

## If God Is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?

Message 1 of 5 in the series: "If"

### A. Because we live in a fallen world, it's important to evaluate whether or not we really believe God is for us and whether or not anything can ever change this.

"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)

1. God is for us. (The following is a list of spiritual facts that verify this.)

- "So now there is **no condemnation** for those who belong to Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1 (NLT)
- "...you received God's Spirit when **he adopted you** as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'" Romans 8:15b (NLT)
- "...since we are his children... together with Christ **we are heirs** of God's glory..."  
Romans 8:17a (NLT)
- "...**the Holy Spirit helps us** in our weakness... **prays for us** with groanings that cannot be expressed in words." Romans 8:26 (NLT)
- "...God **causes everything to work together for the good** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28 (NLT)
- "...God knew his people in advance, and **he chose them to become like his Son**, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." Romans 8:29 (NLT)

2. No one/Nothing can stop God from loving us and being for us.

- "Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, **won't he also give us everything else?**" Romans 8:32 (NLT)

"By his divine power, **God has given us everything we need for living a godly life**. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence." 2 Peter 1:3 (NLT)

- "Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself." Romans 8:33 (NLT)

"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. **And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.** For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God." Romans 5:6-11 (NLT)

- "Who then will condemn us? No one—for 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 stood up again and said to the woman, 'Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?' 'No, Lord,' she said. And Jesus said, '**Neither do I.** Go and sin no more.'

John 8:10-11 (NLT)

"For God did not send his Son into the world **to condemn** the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:17 (NIV)

- "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? (As the Scriptures say, 'For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.') No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us."

Romans 8:35-37 (NLT) (*Psalm 44:22*)

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that **they help us develop endurance**. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident

hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

- “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 8:38-39 (NLT)

“But the teachers of religious law who had arrived from Jerusalem said, ‘He’s possessed by Satan, the prince of demons. That’s where he gets the power to cast out demons.’ Jesus called them over and responded with an illustration. ‘How can Satan cast out Satan?’ he asked. ‘A kingdom divided by civil war will collapse. Similarly, a family splintered by feuding will fall apart. And if Satan is divided and fights against himself, how can he stand? He would never survive. Let me illustrate this further. Who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.” Mark 3:22-27 (NLT)

## B. Two reasons we can be plagued by doubt, anxiety, and fear:

1. Unbelief - “Have mercy on us and help us, if you can.’ ‘What do you mean, “If I can”?’ Jesus asked. ‘Anything is possible if a person believes.’ The father instantly cried out, ‘I do believe, but **help me overcome my unbelief!**’” Mark 9:22b-24 (NLT)

“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find **grace to help us when we need it most.**” Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

2. Focusing on ourselves and/or our circumstances rather than the promises of God - “When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. ‘Oh, sir, what will we do now?’ the young man cried to Elisha. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ Elisha told him. ‘For there are more on our side than on theirs!’ Then Elisha prayed, ‘O Lord, **open his eyes** and let him see!’ The Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.” 2 Kings 6:15-17 (NLT)

“We know how much God loves us, and **we have put our trust in his love.**” 1 John 4:16a (NLT)

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## Connect Group Discussion Questions:

Read Romans 8:31-39 and then answer the following questions:

1. Share an experience in your life that helped you realize that God is for you. Why do you think some Christians have a hard time embracing the statement “God is on my side”?
2. Look up Romans 8:1, 15, 17, 26, 28, & 29. The Apostle Paul states these verses as spiritual facts regarding a believer’s relationship with God. What’s the difference between facts and feelings?
3. Sometimes people use hardship/suffering to prove that God has forgotten about them. Is this a valid criticism? (Romans 5:3-5 & 8:35-37, John 16:33)
4. Who is stronger, Jesus or Satan? Is it even close? (Romans 8:38-39, Mark 3:22-27, Revelation 20:10)
5. Why does the Bible tell us to repent of unbelief? (Mark 9:14-29)
6. The following Bible verses say something very similar to Romans 8:31. Why do you think this concept is repeated often throughout the Old and New Testaments?

“So we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?’” Hebrews 13:6 (NLT) (*Psalms 118:6*)

“The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1 (NIV)

“Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced... And I know that I will not be put to shame. He who gives me justice is near. Who will dare to bring charges against me now? Where are my accusers? Let them appear! See, the Sovereign Lord is on my side!” Isaiah 50:7-9a (NLT)