

But He has given you a witness that you will inherit everything the Son has inherited. You have already inherited most of it. You haven't gotten a body. You are like the planet Earth, groaning, that went through the fall like you went through the fall, and is presently in travail like you are in travail. And I really want to emphasize this again. I'm going to use the term: the earth is down in the dumps. Now you know this colloquial expression. You are also down in the dumps. Camille, when's the last time you were down in the dumps about Camille? One second ago. (laughter) Chronically insecure believer. The earth is down in the dumps; it remembers. It's worse than you. It can remember the fall; you can't remember that. You only remember what you— the mess you've made out of things. The earth remembers the fall and groans and travails. It's down in the dumps, and it keeps one eye on you, waiting for the day when you get your body, knowing that it's going to get all new too.

That literally the entire creation is giving birth in the presence of your awaited glorification as a son of God and a daughter of God. Creation waits. But God gave you the first fruits of your new body. He gave you again the indwelling Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord. A Holy Spirit that witnesses that you are a child of His. That prays. That tells you. That comforts you. I don't care how many times you've been down in the dumps. You have also been comforted by an indwelling spirit who is the first fruits of your new body. The only thing you've got left to complain about is that you don't have a new body, and that's all. And even there, you have the first fruits.

All right. Why did He do all this for you, Camille? Because He's for me. Does that mean anything to you? Does that mean something to you? Camille, tomorrow, is that going to mean anything to you? If it doesn't, and tomorrow this message is gone, He's going to do one more thing. Praise the Lord. You are going to get down in the dumps— with the earth— with the earth. And you're going to feel really terrible because you pulled a big one. And God, your Father, is going to use that horrible moment to get some of the best praying done that is done.

Do you feel inadequate in your praying? Yeah, I think we all do. But when do you feel the most inadequate? I used the illustration the other night because this illustration is one I can identify with so well. I pull bad ones, I pull big ones, but God is for me. But the kind I dread the most is the kind I pull right before a meeting when I have to speak. Those are the ones I dread the most. Oh, you don't know what that is like for me, and I get morose. Do you know that word? That's a big, strong word. I get morose, but I'm going to repeat to you what I said the other night. I have the good sense to go and be morose; that's a big word, isn't it? Morose in the presence of God. And I groan. I hurt. I travail. Don't you? Don't you literally ache sometimes? That is because you don't have a redeemed body. That's the only reason there is. That's all. Everything else is covered. There isn't any other.

It's the isolation of the flesh that you're still carrying around with you. But in that moment, He has given you prayers from the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is sitting there saying, "Really bad kid we've got down here, God." I have the feeling, I have the feeling that we

cannot get over this feeling that God is really against us. He's watching everything we do. And in one of these moments, we really feel that He doesn't like us. "He doesn't like me anymore." That is the psychotically insecure saint. But while that is going on, He's for you. He is for you. And He's going to work it out to good, and He uses those moments to search your spirit. And your spirit's sitting over there, just as far from your flesh as east is from west, as heaven is from hell. And your spirit is over there just doing so well. And His Spirit searches your spirit and prays the prayers of your spirit: "Lord, I am sanctified. I am holy. I am righteous. I am justified. I am a son. I have the first fruits of the inheritance. I am cleansed. I am forgiven. I am dead to sin. I am dead to the law. I am one with Christ. And I am hidden in God."

And the Holy Spirit takes that inventory of your spirit and reports it back to God— God the Father. "Father, he's one with Christ. He's hidden in the Holy Spirit. He has the first fruits of redemption of the body. He is chosen by You; he has Your inheritance and Your sonship in Him." And the Father then is inventoried by the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit discovers God's will for you.

God the Father reads Romans chapters 1 through 8, and He reports back to the Holy Spirit your present status and what His will for you is. "Oh, do I buy a new car tomorrow?" That's not the will we're talking about here. His will is that you are foreknown. His will is that you are predestined. His will is that you are justified. His will is that you will be glorified. That is the discovery of God's will for you by the Holy Spirit. And this is reported back to your spirit. And that's why, Camille, you eventually get resurrection. Amen. He is taking care of you, Camille. He has taken care of you, and He is, in your worst weaknesses, caring for you. Now, why does God take such good care of Camille? That's right, tell her, would you? *He is for you.* And He has worked out even the worst possible thing that does happen to you today when you get down in the dumps. Use that time for the communion of spirit to spirit, deep to deep, cataract to cataract, to know the will of God in your life.

