

## Study 3: Confidence in God's Promises

### Key Passage: Romans 8:28-39

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose... What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*

### Discussion Questions:

1. What promise does Paul highlight in verse 28, and how does this provide confidence during struggles?
2. According to verses 35-37, what cannot separate us from God's love?
3. How does being "more than conquerors" differ from simply surviving difficulties?

### Additional Scriptures:

- **Jeremiah 29:11** - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future."
- **Philippians 4:19** - "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

## The Core Promise (Romans 8:28)

**"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."**

This is one of the most powerful confidence-building verses in Scripture, but it's often misunderstood. Let me explain what it actually means:

### What it DOES mean:

- **"All things"** - This includes both good and bad circumstances, victories and defeats, joys and sorrows
- **"God works"** - He is actively involved, not passively watching. He's orchestrating, weaving, and directing
- **"For the good"** - Not that everything that happens is good, but that God can take even terrible things and work them into something beneficial
- **"Those who love him"** - This promise is specifically for believers who have a relationship with God

### What it DOESN'T mean:

- That bad things won't happen to Christians
- That everything will work out the way we want it to
- That we'll always understand how something bad could be "good"
- That we should be happy about painful circumstances

## The Unshakeable Foundation (Romans 8:31-32)

**"If God is for us, who can be against us?"**

This rhetorical question establishes that our confidence isn't based on the absence of opposition, but on having the most powerful ally possible. Paul is saying:

- Opposition will come, but it cannot ultimately succeed against God's purposes
- The same God who gave His Son for us will not withhold anything we truly need
- Our security comes from God's commitment to us, not from our circumstances

## The Comprehensive Protection (Romans 8:35-39)

Paul lists specific threats that might seem capable of separating us from God's love:

- **Trouble** (general difficulties)
- **Hardship** (distressing circumstances)
- **Persecution** (opposition for our faith)
- **Famine** (lack of basic needs)
- **Nakedness** (shame and exposure)
- **Danger** (physical threats)
- **Sword** (violence and death)

His point is that **none of these things** can break our connection to God's love. They might hurt us, challenge us, or even kill us physically, but they cannot sever our relationship with Christ.

## "More Than Conquerors" Explained

This phrase is key to understanding biblical confidence. Being "more than conquerors" means:

### **Regular Conquerors:**

- Win battles through strength, strategy, or luck
- Victory depends on circumstances aligning favorably
- Success is temporary and can be reversed

### **More Than Conquerors:**

- Win even when losing in earthly terms
- Victory is guaranteed regardless of circumstances

- Success is eternal and cannot be reversed
- We gain something valuable even through defeat

**Example:** A martyr who dies for their faith appears to "lose" but is actually victorious because:

- Their death brings glory to God
- Their witness impacts others
- They gain eternal reward
- Their suffering demonstrates God's sustaining power

## **The Supporting Promises**

### **Jeremiah 29:11 - God's Intentional Plans**

This verse assures us that God has specific, beneficial plans for our lives. When we're in difficult seasons, we can trust that:

- Our current struggle fits into a larger, purposeful plan
- God's ultimate intention is our welfare, not our harm
- There is hope and a future beyond our present circumstances

### **Philippians 4:19 - God's Sufficient Provision**

This promise guarantees that God will meet our needs (not necessarily our wants) according to His abundant resources. This builds confidence because:

- We don't have to worry about survival
- God's resources are unlimited ("riches of his glory")
- His provision comes through Christ, ensuring it's reliable

## **How These Promises Build Confidence During Struggles**

### **1. They Reframe Our Perspective**

Instead of asking "Why is this happening to me?" we can ask "How might God use this for good?"

### **2. They Provide Security**

Knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love means we're secure even in the worst circumstances.

### **3. They Guarantee Ultimate Victory**

We may lose individual battles, but we cannot lose the war because God has already secured our final victory.

#### **4. They Assure Us of God's Active Involvement**

We're not facing struggles alone - God is actively working in and through our circumstances.

### **Practical Application During Crisis**

When anxiety or fear rises:

#### **Step 1: Recall the Promise**

Speak it aloud: "I know that God works all things together for good because I love Him and am called according to His purpose."

#### **Step 2: Apply it Specifically**

"Even this financial crisis/health scare/relationship problem can be used by God for good."

#### **Step 3: Rest in the Security**

"Nothing about this situation can separate me from God's love or derail His plans for me."

#### **Step 4: Embrace the Identity**

"I am more than a conqueror - I can gain something valuable even from this difficulty."

#### **Application:**

Memorize key promises from Scripture. When anxiety rises, speak these promises aloud as declarations of truth over your situation.