

## More Than Conquerors 5

Unstoppable

*Romans 8:31-39*

*Memory Verses: Romans 8:31, 37, 39*

### ELEMENTS

**Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)** There are moments in life where you realize very quickly where your faith is. What you are actually trusting in. You think you are strong but then something happens and your legs get knocked out from beneath you, the wind gets knocked out of your chest and everything starts spinning. Your faith is solid until the doctor calls or the marriage struggles, or the anxiety spikes, or the bills are due and there's no money left to pay them. Then grief sits down beside you and refuses to leave and suddenly all the church words mean nothing and all that comes out is... is this real? Is any of this real? Is God real? Is His love for me real?

This is exactly what happened to me when I was a little kid about Vera's age. A few years after my mom and dad got divorced my life was pretty good. I had friends, I had a good church family, it was chill. Then my mom started dating a new guy. I only met him a handful of times before they got married and we moved across the state. Over the next year he yelled at me and my brother, threatened us that if he divorced my mom it would be our fault, beat my mom, then took his own life. This sent my mother into a spiral of depression and landed me and my brother in what could only be described as a psychological nightmare. And I remember as an 11 or 12 year old boy staring up at God and being like... God, do you really love me?

In other words, what can actually separate me from you, God? Can divorce? Can suicide? Can depression? Can doubt? Because if we're honest, I thought, like a lot of Christians, that God loved me on a subscription basis. One more thing and he was going to cancel my membership. Of course He wasn't, but that's what I thought.. its what I felt like.

Eventually, I realized that this isn't how God operates. I heard someone describe it like this: When a child learns to swim, they often think they're holding onto their parent. As long as they have this idea, they fail to learn to swim. They are more concerned about holding on than learning. But as soon as they recognize that dad isn't going to let them sink no matter what, then they can concentrate on swimming. They figure it out. Their safety isn't dependent on their strength or grip... it depends on who's holding them up. That's **Romans 8**.

This chapter is for us! This message is for us! In a fragile culture trying to stay afloat **Romans 8** shouts: "You may be **fragile**, but your

**salvation is not!**" You are more than conquerors in Christ! Which means, we have victory in Jesus! A victory that proclaims, we are not condemned, and a victory accompanied by the power of the Spirit. We have a new station and a new support. Our past is settled, our present is empowered, and our pain has a purpose! And when we are too weak to pray or too slow to understand.. God continues to work for us even then!

And today we end our series in Romans 8, the greatest chapter in the Bible, by looking at this one clear truth! Nothing can separate us from the love of God, nothing! Not divorce or suicide. Our subscription won't be canceled. He will never let us go. In short, God is for us! And if God is for us, that makes us unstoppable! Let's read Romans **8:31-39** together. The main point this morning is simple... **If God is For Us, Nothing Can Stop Us**. Today, I want us to see three ways the love of God makes us unstoppable.

### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing to see here is that... **Because He Loves Us, No Enemy Can Destroy Us**. Look again at **vs. 31-32**. Notice that Paul is not saying that, because God is for us no one will oppose us. In fact, we all know this not to be the case. We face opposition all the time. Everyday we war against Satan and his demons, this world and its temptations, and even our own flesh and desires! **2 Corinthians 4:8-9** makes this plain. Paul is not denying the existence of enemies. He is rejecting their power over us!

He isn't asking a question: is God for us? He's making a statement... God is for us, and since he is... So I will not ask you that question.. is God for us? You should already know... He surely is. How do we know? **Verse 32**. God is so for you that he didn't spare his own son... but gave him up for you! God is so for you that he will continue to give you all things! The bottom line is this. **If God already gave you Jesus, why would he abandon you now?** When anything stands against you, the power of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ stands stronger!

What might stand against you? Look at **verses 35-36**. People under the influence of evil will persecute you. Hard times will come against you. Look at **verses 38-39**. Death will seek to scare you. Demons will seek to influence you. Creation will try to separate you. But with the love of Christ, the blood of his sacrifice, and the power of his resurrection... none of these things, nor anything else can stop us! In Christ we are unstoppable!

