

## What do we do when following Jesus doesn't feel like *winning*?

### What do we say to these things?

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:31-37 ESV

The only way we can come to the right meaning about our situations is to see them through the lens of God's love for us in Christ.

- Speak truth against fear
- Refuse to let circumstances define reality
- Answer suffering with the Gospel

You never get the great thing without the hard thing.

- Hardship, adversity, and temptations are pathways into a deeper relationship with the living Christ.

### How do you get "sure"?

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 ESV

- Conviction is what faith becomes after it is tested.
- Conviction grows by confessing truth in the storm.
- Conviction rests in God's grip, not ours.

## Let's Talk About It

What do we do when following Jesus doesn't seem like winning? In Romans 8, Paul teaches us to focus first on what we say, not just what we do. When hardship, fear, or loss come, we are invited to see our circumstances through the lens of God's love demonstrated to us in Christ. If God is for us and did not spare His own Son, then no opposition, suffering, or setback has the power to separate us from His love. Paul reminds us that in all these things—right in the middle of them—are not signs that God has left us, but opportunities to develop deeper faith. Conviction is what faith becomes after it is tested, as we confess truth in the storm and rest not in our grip on God, but in His unbreakable grip on us.

Romans 8:31-39; Exodus 13:13-15

### Discussion questions:

- Build essential spiritual disciplines to grow in your relationship with God. Attend **Rooted, starting February 15**. Register on the app!
- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Romans 8:31-39. Paul doesn't start with what we should *do* in hardship, but with what we should *say*. Why do you think how we interpret our circumstances matters so much?
- What area of your life are you struggling to see as *more than a conqueror*? What can you do to gain God's perspective by seeing through the lens of the cross?
- Pastor Gregg said that you don't get the great thing without the hard thing. What are some *hard things* God is asking you to do? How is God using it to deepen your relationship, build your faith, and/or form your character?
- Paul says we are *more than conquerors* in all these things, not after them. What does it look like to trust God *in the middle* of something unresolved? What helps your faith grow more confident—especially when life feels uncertain or heavy?

### Take a Step

- What is one way you can speak truth against fear, refuse to let circumstances define reality, or answer suffering with the gospel?

### Here's My Prayer

God, thank You that You are for me, even when life feels uncertain. Help me not to let my circumstances define what I believe about You, but to see everything through the lens of Your love shown at the cross. Give me faith to speak truth over fear and trust You in the middle of the unknown. Thank You that nothing can separate me from Your love and truth that I am held securely in Your hands. In Jesus' name, amen.