

God is for us.– Sunday 7th June, 2015

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” Romans 8:31-31

Beloved in The Lord,

God is for us! God is on our side, if we believe on Him and trust in Him! That is great news. Isn't it wonderful to know that God is for us? I think it is. God is for us, He loves us, He is on our side. Paul goes on to encourage us even further by writing ***“If God is for us, who can be against us?”*** The simple answer is nobody and not anything, because God is greater than all!

This does not mean that we will not experience problems in life. We do, and we will, but what it means is that if we are in Christ Jesus, we have a solution to our problems and we know that in the end we will conquer all in His power.

We have so many great promises given to us in the Scripture. God's provision is in His promises. We read in 2. Peter:

² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. “ (2 Peter 1:2-4)

Peter writes that God has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them we may become partakers of His divine nature. What does this mean? It means that God has provided for us a way to live a life that is blessed, that is fulfilling, that imitates His Son Jesus Christ, and so doing brings Him glory and honour.

This life is only possible in His power and that is why God has given us His Word. In His Word, God has given us everything we need in life and so much more. My heart breaks when I see how little people partake of God's Word. So few delve deep into the well of His blessing. So few take hold of the wonderful and precious truths and promises. So many are living in slavery to sin, when they could be free. So many are living in darkness, when they could be walking in the Light. So many are trudging through life, burdened by worry and stress, when they could have feet as light as a mountain goat, and be skipping along. So many are exhausted and burnt out, when they could be energised and full of power.

God has provided all we need. The well is before us. We need to draw from it and to take in the life giving water. We need to receive His Word in faith.

Jesus said: ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)***

Loving us so very much, God has given us His Son, and this gift is a complete gift. We know in God's Word that Jesus is "Logos" – that is He is God's Word. Jesus and the Word of God are inseparable. All of God's fullness dwells in Jesus and in His Word. We read:

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,¹⁰ and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority." (Col.2:8-10)

In Him (in Christ) dwells the fullness of God in bodily form. When you accept Jesus into your heart as your personal Lord and Saviour, then you receive the fullness of God. God Himself, who created all things and sustains all things dwells in your heart. If we can begin to grasp what this means, then we are on the road to a fulfilled and blessed life.

When Jesus is in our heart than all of God's Word dwells there. We have it all. Everything that God has promised is accessible to us. This is why it is of vital importance that we are familiar with God's Word and that we know what He has promised. It is important to believe and to trust in His promises. They are given for us. They are in force, they are powerful. God's promises are not mere Word, He has the power and the authority to fulfill every single thing He says and wills.

We need to learn His Word and know His promises. We need to use them every day as we combat the Devil and as we drive out doubt, fear, anxiety and worry. Paul describes God's Word as a sword. It is part of our armour. We need to learn how to wield this sharp two edged sword and how to use it to cut through all the doubt, the fear, the worry and the sin that assails us. The sword of the Spirit – The Word of God is our main weapon that we have to defeat Satan with. The Truth triumphs over his lies every time.

Let me give you some examples:

When you are tempted to think that God has abandoned you, then you need to wield the sword and quote Jesus words: ***"lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*** (Mt.28:20)

When the Devil tells you that you are too sinful and that God will not forgive you of that sin then you need to strike with the sword: : ***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*** (1 John 1:9)

When you are brought low by the problems of life, illness, weakness threaten to drag you under then remind yourself of this wonderful truth:

"But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!"

² "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you.

³ "For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;" (Is.43:1-3a)

It is so important that we use the Sword of The Spirit. Sometimes we need to wield it over and over again, until the truth settles in our hearts. You must never rely upon your feelings. Whatever you may or may not feel, in no wise alters the truth that if you are a child of God, God is on your side, He is for you, and if He is for you, no-one can be against you.

When you are weak and fear assails you then strengthen yourself in His Word:

***“Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” (Jes.41:10)***

Over and over again God tells us – “I am with you.” If God is with us, what more do we need? May we be convinced that He is all we need. God is for us and not against us. He loves us, and if we trust in Him we are secure. He desires for us to live in confidence, not doubting.

Paul writes so powerfully:

***“³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written,
“For Your sake we are being put to death all day long;
We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”
³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:31-39)***

Paul writes that he is convinced – are you? Have you entrusted all to the one who loves you and died for you? If you have – praise the Lord. Hold fast to Him and never loosen your grip. Live in this confidence and know that you are more than a conqueror in Him. But maybe you haven’t as yet entrusted all to Him. Do it now. Remember I said at the outset God is on our side. He loves you. He wants you to live confidently. Come to Him and surrender all to Him because He loves you. What is there to lose? Only the negative and bad things. You will gain all that is good and so much more than you can imagine.

In Christ is all you need in life and service to Him that you may live a holy life.

Trust in Him and live confidently knowing that if God is for us, who can be against us. Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.