

Retief Uys



Intro:

- ✓ God gave His Son: ACT of LOVE
- ✓ One of the reasons: "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8
- ✓ Isaiah 61 in me and through me by the Spirit
- ✓ LOVE makes WEAKNESS a WEAPON



Intro:

✓ LOVE makes WEAKNESS a WEAPON

What can I do?:

- 1. Acknowledge it is by grace and in Christ alone
- 2. Honest with yourself and God [as Gideon]
- 3. If you hide it, LOVE can't use it
- 4. Shift your trust: Paul 2 Corinthians 12:8 ... "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
- 5. Give it time in LOVE's Hands





Jesus said:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

'LOVE NEVER FAILS' [Agape]

1 Corinthians 13:8

Refresher: Agape - A simple way to summarize agape is God's divine love. Agape love is selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. It is the highest of the four types of love in the Bible. This Greek word, agápē, and variations of it are frequently found throughout the New Testament. Agape perfectly describes the kind of love Jesus Christ has for his Father and for his followers. Agape is the term that defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. It is his ongoing, outgoing, self-sacrificing concern for lost and fallen people.

2. Ever Reaching Love:

Romans 8:31-39 (HCSB)
The Believer's Triumph

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He did not even spare His own Son but offered Him up for us all; how will He not also with Him grant us everything? 33 Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the One who justifies. 34 Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the One who died, but even more, has been raised; He also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.



35 Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?36 As it is written: Because of You we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered. [a Ps 44:22]

37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that not even death or life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, hostile powers, 39 height or depth, or any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Romans 8:31-39 (NLT) Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love

31 What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? 32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[b] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

V35 Who can separate us from the love of Christ? (HCSB)
Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? (NLT)

V38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. (NLT)



No one and No Nothing

'Love never fails'

The heart

If I have trouble, calamity, are persecuted, am hungry, am destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 'Even if we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep?'



The heart

- **V 35 37**: But the best is LOVE is with us in spite of this all -
- ✓ In trouble, I am loved and Love is with me;
- ✓ In calamity, I am loved and Love is with me;
- ✓ In persecution, I am loved and Love is with me;
- ✓ In hunger, I am loved and Love is with me;
- ✓ In destitution, I am loved and Love is with me;
- ✓ In danger, I am loved and Love is with me;
- ✓ When threatened with death, I am loved and Love is with me;

If it is not a matter of feeling, it is a matter of FAITH

Psalm 139:7-12 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.



The heart

- V 38 39: 'For I am persuaded that not even..'
- ✓ Death and life;
- ✓ Angels or rulers;
- ✓ Presence;
- ✓ Future;
- ✓ Hostile powers demonic;
- ✓ Height or depth;
- ✓ Any created thing...

'can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!'



Our Journeys

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

The Narrow and Wide Gates

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.."

The narrow road is not easy, but LOVE is always found upon it. A tough journey of purpose!



And be encouraged -

Love will always come for you in His fullness

Let Him!

And oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God I Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine I And I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God, yeah There's no shadow You won't light up Mountain You won't climb up **Coming after me** There's no wall You won't kick down Lie You won't tear down **Coming after me** Reckless Love I Cory Asbury



2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (HCSB)

For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. 18 So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.



