

KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:14-39

2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—

What I "SEE"

17b-27 Groanings 28 all things

35 tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, hunger, nakedness, peril, sword

36 Being Slaughtered

What I "SEE" By Faith

14 children of God

15 adoption as sons

15 "Abba! Father!

17 fellow heirs with Christ 28 God cause all things

28 According to His purpose to work for good

29 He foreknew us

30 He predestined us

30 He called us

30 He justified us

30 He glorified us

31 God is for us

32 Delivered Jesus for us

32 He freely gives all

33 God is the one who justified

34 Christ Jesus died

34 was raised

34 at God's right-hand interceding for us

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ

37 We overwhelmingly conquer 38-39 Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

START TALKING

There are two months left in the year. What is the best book you read this year?

START DISCUSSING

THE WALK OF FAITH

Pastor Dave started the message by reading Corinthians 5:7. He then said "Faith is taking God at his Word in spite of what I think, see, feel, or hear. Another way to think about faith is "what do I know" when I start to doubt?

Take a moment to make sure everyone understands this principle.

WHAT I SEE

The "What I See" section is a summary of the verses in our text that refer to our circumstances. This is the stuff of life primarily focusing on the difficult experiences we encounter from small inconveniences to catastrophic events. For our discussion it is the thing that causes me to question, God's love or His interest in my life. It is important that we don't think only of terrible things. This principle is just as important for the seemingly small stuff.

Discuss how a terrible event causes us to immediately look to God for answers. Why do we tend to ignore these truths in the many small frustrations of life? Why is it important to apply these truths to "all things"?

WHAT I CAN SEE BY FAITH

Romans 8 lists a number of truths that we can "see by faith" when we face challenges.

Take time to choose truths from the "What I See By Faith" list to talk through. Answer questions like: Why is this truth important to know? Why is this truth precious to me? And, how does this truth help me face whatever is going on in my life?

OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER

Romans 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

The way we are able to "overwhelmingly conquer" our doubts, fears, and anxieties, is by faith. We are conquerors to the degree that we internalize these truths. When suffering, it is not easy. It may take rehearsing the truths over and over. These truths are found throughout the Scriptures and are given to us so that we can be a conqueror.

Discuss how this is done.

Maybe someone can share how a truth help them conquer a difficult time in their life.

How can we support each other in difficult times?