hmm. That ought to speak loud and clear to someone.)

Distress (difficulty, difficult circumstances) **can’t.**

Persecution can’t. The literal translation of persecution is to *hunt to bring something down like an animal to punish their convictions.* (I’ve seen enough Animal Planet to know that the end result of this would be gruesome. Yet not even that can drive a wedge between us and Jesus.)

Nakedness can't. I assume no definition is necessary here...but for the record, I found this interesting: this word also means **exposure**. If/when the things you've done are exposed, even THAT is not enough to separate you from Christ's love. (That's got to make your day.)

Danger can't. Risk can't.

The sword can't. So basically someone could slice through your guts with a sword, and you still wouldn't be separated from the love of Christ.

(With all the nakedness and sword fighting going on here, I sort of feel like there should be one of those "Viewer discretion is advised" disclaimers on this devotional.) (I'm probably about to be fired.)

Physical death can't. This one is sheer joy. If we don't have to fear death, what's left to fear?!

Life can't. Since the source of our very existence is God himself...life is not some external thing that has power on it's own.

Angels can't. Any other type of Ruler can't.

Okay, right here, get ready for it (pretend there's a drumroll)...

The present circumstances can't. (HELLO? Whatever you're dealing with in this very moment *cannot* separate you from Christ's love.)

The things that will happen in the future can't. Well that just blows every reason for anxiety out the window.

Power can't. God created power, and all power is subject to him.

The highest obstacle, tallest mountain, or any high thing like that can't.

Depth can't. (No matter how low you go into the pit of depression...you are still in Christ's love.)

No created thing can come between you and the love of God in Christ.

I'm fervently asking God to open our eyes wide so we can BELIEVE what He's said to us about his love. Because if living a fearless life is our birthright in Christ - I WANT THAT for us!

It *is* ours in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Amy