Romans 8:31-34 Unstoppable

What would you attempt if you knew that you could never ultimately fail? Paul may not ask that question, but he goes on to make the argument that nothing is standing in our way to be successful for God.

==========

*Thomas Edison

“Isn’t it a shame that with the tremendous amount of work you have done you haven’t been able to get any results?”
-Edison replied: “Results! Why, man, I have gotten a lot of results! I know several thousand things that won’t work.”

“We sometimes learn a lot from our failures…”
-But what if you could never ultimately fail?
-What if you were truly unstoppable?
-What would you attempt?

4 QUESTIONS WITH 4 ASSURANCES
-No Opposition (v31)
-No Deprivation (v32)
-No Accusation (v33)
-No Condemnation (v34)

-

NO OPPOSITION

“What then shall we say to these things?”

What are “these things”?
-All of Romans up to this point
-All of chapter 8
-Verses 28-30
-Yes

-

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

*Stott- If Paul had simply asked, “Who is against us?” there would immediately have been a barrage of replies.

How about the persecuting world?
-The indwelling sin in my flesh?
-The devil and all his demons?
-Disease and death?

Since God is for us…
-Who could ever stand against us?

NO OPPOSITION
can stand against God's plans for you.

-

NO DEPRIVATION

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all”

“He who surely did not spare His own Son…”
or
“He who indeed did not spare His own Son…”

-

*Smith- “My wife is crazy about flowers. She just loves flowers. And so once in a while I take her home a bouquet of flowers. Sometimes they’re extravagant bouquets—cost three, four, five hundred dollars. But you know, when you love someone as much as I love my wife, what’s a few bucks?”

1 Chronicles 21:24 — Then King David said to Ornan, “No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing.”

-

“how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

Greater-to-Lesser Argument

All means all…
-So does Paul mean all = spiders, taxes, and gangrene?
-Paul means, “all [good] things”

James 1:17 — Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

So what then, if our prayers remain unanswered?

1 John 5:14 — Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Psalm 84:11 — For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

NO DEPRIVATION
of any good thing you need to succeed at what God has called you to.

-

NO ACCUSATION

“Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect?”

“bring a charge” = egkaleō(ἐγκαλέω); a courtroom term, 4 of 7 times translated as “accuse.”

Satan is the accuser of the brethren.

Revelation 12:9-10 — So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

“Accused” = katēgoreō(κατηγορέω); It is where we get our English word “category.”

Satan likes to categorize us & call us names. -Unworthy, unwanted, condemned
-Ugly, dumb, weird
-Broken, worthless, disqualified
-Liar, adulterer, drunk, gossip

It is God who justifies.
-Justified = to declare as righteous

*Leo Meme- When someone tries to insult me but I sing hymns on Sunday that call me worse things

-

NO ACCUSATION
can disqualify you from what God has called you to, or undo what God has declared.

God has not made me righteous; He has declared me righteous.

-

NO CONDEMNATION

“Who is he who condemns?”

Condemns = katakrinō(κατακρίνω); krinō is the word for “judge”, katakrinō is to condemn to death or to damn.
-Most often used in the sense of the final (Great White Throne) judgment of man.

John 5:22 — “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

-

“It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

The only One who has authority to condemn you is the very One who died for you and now intercedes for you.

Isaiah 50:8-9a — He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. Surely the Lord GOD will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me?

-

1 John 3:20 — For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

NO CONDEMNATION
awaits you.

-

Paul asked, “What then shall we say to these things?”
-I ask, “What shall we DO, in light of these things?”

4 QUESTIONS WITH 4 ASSURANCES
-No Opposition (v31)
-No Deprivation (v32)
-No Accusation (v33)
-No Condemnation (v34)

If God is for me, I cannot ultimately fail. So what will I do?

I can fail at a task.
-I can make a foolish decision.
-I can lose a job.
-I can lose money.
-I can be rejected.
-I can even die.
-But none of those things can make God’s purpose for me fail.

-

Why do we not attempt more for God?
-Some would say fear
-But I would say pride…

Pride is more than arrogance.
-Pride also makes us afraid to look unimpressive.

-

Billy
High Notes

“Some notes cannot be hit halfway.”

Some callings cannot be explored halfway.
-Some ministries cannot be learned halfway.
-And in all honesty, halfway obedience is just another term for disobedience.

-

1 Timothy 3:1 — This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop [elder/overseer], he desires a good work.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN OVERSEER
- blameless; the husband of one wife
- temperate; sober-minded; of good behavior
- hospitable; able to teach
- not given to wine; not violent; not greedy for money
- gentle; not quarrelsome; not covetous
- one who rules his own house well; having his children in submission with all reverence
- not a novice; must have a good testimony among those who are outside

-

What would you do if you could never fail? What would you attempt?

If God is for us, obedience is never wasted.
-We are unstoppable.

We sometimes learn a lot from our failures…
-if we have put into the effort, the best thought and work we are capable of.

What are you attempting for God right now?

1 Corinthians 15:58 — Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.