Brothers and sisters, He was determined to work all things out for good, and now we come to this passage again. That's where we ended, right there. And He makes intercessions for the saints according to the will of God. And now then, we know. Follow with me now. This is what we know. Are you awake? Wake up. Are you in any way convinced that God is for you? Camille, a little bit? All right, praise the Lord. Linda, is God for you? Yeah. Oh, there's another really secure Christian (laughter). Here we go. I'm going to just read this the way you need to hear it.

And now you know that God caused everything to work together for your good. Everything that has preceded this in the book of Romans, every bad thing, He turned to good. Every possible situation that came against you, He turned it to good, because you are one He loves, and you are one for whom He has fulfilled His purpose. You, before any of this happened, before you knew any of this was going to happen— long before these terrible and wonderful things— He imagined you. And when He did that, He fell in love with you. And then He was for you. He was as much for you as His own dear Son from the moment He

imagined you. He foreknew you before you were. At that moment, you were utterly secure in God. Amen.

And after He foreknew you, He marked you off. You! You! He marked off. And He said, "For this one, I have imagined him. And now I have marked him off. I have predestined him. I have set him aside. I have made him unique. And this is his final destiny. When I have finished with him, when I have finished with her, she will be utterly, totally, absolutely, completely, in every way, in the likeness of My eternal Son." He was that much for you. And that was settled before you were born.

Don't kick it. Don't kick against it, saint. Go ahead and accept it. He predestined you to be utterly like His Son. And then you got more. And He called you. Why did He call you? Yes, sister, He was so utterly for you by now, He'd already decided you were going to be in the very likeness and the perfection of His Son, so He called you.

Now, He's not troubled. He is not insecure about this outcome. No matter how down in the dumps you get, this is His perspective of what is going on. So, He called you. And having called you, He noticed that there were a few problems. Oh yes, by the way, I had forgotten. And so, He justified you, putting you back into the place that you were when He imagined you before you were born, and the place where He predestined you to be. He therefore returned you to that highest state. He justified you. And whom He justified, He will also glorify.

No! He gave up on you. He gave up on you, your utter chronic insecurity, and He said, "Forget the day I'm going to justify or glorify Camille. I *have* glorified her." He finished it all and put you with His Son. "Gene, I'm dragging around my flesh." No, actually, you are not. You have been separated in the eyes of God from your flesh. And Camille, He has already implanted the glorified body. And in His eyes, that glorified body is right where it ought to be. And you have been glorified.

"Well, Gene, I don't feel glorified." At this point, I have to throw up my hands to you and to me and say, yes, we are still weak, but the fact remains, you have been glorified. And at this, saints, there's nothing left to do. There is nothing more to be accomplished. You have been glorified. I want to hear you say it: I have been glorified. Say it. I have been glorified. In Him, you also He glorified. Say it. I am glorified. Oh, this crowd over here is not as strong as that crowd over there. I am glorified. Your spirit needs to hear that. So does your soul. It doesn't really matter about your flesh. You, He also glorified. And here it comes, like a mighty ocean coming back to that trial. He took us out of the good deeds. He took us out of the law. He took us out of sin. He took us out of death. He took us away from Adam's race and put us into the race of His sons. He took us and put us upon the throne where death once reigned. He has also adopted us as sons. He has made us one with Jesus Christ. He has sanctified us. He has also imagined us. He has predestined us. He has called us. And He has justified us. And He has glorified us. He did all of that *because He was for you*. You! Me! And when He could do nothing else, He also glorified you. *What shall we say to these things?*

*If God is for us, who is against us?* Nobody. Say it. Nobody. Nobody that matters. You know, He didn't say, "Who's against us?" That would have been a terrible thing to ask. He said, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Is God for you? All right, then, who can be against you?

When I was a young, new Christian, I had someone who believed you could fall from grace. And I said, "What about this passage?" And he said, "Well, it lists everything, but it doesn't list you." But you know something? That's not true. And you just notice here in a minute, that's not true. It lists everything, including you.

Brothers and sisters, let's go back to it: What shall we say then? If God is for us, who is against us? Tell me. Nobody. Nobody, or nobody that matters. It doesn't matter. Well, either way, take it. All right. And now he comes to this climactic word. How much did He care for you? How much was He on your side? How little can be said against you? God took His own Son. And because He was for you, even His own Son, He did not spare for your sake, just for you. He delivered Him up to be crucified, to do all of these things for you. Will He not then freely give you all things? Yes or no? Say it. Yes, He will give you all things.

That's not correct. He has given you all things. He's given it all to you. He's given you Romans 1 through 8. That's what He's given you. There's nothing left to give. Will He not therefore give you all things and give it to you freely?