When I was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade I was in a social studies class with my brother who was in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. It was the only class we ever had together. In this class with me and my brother was Richie Benfield, the biggest bully in the whole high school. Just the semester before Richie had been in my gym class and had bullied everyone, including me. He was horrifying. His girlfriend was also in the class and sat right in front of him. Well one day I was goofing off and throwing wads of paper at other classmates. Unfortunately my aim was awful and I missed the student I was aiming at.

Instead I hit Richie's girlfriend right in the face. Richie, a full grown man with giant biceps and a full beard, stood up and said, who threw that? Immediately I formed a cold sweat and knew I was about to get crushed. I sat there for what seemed like an hour... I wasn't going to stand up but surely someone was going to narc on me. That is when my brother, who was two years younger than me but two inches taller and 50 pounds of muscle heavier, stood up and looked at Richie and said, "I threw it." Richie was surprised. An underclassman was not afraid of him. He chuckled, sat back down, and that was the end of it. From that day forward I was never afraid of Richie Benfield ever again. Why? Cause I knew my little brother had my back! Friends, It's not about being confident in our own strength. It's about trusting in the power of the one who stands beside you, who's got your back! Jesus loves you. Jesus has your back! The presence of enemies does not mean the absence of God. You may be opposed, but if God is for you, no one can stop you! **If God is For Us, Nothing Can Stop Us.**

The second thing to see here is that.... **Because He Loves Us, No Accusation Can Defeat Us.** Look again at **vs. 33-34**. If Jesus is for us, who can oppose us? No one. But now Paul asks another question; "If Jesus is for us, who can accuse and condemn us?" And we remember, we've already answered this question haven't we? **Romans 8:1**, there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Satan is going to continue to accuse us before the throne of God and his accusations, for the most part, will probably be true. We are sinners, we have failed Him, we have made a mess of things. But our verdict doesn't rest on our perfection any more. Our verdict rests on the finished work of Christ! Look at **verse 34**, God justifies us because Christ died, was raised, and now intercedes for us! Jesus isn't only our protector, he's also our advocate. **The only judge who could condemn us has already justified us.** If the things of creation cannot stop us... and even our sins cannot condemn us.... In Christ, nothing can come against us. **If God is For Us, Nothing Can Stop Us.**

The last thing to see here is that.... **Because He Loves Us, No Circumstance Can Divide Us.** Look again at **vs. 35-39**. We cannot be separated from Christ! If he loves us and we have put our faith in Him... we are connected for eternity! Nothing on this earth or beyond this earth can separate us. This whole series is predicated on this passage, regardless of everything this world or the supernatural beyond this world can throw at us, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Jesus who loves us! Why are we more than conquerors? Why can we not be separated from Christ? Because of his love for us! I don't know how to say this any clearer than we already have... Jesus loves you

fiercely! It is his love that gives us strength. It is his love that motivates us to keep fighting! It is his love that empowers us with his spirit! And so the question is, are you sure? Look again at **verse 37**. Paul says, "I am sure." Are you sure? Are you fully convinced that Jesus loves you and that you are in Him and therefore you cannot be separated from Him nor defeated by any enemy? Are you sure that you are more than a conqueror! Then stop fighting in your own strength and start fighting with his strength. **If we are more than Conquerors, we have victory in Jesus. We do not fight for victory... we fight from it. If God is For Us, Nothing Can Stop Us.**

### Application

So stop being so fragile! You aren't fragile.. you are unstoppable! Walk the walk with confidence. Rise to the station. Embrace the position. Fan the flame of the Spirit. Fight sin boldly. Face suffering honestly. Stand firm when life is unsteady. Remember Romans 8 everyday. When the guilt creeps in, when the fear starts to overcome, when you feel overwhelmed... preach Romans 8 to yourself.

### Conclusion

Remember Romans 8:1, there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Remember Romans 8:11, the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you and will give life to your mortal bodies. Remember Romans 8:18, the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Remember Romans 8:28, we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purposes. Remember Romans 8:31, If God is for us who can be against us. Remember Romans 8:37, In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. And Remember Romans 8:39, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!