

UNSHAKABLE CONFIDENCE
ROMANS 8:35-39

- **Erma Bombeck**, “An estimated 1.5 million people are living today after bouts with breast cancer. Every time I forget to feel grateful to be among them, I hear the voice of an eight-year-old named Christina, who had cancer of the nervous system. When asked what she wanted for her birthday, she thought long and hard and finally said, "I don't know. I have two sticker books and a Cabbage Patch doll. I have everything!" The kid is right.”

It is impossible to have unshakeable confidence in God if you are not thankful for what He has already graced you with

- Faith flows through thankfulness when we realize we have all we really need in Christ Jesus

- **Philippians 4:4-7** NIV 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with (through) thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- **MSG** Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers

When you begin operating in thankfulness you will ask yourself, “Why?”

- Why would God call me, forgive me, justify me?
- Why will God glorify me?
- The only answer is, all of it flows from His love for you, flaws and all
- Not because you are worth it, but because He loves you

- **John 17:20-23 NIV** 20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

- **23** have loved them even as you have loved me.
 - Even as you have loved me – with the same love, just as much
 - God the Father loves us with the same intensity of love He has for His Son Jesus
- It is the clarity of God's love for us and the steadfastness of that love that allows us to have unshakeable confidence in Him here in the messy middle of life

- **Romans 8:35-39 NIV** 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

- **Romans 8:35-39 NIV** 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MSG Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us?

- Splitting wood using wedge and sledgehammer
- We see wedges coming into marriages, relationships, congregations, even within us and our confidence
- Satan attempts to put a wedge between us and our Savior's love

MSG Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us?

- We have learned in Romans 8 God has forgiven us, justified us, called us, sanctifying us and eventually will glorify us all through His steadfast love for us
- The question is “How can I maintain that confidence in God's character and word when the messy world gets messier?”

We must hold tightly to God's steadfast love for us personally when life events attempt to lead us to a different conclusion

- **Psalms 136** is a psalm of worship and praise for God's unrepented love for His chosen
 - It probably was a temple song with the temple singer singing the first stanza followed by the worshippers singing the second
 - The second stanza is "His steadfast love endures forever."

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- **Psalms 136** is a psalm of worship and praise for God's unrepented love for His chosen
 - **VS. 1 ESV** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
 - **VS. 4 ESV** to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;

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- Steadfast - firmly fixed in place; immovable; not subject to change
- There will be times in our lives of trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword

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- Is this a sign that God has withdrawn His love for us, or we have stepped out of God's love?
- Your feelings will tempt you with that thought, some in religion will throw this at you
- Even those who claim to love you like Job's wife
 - **Job 2:9 NIV** His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

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- So how should we think when life comes at us and we don't know why or even the next step
- Paul quotes a verse in **Psalms 44:22 NIV** "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

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- This Psalm starts recounting all they have heard from those before them of God's great work **Psalm 44:1**
NIV "We have heard it with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what you did in their days, in days long ago."

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- The Psalmist is surprised **Psalm 44:8-9 NIV** 9 But now you have rejected and humbled us; you no longer go out with our armies. 10 You made us retreat before the enemy, and our adversaries have plundered us.

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- Then Psalmist is confused **Psalms 44:17-18 NIV** 17 All this came upon us, though we had not forgotten you; we had not been false to your covenant. 18 Our hearts had not turned back; our feet had not strayed from your path.

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- Here is the Psalmist mindset in **Psalms 44:22 NIV**
“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”
- Then we see the Psalmist's faith in action in **Psalms 44:26 NIV** Rise up and help us; rescue us because of your unfailing love.