Alright. Who will bring a charge against God's elect? For God alone is the one who justifies. Tell me, dear saints, now talk to me. Who will condemn you? Say it. I want to hear you talking about it. Who can condemn you? Why can they not condemn you? For condemnation itself has died. In sin, condemnation has died. Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, but rather—no—He was raised from the dead, who at this moment is at the right hand of God. And He—who God did not spare for you because He was for you, that all things would work together for you because you love Him—this One who went through all of this, on top of everything else, not only is God pulling for you, but the Son is pulling for you. Tomorrow, He will pull for you. No, say it: right now, He is pulling for you.

And Gene Edwards, the next time you pull a big one and you're about to come in here and speak, God is for you, and He's worked out everything in the universe that was bad and turned it to good for your sake. And the Holy Spirit will groan and pray inside of you. And Jesus Christ—whom God spared not for me—is going to step in and intercede for me in that moment. Praise the Lord. Joni, does this help you a little bit? You're encouraged. Joni, you have to be a little bit more than encouraged.

Alright. I have not yet finished. Who sits at the right hand of God and who intercedes for us? Who, then, is going to separate you from the love of God? Come on, talk to me. Who will separate you from the love of God? It cannot be done. I'm going to ask you again: Who can separate you from the love of God? Well, say it to me then. Nothing. Nothing. Say it. Nothing. All right. Then let's look at what can or cannot. Will you join with me? He sits at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. That is the last thing that we hear.

Who then shall separate us from the love of God? Shall getting down in the dumps separate you from the love of God? No. Do you feel separated from the love of God when you get down in the dumps? Be honest. This is the same travail, the tribulation that you were going through earlier. But shall tribulation separate you from the love of God? No. No matter how you feel about yourself, you are not at that moment, in any way, shape, form, or manner, separated from the love of God.

Well then, shall stress separate you from the love of God? Do you get under stress? Does it feel good? Does it feel bad? You lose your house. You lose your job. You lose your reputation. You lose your health. You lose your wife's blessings. You lose your husband's niceness. You lose your money. You lose all of these things. Does that separate you from the love of God? No. Say it. No! Will persecution separate you from the love of God? Will the way people think about you separate you from the love of God? Everybody doesn't like you, Roy. Nobody likes you. Does that separate you from the love of God?

Alright, then, does running out of food, getting so poor that you don't have anything to eat—that is obviously evidence that God's blessing has left you? You have got no friends in this world. Everybody dislikes you. You're under enormous stress. You're down in the dumps. And now you run out of food. You've got nothing to eat. That must be proof God doesn't love you, is it? No! Praise the Lord. And neither tribulation nor stress, nor persecution nor famine. I've got no food, and now I'm down to no clothes. I am in debt. I am down in the dumps. I am under stress. Nobody, nobody likes me. I have run out of food, and now I'm out of clothes.

Now, saints, don't kid me —if there's any message in this whatsoever, that message is: never let circumstances tell you how God feels about you. Never let any circumstance or all circumstances— I think that I can handle not any circumstance, but I can handle a circumstance, but when circumstance begins to breed and breed and breed and breed, then I begin to wonder about me and God. And I begin to wonder about God and me. And I wonder...

Neither getting down in the dumps, nor living under stress, nor losing everybody on earth's good feelings about me, nor running out of food and running out of clothes, nor even a physical threat to my life. Now, let's put all that together. I'm down in the dumps. I'm under stress. Nobody likes me anymore. Have you ever had this feeling? Let me tell you what it's like to be a controversial person. And most of you don't really know what that's like. I mean to be consistently controversial wherever you go and not mean it and not intend to. You can really begin to wonder if there's anybody on this earth who likes you. And you don't blame them. You're not feeling sorry for yourself. You really begin to wonder about you— about me.

Down in the dumps. Stress. Nobody likes you. Out of money, out of food. You can't be out of food without being out of money. You're out of food. You're out of clothes. And now you're

in peril of your own life. Surely, God doesn't love me anymore. Surely, I have really done something wrong. I have done something bad.

God is for me. And even here, He'll work it to good. And now I am literally being chased for my life. I am in peril of death upon this earth. Now, would you not say that you could lose, at this point, a sense of security in your relationship to the Lord? You would, would you not? Most assuredly. And then the door opens, and someone walks in with a gun and takes aim and says, "This world has had enough of you." There you are - unliked by anybody, broke, haven't eaten in weeks, because God doesn't love you. Got no friends left in this world. Everybody's turned against you, and you're stark naked. "We've been looking for you for days, and we finally found you. You are absolutely the scum of this earth. And now, old fella, you're going to get it. Right between the ribs."

