

The Faith We Sing

April 25, 2021
“O Love That Will Not
Let Me Go”

OPENING PRAYER

O Gracious God, we thank you for the promise that through all our disappointments and heartaches, your love holds us fast. As suffering comes into our lives, so often we wonder where you are and lose hope. As we study today, open our eyes to the work that Christ has accomplished and your willingness to hold us tight even as we tend to wander. Renew our hope today with a fuller understanding of how we are “more than conquerors” over the struggles of this life.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Romans 8:28-39 (NIV)

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 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.”*

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.

INTRODUCTION

George Matheson, author of the hymn “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go,” shared the truth that God’s love holds us fast through all the disappointments and heartaches of our lives. Matheson echoes this truth from Paul’s words in Romans 8:38-39, which describes how nothing can separate us from “the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.” This great hope deeply encourages our souls when it can be internalized.

QUESTIONS

- 1) If you were to summarize Romans 8:28-39, what is Paul talking about? What are the big ideas he is trying to convey?
- 2) Read Psalm 139:7-8. What question does the Psalmist ask and what is the answer? How does this passage and the one in Romans change your view of God? Change your view of yourself?
- 3) Read Jeremiah 32:38-41. When the prophet describes the “everlasting covenant” that God has with God’s people, what happens to their hearts? How do you think a “fear” or awe of God enters our hearts? Have there been times that you sensed that God was drawing you back or closer? How did you know?
- 4) Read Colossians 2:13-15. According to the writer of Colossians, our debts and all that might have condemned us has been nailed to the cross. The “rulers and authorities” have been disarmed and put to open shame—for they have been triumphed over by the cross. What do the negative or evil “rulers and authorities” represent for you? What does it mean for you that they have been triumphed over by the cross?
- 5) What are the barriers that keep you from believing that God’s love will never let you go? Are you able to share these with your group? Pray together that you may continue to exchange the “flickering torch” of your faith for the blaze of sunshine that God is offering to guide your steps.

FINAL APPLICATION

We know that this world can never be the home to which we are bound. There are no political, social, economic, or physical solutions to our personal troubles, nor can these solutions truly transform the world. A triumphant life comes through Christ alone and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As you consider the cross and the hope that Christ’s resurrection brings, find a way to claim victory over your struggles and disappointments today.