



Certainty in Uncertain Times

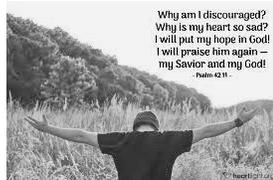
Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

The past few weeks have been so confusing that “uncertainty” seems to rule. Uncertainty can cause fear and depression, so this dilemma needs to be addressed.

Romans 8:35-39 (NLT) ³⁵ *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?* ³⁶ *(As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”)* ³⁷ *No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.* ³⁸ *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love.* ³⁹ *No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

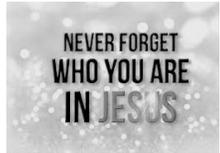
This passage is so important as we continue to navigate through all of the issues that are surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our only hope and therefore our confidence can only be put in Jesus Christ. He is the answer to all of the dilemmas that are confronting and confounding us.

We can confront the fear and depression by starting with a solid and unmovable faith and confidence in Jesus Christ. Romans 8 is a powerful statement that says that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of Jesus! Trouble, calamity, persecution, hunger, destitution, danger, and death cannot and will not separate us from the love of Jesus. This statement does not mean that these travesties will not fall



upon us, but it does mean that they cannot separate us from God’s love. For many who have trusted in Jesus Christ, martyrdom has been the price they have had to pay. However, they are all winners when you understand what it says in **2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (KJV)** ⁶ *Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:* ⁷ *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)* ⁸ *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

Never being separated from the love of Jesus makes us all victors not victims. The attitude of victimization is demoralizing. To always feel defeated and victimized by others is not the spirit and attitude that is portrayed in the life of Jesus Christ and in the Word of God. As we study through Romans 8, verse 37 really stands out. ³⁷ *No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.* Let these words and thoughts ring out and shine brightly throughout all of our lives. **OVERWHELMING VICTORY IS OURS THROUGH CHRIST, WHO LOVED US.** This is, first of all, a statement of faith. Overwhelming victory comes only through Jesus Christ because He loves us so much. Then it is a statement of application. Applying this truth means that we adopt the attitude of victors rather than victims, even when it appears like we may have been defeated. Because defeat in the hands of the Lord can actually be a victory when He is in control. The story of the song, “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” is a prime



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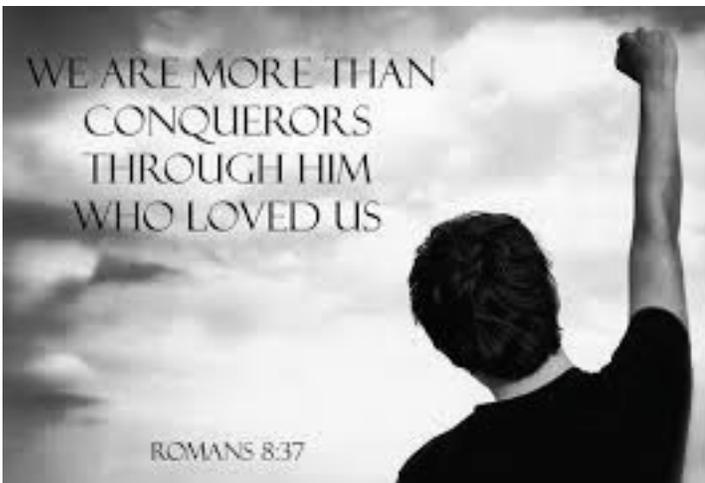
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example of this kind of victory. The man who wrote this song saw his children and his wife killed before he was killed. All he had to do in order to save his family and his own life was to deny and renounce Jesus Christ. His response was, "Tho none go with me, still I will follow. No turning back, no turning back." With that he and his family were killed, but their deaths led to that whole village turning to Jesus. OVERWHELMING VICTORY is ours when we let Jesus be in control of everything.

I am praying that you will see that in times of uncertainty that you can be certain of the love and victory that comes in and through Jesus Christ. There is nothing in all of creation that will be able to separate you from the love and mercy of Jesus. Cling to Him during these uncertain times so that you can experience the certainty of all of His love, power, strength, and victory. Nothing in Heaven and on earth will be able to separate you from Him. Be certain of that. God bless you all!

* * * * *



GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP
Sessions through August 29
13 Saturdays 8 am- 10 am
@ Valley Isle Fellowship

GriefShare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable GriefShare resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life.

Register online @ www.griefshare.org
or contact Don Booth @ (808)495-1628

MISSION NEWS

NAMB Missionary Spotlight:



**KEITH AND ANGIE
RADKE**

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Pray
for the people of River Community Church to engage our city with the gospel, meeting real needs and bringing God's hope and healing to broken lives, one heart at a time.

Salt Lake City, Utah
2,551,003 people live in Salt Lake City
96.7% of the population is estimated as lost
1 SBC church for every **40,492** Salt Lake City residents

“ Please ask God to protect our planters and their families from the rampant spiritual warfare present in our are.”
-Bobby Wood, Salt Lake City Send City Missionary



International Mission Board

Connecting in Prayer

<https://www.imb.org/pray/>

* South Asian Peoples

A family who's seeking to reach the South Asian diaspora around the world writes: "We came to the United States for personal reasons and, because of the coronavirus, ended up not being able to return to the field due to border closings. We continue to meet with our partners in the States and abroad through the many media platforms available. It was very difficult for us to see our partners on the field struggling so much. They had personal struggles, but they were struggling mostly because they are Christian leaders who want to help others, and they didn't have the means to do any food relief efforts. We knew that we had to do something to enable our partners to have the ability to help others. We received Send Relief funds thanks to the efforts of a teammate who wrote the request for us and to Southern Baptist churches who gave! We sent funds to seven partners spread out in four areas in South Asia. We then created groups on the phone app that we're using to communicate with them so we can receive updates and testimonies about what God's doing through these efforts. Praise God that the response has been overwhelming! Our South Asian partners have been so blessed to be able to provide some relief to their families, to other believers, and to lost people! Thank you for your prayers, and please continue to pray for the efforts being done to reach the unreached during these days of lockdown."

* Peoples of the Bajio of Mexico

(bah-HEE-oh) - Pray for Steven* and Anna* as several of the groups they were meeting with were essentially shut down by the Catholic Church. The work has been hard and slow. They have new partners from the U.S., which has been put on hold due to the virus. Pray that during this time of shutdown and quiet that people will be thinking about their destinies and be more open to the gospel after lockdowns are lifted. Pray for them as they try to learn technology to communicate with their partners as they dream and plan. (*names changed)

* Namur, Belgium

(NAH-myur) - After months of lockdown, many Belgians will leave their homes to soak in the sunshine. Long days will be hot, and summer nights will be sweet. Pray for the Baptist representatives and their local partners as they try to reconnect with their neighbors, colleagues, family members, and acquaintances in order to share the gospel. Pray for the COVID cases to continue decreasing and for the Belgians' hearts to be open to God's story. As the entire community tries to move forward with caution, pray that the enemy does not use caution as a means to limit Christians from creating relationships with new people and from those people hearing the gospel and repenting.

Radical Christian Living

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Matthew 5:38-48

I. Contrasting _____ . – *Matthew 5:38-39*

A. World seeks _____.

B. Christians seek _____.

II. Doing more than _____ . – *Matthew 5:40-42*

A. _____ more than expected.

B. _____ farther than expected.

III. Even doing the _____ . – *Matthew 5:43-48*

A. _____ in unthinkable ways.

B. _____ for the unthinkable.

C. Letting the sun _____ on the unthinkable.

D. _____ for the unthinkable – being like your _____ .

Notes: