

“If God Is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?”

The second half of Romans 8:31 asks: “... *If God is for us, who can be against us?*” A lot of people are convinced that God is against them; but that’s one of the most dangerous lies we can believe about God. When people discover what God is really like – no one would reject or push away a God like that. He loves you! You are valuable to Him! He cherishes you as the apple of His eye. Consider this question from Romans 8:31: ***Is God for me?*** A lot of people struggle with this question, and many come to the unfortunate conclusion that God is *not* for them. Maybe God didn’t answer their prayers in the way they hoped He would; maybe they’ve been attacked by trouble and adversity. Factors like these have caused many to conclude that God is against them. Job believed that God was against him because of all the troubles that assaulted him. His friends were convinced that Job was being punished for wickedness and secret sin in his life. We gain insight from the first couple chapters of Job that neither Job nor his friends gained until after the fact. Here’s what we know: God wasn’t against Job, He was for Him; God believed in Job; God allowed Satan to attack and assault Job to prove that he would remain faithful to God when tested with the fire of severe adversity. God was right – Job remained faithful and came through the fire refined and tested and purer than fine gold.

Like Job, we may not understand why God mysteriously allows adversities to attack us; but don’t conclude from such peril that God is against you. Trust that He has a grand and higher purpose in mind for it all. Don’t drive yourself mad trying to figure out things that we are not meant to understand. Don’t decide whether or not God is for you on the basis of logic, or opinion, or feelings, or circumstances. Trust what God’s Word says on the matter, and it will be like you are standing on an immovable rock, regardless of whatever storms may assail. God’s Word assures us that God is for us, because He created us. He gave us life and breath; He has fashioned and formed us the way He wants us to be. He has gifted us with unique gifts, abilities, passions and callings. He spells out His purpose for us; and He knows you by name. God’s Word assures us that God is for us, because He loves us. He even likes us. He demonstrated His great love for us by sending Jesus to be our Savior. Nothing will ever separate us from His love. He will always love us with His perfect, unconditional, “agape” love. God’s Word assures us that God is for us, because He gave us the freedom to choose. He could have forced us to follow His prescribed ways, but He trusts that we will make the right decisions (given the right information). Even when many don’t use their free-will in the way God hopes we will, He’s still rooting for us that we will come around and choose wisely.

Let us also consider this question from Romans 8:31: ***Can anyone stand against me?*** Let me ask it this way: *are we really invincible when God is with us?* I hope that we are settled on the fact that God is for us, no matter what. But at the same time, we must also acknowledge that God cannot bless sin or disobedience. So, in order to garner the full blessing and protection of God we must come over to God’s side. Of course, this firstly means salvation; but for the Christian it also means to continually align ourselves with the Word of God. When you are on God’s side, and your life is aligned in obedience to His Word – no one or nothing can stand against you.

Now, this doesn't mean that you will never come under attack. The fact is that you will probably be attacked more when you try to live the way God wants you to live. One of the reasons for this is that the enemy will try to weaken your resolve to live God's way. Many back away and cool off in their fervency and zeal for the Lord after being constantly bombarded. Don't go that way; it will be worth it all when we see Christ. Another reason that attacks seem to increase after aligning ourselves on God's side is because we are given continual tests (opportunities) to prove our resolve to live the right way. Job's righteousness was tested, as well as Abraham's faith. Even Jesus' human resolve was tested when He faced suffering and death. But Jesus didn't shrink from opposition or turn aside from suffering; instead, He resolutely set His face to accomplish God's purposes and courageously did God's will. That is the example we are called to follow.

Just because you are being attacked doesn't mean you are being conquered. Romans 8:35-36 talks about undesirable things like tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril and death. But the very next verse, Romans 8:37 says, "*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*" So, when you are attacked don't feel defeated, just declare your triumph in the end. You are invincible when God is with you and when His Word is your guide. You are invincible when you persevere through adversity and stay on the path of righteousness. You are invincible when you withstand the devil's attacks and prepare for spiritual battle. You are invincible when you willingly step out in faith and follow God into the adventurous unknown. God is in control and on the throne. God is good and has the whole world in His hands. Even though evil and adversity may rise and seemingly explode – in the end, God wins. So, stay true to Him and know that He is for you, not against you.

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Have you ever felt that God was against you? Why did you feel that way?
2. Do you believe that God is for you?
3. Can you accept the fact that just because bad things may be happening to you – it doesn't necessarily mean that God is against you?
4. Have you come over to God's side? Have you come to Him for salvation? Are you continually aligning yourself with God's Word?
5. Can you accept the fact that you will be attacked and tested? Will you follow Jesus' example of courage and obedience in the face of suffering and opposition?