

More Than Conquerors
Romans 8:35-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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. Romans 8:38-39

Faith-lessons the Bible has for us during hard times:

1) *God's love for you is _____ during your suffering.*

Paul's **experiences** and his **theology** so informed him that he was able to say with certainty that God's love for Christians is strong and real during suffering.

2) *God's sovereignty produces _____.*

Knowing that God's sovereignty holds you close to Him for eternity, produces in you the faith and hope you need for hard times. Faith means that, regardless of circumstances, we take Him at His word that He loves us, and He is at work in our lives.

3) *Evidence of God's love for you is not based on _____ because His love for you is based on _____.*

One of the ways God works in all things to prepare you for a deeper journey with Him is through difficult circumstances. Paul has experienced this for himself. See 2 Cor 1:3-4; 4:8-11; 11:25-29.

*In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new **covenant** in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 1 Corinthians 11:25*

Home Group Discussions:

Read the passage, Romans 8:35-39 and let your conversation be centered on the Word of God. Before you pull out your notes from Sunday, let's start with the Bible.

1. First of all, does anything stand out to you as you read this passage? Anything new? Hard? Challenging? Unusual? Hard to understand?
2. Of the three fill-in-the-blank items that Pastor Karl addressed in his message, which one do you connect with the most? Why is that?
3. What is the connection between experiencing hard times and growth as a Christian? Has this occurred in your life? When was that?
4. Read through 2 Cor 1:3-4; 4:8-11; 11:25-29.

Through these events, Paul got to experience personally what it was like to be in need of comfort and be comforted by God; what it was like to be overwhelmed by circumstances that were hard, heavy and out of control AND receive God's assurance; what it was like to be hated and hunted and be affirmed by God's love. These experiences took Paul into a deeper relationship with God.

Question based on these readings: Do we put too much emphasis on our circumstances and not enough focus on our faith in God?

5. Is it possible to be joyful or confident or content in the midst of circumstances that don't make sense?