



November 22, 2020

"Never Separated from the Love of God"

Romans 8:35-39

Dr. John Montgomery

In *Romans 8:18*, Paul states that **“our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”** Paul wants us to know that our troubles and hardships will be deep and severe at times, but because of God’s active presence in our lives (***vv 23, 26, 28***) and His deep work (***vv 29-30***), they will never consume, outweigh, or diminish our eternal glory. In ***Romans 8:35***, Paul turns to a question that haunts every follower of Jesus who is experiencing deep and abiding trouble and hardship: Does God still love me? When experiencing persistent suffering, we often question God’s love toward us and begin to think that maybe He has removed His love, or a circumstance has cut us off from His love.

Have you ever experienced so much trouble/hardship that you began to question if God loved you or cared for you? Share about this time...

Our pain can either push us toward God or away from God.

What do you think helps us turn toward God in our pain?

What elements of our pain tempt us to push away from God?

How can we counteract these thoughts and feelings?

Read ***Romans 8:35-39***. In this text, Paul answers the aching question in our heart, “Does God still love me”, with a resounding “Yes!!!!” He frames it by asking a question: Can anyone or anything separate us from God’s love? Then Paul provides the answer: **No, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.** For as Paul says, we are **“more than conquerors”**. In the original Greek, this term is “hypernikao”. Hyper, meaning above, beyond, surpass. Nikao, meaning victory. It communicates total victory, to utterly defeat, to be completely and overwhelmingly victorious. This leaves no doubt in the mind of Paul that the hardships mentioned in ***vv 8:35-36***, or in ***vv 8:38-39***, could never, ever, ever defeat God’s love for us.

If or when we doubt God’s love, how does “more than Conquerors” (hypernikao) bring comfort to our hearts and truth to our minds?

Paul’s absolute confidence in the victory we have through Christ’s love, that can never be taken away, allows him to walk confidently with God through trials and come out the other side rejoicing.

How confident are you in God’s hypernikao love for you? Can you come out of trials rejoicing?

Why or why not?

God’s love for us is the anchor of Paul’s soul and the reason for both his confidence in trial and passion to witness to the world. Dr. John Montgomery gave us two examples of God’s love for us expressed in Jesus Christ.

Read and discuss *Luke 15:16–24* and *Matthew 27:27-31, 37–44*.

Within these passages, how is the love of the Father, or love of our Savior expressed?

What surprises you about the depth and breadth of love displayed?

Place yourself within each story.

What does each story reveal about how God the Father and Jesus the Son love you?

After seeing such love on display and directed toward you, how would you like to respond this week?