

## WALKING DEAD

“Security”

June 26, 2016

### Romans 8: God’s Game-Changers vs. Our Debilitating Feelings

We feel...	God says...	We have...
Guilty	“No condemnation” (vs.1-4)	Liberty
Stuck	“No frustration” (vs.5-17)	Victory
Overwhelmed	“No desperation” (vs.18-30)	Expectancy
Confused	“No misperception” (vs.20-28)	Certainty
Disconnected	“No separation” (vs.31-39)	Security

#### 6 Promises from God that guarantee our future:

- God is for me

*“What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?”* Romans 8:31 (NLT)

- God gave his own Son up for me

*“He did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all...”* Romans 8:32 (NLT)

- God has chosen me

*“Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one.”* Romans 8:33 (NLT)

- God makes me right with Him

*“For God himself has given us right standing with himself.”* Romans 8:33 (NLT)

- Jesus died/was raised from the dead/and is passionately praying, ALL for me

*“Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us.”* Romans 8:34 (NLT)

- Jesus loves me (and nothing can change that fact)

*“Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ...No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow —not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Romans 8:35-39 (NLT)

**Leadership Tip!**

One of the most important ingredients to being a successful life group is to focus on the people and not the content. Strive to create an environment that emphasizes authentic relationships in your group.

**WALKING DEAD – SECURITY****STARTER QUESTIONS:**

**Do you have a younger sibling? You know, the one you picked on when you were younger? Would you let anyone else pick on your sibling? Maybe you were the younger sibling. Perhaps you have a close friend, and it bothers you to see that friend being picked on. Why do you suppose we have these feelings for friends and siblings, or people we consider allies?**

**MAIN IDEA:**

This series is all about how God helps us avoid things that suck the life out of us like exhaustion, worry, and fear; things that can cause us to walk through life in a zombie-like state like the lost souls on the popular series *The Walking Dead*. God, through Jesus Christ, gives us a life that can be marked by peace and serenity, one in which we are grateful to have been rescued from oppression.

This week we are talking about how God is our greatest ally. Romans chapter 8 tells us God is for us. It would be great to have The Rock, Mr. T, and some MMA fighters as body guards, but I'm pretty sure God is even greater. Think about it for a second; God is for us! And not only that, he thinks we are of immeasurable value... but more about that later. First, read this scripture...

**KEY SCRIPTURE:**

*"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?"* Romans 8:31 (NLT)

**Take a moment and replace the word, "us," in that passage with the word, "me."**

You may recall from Pastor Hank's message, "No Condemnation," that there is a difference between condemnation and conviction. God uses conviction to alert us, while Satan uses condemnation to confuse us. God does not condemn. This means, as Pastor Hank pointed out, that God isn't sitting in heaven waiting for us to mess up so he can say, "Gotcha!" Rather, God is cheering for us, expecting great things for us, wanting us to be the best we can be.

**But what if I do mess up? [And is that even a valid question anyway?]**

Guess what... you will mess up! Don't you think Jesus already knows that, and again... guess what... He still loves you.

*“Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ...No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 8:35-39 (NLT)

**God loves us because we have value in his eyes.**

*“He did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all...”* Romans 8:32 (NLT)

Again, replace the words, “us all,” with, “me,” in that sentence. What more can we say?

**ENGAGE AUTHENTICALLY:** If you were asked by a person on the street, “how certain are you that you will go to heaven,” what would your answer be?

I suspect we are conditioned in this life to believe nothing is certain. The underdog occasionally wins against the odds, lightning strikes twice, and that investment we had been counting on (“trust me, it’s a sure thing”) dried up and blew away.

### **1. What does 1 John 5:13 tell us about God’s sure thing?**

- *“I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.”* (NLT)

Notice how John doesn’t say, “so that you can be fairly sure.” Also notice that he doesn’t say, “to you who are well behaved, and do certain things.” He says we can know if we believe Jesus has paid for our sins.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

### **Are you still struggling with security?**

Remember, salvation is a gift. This means it is given to us freely; we can’t earn it and we can’t buy it. Also remember that God is for us. That means he holds us in his hands. What more secure place could we be than in the hands that created the heavens and earth and all living things?

### **How can our group pray for you?**

## **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

### **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE:**

Romans 8:33 - 34

Romans 10:9

John 10:28 - 30