



Series:	Date: <b>Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> 2017</b>
Topic: <b>Crisis to Conquerors: The Undeclared Love of God</b>	Speaker: <b>Michael Kissel</b>

## WELCOME

Michael Kissel shared with us about the undefeated love of God and how He takes us from Crisis to victory.

For the ice breaker this week, share your answers to the following question: What is one area of your life that you'd like to improve or change in 2017?

## WORSHIP

Start the worship time by encouraging people to share praises for what God has done in their life this past week. Sing worship songs from the Sunday services or select your own.

## WORD

**I. Spiritual Objective.** At the end of the discussion, members will:

- A. Discuss how crisis affects all of us.
- B. Talk about the role of God's love in crisis.

**II. The Sermon Synopsis:**

Crisis is something that everyone goes through in their lives, often more than once. Working from Romans 8:22-39, Michael Kissel shared with us the reality that crisis is real and living on Earth can be difficult. But Scripture reminds us that those pains are birth pains in God's ultimate plan to redeem us all.

However, crisis is still real and everyone struggles with the fear, uncertainty, pain, and doubt that accompanies most crises. Romans reminds us that God is bigger than all things. The love of God is undefeated and undefeatable. He desires to be with us, to redeem us. He has sent His Son to die for us, His Spirit to be with us and guide us. This is the God each of us can and should always turn to, and especially in the midst of crisis in our lives. Because nothing, no one, and no crisis can separate from the love of God.

## The Text:

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who<sup>[a]</sup> have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

**(Romans 8:28-30 NIV)**

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[c]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**(Romans 8:37-39 NIV)**

## Discussion Questions

**III.** All of us go through crisis in our lives. Every crisis, even small ones, are big deals as we are going through them. *What are some crisis you've gone through in your life? How did you make it through them? What role do we as Christian brothers and sisters play in the crisis of others?*

**IV.** Michael talked about crisis and pain as being part of the process of God's redeeming plan. However, we don't always like to admit that we are in crisis or in pain. *What can be difficult about sharing our crisis or struggles with each other? What role does the Holy Spirit play in our times of crisis? What role does the church play?*

**V.** Sometimes the difficulty of crisis is that we are not always in control. Crisis often forces us to trust God, even when we can't see how He is working. *Why is it difficult to trust God in a crisis? Why do we feel that we need to do something about our crisis ourselves? How can we learn to lean on and abide in Him in times of crisis?*



**VI.** We have a God who is with us, and nothing should remind us more than the season of Christmas we just went through. God came down to earth in Jesus so that He could redeem us and be with us.

*Does the suffering of Jesus impact how you feel about God when you are suffering? Do you ever feel like God has given up trying to be with you? Why or why not?*

**VII.** Michael reminded us that God's love is undefeated and undefeatable. The best way to survive a crisis is to surround ourselves in God's love. When we are lost in God's love the uncertainty and pain of our lives can be bearable. *What does it mean to "get lost in God's love"? What role does spending time with God regularly play in this?*

## WORK

- **Pray** and thank God for all that He has done to be redeem humanity and be with us personally. Ask Him for strength and more importantly to see His love when you are in the crisis of your life. Finally pray for others who are in the midst of crisis and ask how you can show God's love to them in the midst of their crisis.
- **Pray for Our Building Expansion Project (BEP).**
  - ❖ The C&C has asked us to submit an application for a modification to our approved CUP with the lower parking stall requirement. Please continue to pray that they will accept this without further complications.
  - ❖ Continue praying that our architect, Max, will complete the detailed construction drawings this week so we can apply for our building construction permit by January 31.
  - ❖ Pray that our contractor, Kingdom Builders, will be able to provide a cost estimate that is still within our original budget and meet our needs. We should have the estimate by next week.

- ❖ The grading permit application has been moving through the approval process—please continuing praying that it will be approved by Feb 2017.

## Announcements:

1. **Youth Alpha Series.** The Youth Alpha Series begins this Friday for the next nine Friday Nights (**1/13 - 3/10**). They are still in need of generous Home Groups that are willing to help provide a meal. Also, for 9 weeks we are asking parents to commit to driving their child/friends to Alpha.
2. **Seniors Car Wash & Workday.** Sat, **1/14** at 9:00am. Come and help wash the cars of the seniors in our community and help take down our Christmas decorations. We especially need help from men who can climb ladders.
3. **Baptism Class.** Sat, **1/14**, 9:00 to 11:30am. Learn from the Bible what baptism is all about and how it is an important act for every believer. Child care available with advanced request. Afterward, we will have a baptism service on Sunday, **1/29**. Sign up on the Response Form this Sunday.
4. **Seniors Meeting.** "Fall Prevention" on Wed, **1/18** at 9:00 am. "Before you start be safety smart. Fall prevention deserves your attention." Potluck refreshments to follow.
5. **Leadership Foundation Class.** Sat., **1/21**, 8:45am to 1:00pm. Training for all Ministry Leaders to provide us a unified foundation in character, knowledge, vision, values and lifestyle.
6. **Child Dedication Service.** Also on Sun, **1/29**, we are having a child dedication service that day and will be dedicating our younger children to the Lord. If interested, please let us know on the response form this Sunday.