Is God for you? I mean, really and truly, is He for you in that moment? Has anything changed? Listen: He committed Himself to put you into the image of His Son long before one atom of you ever existed. And in that moment, the Son of the living God is praying for you. The Holy Spirit is witnessing, is inventorying your spirit, and telling God what a wonderful state you're in. And the Father is hearing, and the Son is interceding, and angels are preparing to rejoice.

Listen to this old man. Wrap it up. It's true. Verse 35 is true. Why is it true? Why? How could anybody get in that many messes all at once? For the sake of our Father, it has happened. You are about to die for His sake. That's why you're about to get the sword. It is for His sake. I would say, for His glory. But in your being down in the dumps, in your being under stress, in your having lost all your friends, in your having run out of money and food and run out of clothing and being disliked and even hunted down, you are, now, you have been, and in that moment unchanged, you have conquered everything. You don't know it, but you conquered the down in the dumps. You conquered the stress. You conquered the persecution, the being disliked. You conquered poverty. You conquered being threadbare. You conquered being chased and hated by men. In fact, you are more than that. You are more than conquerors are. Whatever conquerors are, you're more than that. You are right now more than that. Praise the Lord. *Why? Because He is for you.* He loves you. And He works all things together for good to you.

And now, listen to the old man. He stands up on his feet. He himself has been through it all. I am utterly convinced that death cannot separate me from the love of God, for death has been put away. Or life - and that's speaking of human life. And that's speaking of being down in the dumps and under stress and being disliked and being broke and hungry and being threadbare and being threatened by men—that none of that can separate you from the love of God.

Now let me ask you a question. Are you going to get down in the dumps again? Will it affect your relationship to Jesus Christ? Will you be under stress again? Will it do anything to your relationship to God? Will you be persecuted and disliked by people? Absolutely. Are you

going to be poor again? You're going to be "brooker than Job's turkey." You can bet on it. Will this in any way reflect on God's opinion of you or your relationship to Him? Well then, stop acting that way. Let not circumstances dictate to you your own feeling about how God feels about you. It is not true.

Are you going to be in peril? I don't know, but there is nothing in the contents of life on this earth that can separate you from all the riches that we have seen tonight, given to you by a God who is for you. Utterly. And shall angels separate you from the love of God? Shall Satan? No, for he is already damned. And the good angels—the elect angels—they minister for your sake. What about the principalities? They have had their weapons taken away from them.

"But Gene, isn't there anything that you might have overlooked that could affect me? Because sometimes I feel pretty bad." And so, Paul of Tarsus makes a clean sweep of it. There is absolutely nothing going on in the present time - there is nothing happening in the present, on this earth or anywhere else in this created universe where time ticks - that will separate you or lower your standard in the eyes of God. There is nothing in the future that is going to affect you in your relationship to God, no matter how low you get. And there is also no present, no future, and no power that is either now or then. There is no power. And boy, that includes the power of your own soul. There is no power. There is no power. There is no strength, no energy, no known force—yours or anyone else's—that can break from you all the riches of God in Christ Jesus, given to you even before you were born.

Is there anything that could possibly be overlooked? And now Paul takes it all in. I'm in verse 39. Neither the first dimension, are you with me? Nor the second dimension, nor the third, nor the fourth dimension. There is nothing in the first dimension, the second dimension, the third dimension, or the fourth dimension that can separate you from the love of God.

Camille, that is all that can be said. And nothing more can be done. You will fall in your high standing with God only under one condition, and there is none left but this one: you will fall from your highest state on the day that His Son falls from His highest state.

Praise the Lord. And that will never happen. Now, I don't know if you're clear, but I want to close by getting you clear. You have had the most wonderful thing on earth to happen to you, or in the skies or heavens or any other place. My dear child of God, you have peace with God. That's what you got. There can't be anything ever between you and Him but peace.

It's over with, saints. Nothing can disturb it. You have gained peace with God. Put in the simplest words that can be stated: He's for you, and it's all working for your good. Every bit of it. The fall itself. You and I have gained indestructible, undissolvable, unbreakable, unamendable peace with God. And in having gained it, having gained a state that is...Praise the Lord. Well, Lord, we may not change a lot. We cannot know this without it affecting us. Lord, it's going to be a little different from this point on. Praise Your name, and thank You, Lord, for these incredible words that You left us.