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- We don't understand why all of this is happening or what we are supposed to do
- But I'm holding fast to who I am
- And trusting in your unfailing (steadfast) love
- I am trusting fully that you O Lord are working for good in my life and your glory

True peace comes when we grasp the security of God's eternal love for us personally

- Big fish on your fishing rod
 - The rod is strong enough, line and lure are enough
 - It is your fish, on your line but it is not going to give in easily
 - It takes some skill, technique, patience and strength

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- **2nd Peter 1:3-4 NIV** 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

True peace comes when we grasp the security of God's eternal love for us personally

- We have the promise of God's steadfast love forever, but we have not possessed it yet personally
 - We have not made it ours, it seems to come and go with our mood

True peace comes when we grasp the security of God's eternal love for us personally

- It takes some skill – learning who we are in Christ Jesus through the Word of God
- It takes some technique – or practice
- It takes some patience as our old nature does not give way easily
- It takes some strength to say with assurance, **“MINE!”**

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- Eventually we will grasp with assurance that
 - It's all God's love that keeps me, personally
 - It's all God's love that strengthens me, personally
 - It's all God's love that will sustain me, personally
 - It's all God's love for me forever without fail

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- **John 16:33 NLT** I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”
- Hear Jesus say, “I have loved you with my death. Will I not love you right now with my life?” (Selah)

When the dust of this life settles and God writes His review of our lives, the summation will be, “More than a conqueror”, personally

- Paul’s question in **verse 35** was, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”
- Remember Paul is writing not to theologians but common everyday Christians
- He has laid out examples of extreme hardships here on earth

When the dust of this life settles and God writes His review of our lives, the summation will be, “More than a conqueror”, personally

- Starting in **verse 38** Paul lists examples that are so far outside of our control we would throw up our hands and shout, “What’s the use?”
 - What about death or life?
 - What about angels or demons?

When the dust of this life settles and God writes His review of our lives, the summation will be, “More than a conqueror”, personally

- Starting in **verse 38** Paul lists examples that are so far outside of our control we would throw up our hands and shout, “What’s the use?”
 - What about yesterday, today or tomorrow?
 - What about any power you don’t know about?
 - What about anything else seen or unseen in creation?

When the dust of this life settles and God writes His review of our lives, the summation will be, “More than a conqueror”, personally

- **Romans 8:37 NIV** In (through, in spite of) all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
- **Vs. 39 MSG** absolutely nothing can get between us and God’s love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

When the dust of this life settles and God writes His review of our lives, the summation will be, “More than a conqueror”, personally

- Not that we are victorious just by a hair’s breadth out of the jaws of defeat
- This abundant victory is the ability to convert the enemy conquered into a friend and a helper
 - The pain conquered transforms into our strength
 - The sorrow conquered transforms into our joy

When the dust of this life settles and God writes His review of our lives, the summation will be, “More than a conqueror”, personally

- This abundant victory is the ability to convert the enemy conquered into a friend and a helper
 - The famine conquered transforms into our feast
 - The nakedness becomes blessedness
 - The sword transforms into peace
 - This is being working out for and through us by Christ Jesus our Lord

When the dust of this life settles and God writes His review of our lives, the summation will be, “More than a conqueror”, personally

- By overcoming and converting these enemies, we become more stronger and more rooted to fight every battle that comes against us, through Christ' love
- **2nd Corinthians 12:10 NIV** For when I am weak, then I am strong.

When we stand before the throne of God there will be some declarations made about every born-again child of God

- We will be declared a redeemed child of God through Jesus Christ
- We will be declared faultless with great joy through Jesus Christ
- We will be declared more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ

John Chrysostom was brought before the Roman emperor and threatened with banishment if he remained a Christian

- His reply to the emperor reflects the insight of one who understands that true freedom in life comes with freedom in the Spirit and security in the love of God
- “Thou canst not banish me for this world is my father’s house”

John Chrysostom was brought before the Roman emperor and threatened with banishment if he remained a Christian.

- “But I will slay thee,” said the emperor
- “Nay, thou canst not said the champion of the faith, “for my life is hid with Christ in God.”
- “I will take away thy treasures.”
- “Nay, but thou canst not for my treasure is in heaven and my heart is there.”

John Chrysostom was brought before the Roman emperor and threatened with banishment if he remained a Christian.

- “But I will drive thee away from man and thou shalt have no friend left.”
- “Nay, thou canst not, for I have a friend in heaven from whom thou canst not separate me. I defy thee; for there is nothing that thou canst do to hurt me.”
- There is a man who knew who he is in Christ Jesus and rested in that fact

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