

“God is For You”

10/27/19

Ro. 8:31 “If God is for us, who can ever be against us?” (NLT)

After sharing some of the incredible things God has done and is doing for us preceding this verse, Paul says something that is totally crucial to living a successful Christian life—the belief that God is *FOR* you, that He is on your side!

He asks a rhetorical question, “If God be for us, who can be against us?”

It is better understood to say, “Since God is for us, who can be against us?”

The answer is—no one or thing can be against you if God is *FOR YOU!*

This is so important because how can we have confidence in our battle with the devil if we do not believe God is *FOR US* in the battle?

How can we overcome the habits that stubbornly cling to us if we don’t believe God is *ROOTING FOR* our victory?

How could Moses have walked up to Pharaoh to demand he let the people go if he wasn’t certain God was *ON HIS SIDE?*——In fact, God had assured him, “I will certainly be with you” (Exodus 3:12 NKJV).

How could David have faced the giant Goliath if he had not believed God was fighting FOR and not AGAINST him?

How could Abraham have left his hometown and all that he knew to go "he knew not where" if he hadn't believed the God who led him was on his side?

When Joshua took Moses' place and stood on the banks of the Jordan River to lead the people over into the Promised Land, God told him four times, "Be strong and of a good courage;"

On the third time he told him why he could be strong, courageous, and fearless, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9 NKJV).

In other words, He's WITH you because He is FOR you!

And how can you and I possibly face the giants in our life if we aren't convinced that God is for us?

Because so much of our spiritual victory lies in this truth, it is the devil's attack strategy to do all he can to destroy our confidence that God is FOR us.

Because when you no longer believe he is FOR you, your confidence disappears—confidence in prayer, confidence in spiritual warfare, confidence in witnessing to others—all go out the window.

And the devil's favorite attack tool is *condemnation*, which knocks our confidence out from under us.

When we feel condemned for some sin or the other, the underlying message of the condemnation is that God is no longer for us, no longer on our side, but is instead *against us* for our failings.

ILLUS: I recently read a true story about a man named Keith Hartsell of Wheaton, Illinois, who was driving around with a friend of his in California.

He noticed that his friend's cell phone was locked with an unusual password—*pro nobis*.

Keith asked him what *pro nobis* meant and why he chose that for a password.

Keith's friend told him it was Latin and it meant "For Us," and then he suddenly started choking up.

Keith thought, "Why would those two Latin words cause so much emotion?"

Then his friend composed himself and explained that after walking through deep personal pain, true healing came when he learned that God is "for us"—or the Latin phrase *pro nobis*.

Keith's friend said that after his parents' divorce, he had entered a season where he felt that God didn't care or that God had given up on him.

But he finally found hope through those two simple words—*pro nobis* (for us).

You see, when he decided to believe that God was *pro nobis*, that God had even sent Christ to die for him, the thought that God had somehow left him vanished forever.

In our text the Apostle Paul lays out several proofs that God is on our side...that He is “for us.” First, we know He is FOR US because:

I. His Spirit helps us in our weaknesses

“...And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words” (Ro. 8:26 NLT).

Sometimes we’re in such a struggle we can’t even think what to pray for.

But that’s when the Holy Spirit steps in!—He prays for us before the very throne room of God.

The devil would tell you that God is against you because of your weaknesses and failings and struggles...

But Paul says that God is for you, so much so that He sent His Holy Spirit to pray for you in your weaknesses—that you would have victory, be protected, and overcome in your struggles! And the Father hears it!

Paul adds:

8:27 “And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.”

So if the Holy Spirit Himself is praying for you, who can be against you!

Then secondly, we know God is for us because He has decreed that:

II. All things will work together for your good

God is SO FOR the Christian that He has promised to cause everything that enters our life to contribute to our good, to our welfare, and to our growth into Christ-likeness.

All things is a lot of things!

Losses or gains,

**poverty or riches,
reproach or favor,
contempt or honor,
pain or ease,
sickness or health,
and the continual, unexpected changes that life brings are all made
to work together to contribute to your ultimate good.**

One commentator writes that all things work together “*strongly and sweetly, in a variety of unthought-of and unexpected ways; for the spiritual and eternal good to the Christian.*”

God is *pro nobis*—for us!

And finally, we know God is FOR US because:

III. He did not spare His own Son

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (8:32 NKJV).

There is no greater evidence that God is *FOR US* than this—He did not spare His own Son in order to save us!

He did it while we were His enemies: “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (Ro. 5:8 TLB).

He did it willingly out of love: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."

He did it hopefully to bring us home to Him:

"A little boy was found crying at a busy street intersection. When he was asked why, he said he was lost. Yes, he knew his name but not his home address. Upon further questioning about landmarks near his home, a church was mentioned. The boy brightened up and said, "There's a church with a cross that's lighted at night near my home." He thought a bit, then said, "Take me to the cross and I can find my way home."

Jesus is the way home to heaven!

"Christ also suffered. He died once for the sins of all us guilty sinners although he himself was innocent of any sin at any time, that he might bring us safely home to God" (1 Pet. 3:18 TLB).

And because of Jesus' death on the Cross, Satan was defeated, our sin was erased, death can't hold us, and the grave can't keep us!

So...."If God be for us, who can be against us?"

The answer is *no one* and *no thing*!

“Yet, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (8:37-39 NKJV).