

God is for Us; Romans 8:31-32

1. Fortress.
 - a. A fortress can be an imposing sight.
 - i. Coming up to a fortress while traveling could be very intimidating.
 - ii. Are they friendly? Are they hostile? Is there an army inside waiting to attack?
 - b. The view from inside the fortress is very comforting.
 - i. The thick stone, bricks, or wood makes us feel secure.
 - ii. We feel safe inside, knowing no one can get in and harm us.
 - c. David sees God as his fortress, his refuge.
 - i. Psalm 18:1–3: “I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.”
 - ii. Saul hounded David, trying to kill him.
 - iii. God delivered David, and David wrote this praise to God.
 - d. “Sing with joy now; our God is for us. The Father’s love is a strong and mighty fortress.”
2. The Father’s love.
 - a. Looking out from the embrace of the Father brings a feeling of security, comfort, and love.
 - i. I think of holding my grandchildren and having someone walk up to them.
 - ii. They bury their heads in my neck and snuggle a bit closer to me.
 - iii. “We won’t fear the battle, we won’t fear the night. We will walk the valley with You by our side.”
 - iv. I am reminded of the valley of the shadow of death in Psalm 23.
 - v. Psalm 23:4: “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”
 - vi. David wrote several Psalms about his time running from Saul.
 1. Psalm 57:1–2: “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.”
 2. Psalm 59:14–17: “Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city. They wander about for food and growl if they do not get their fill. But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.”
 - vii. It is clear that David found comfort and safety in the arms of the Father’s love.
 - b. We have the fulfillment of the Father’s love through His Son, Jesus.
 - i. Romans 5:6–8: “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- ii. Just as God chose David, a man after God’s own heart, we, too, are chosen to be His people: a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a chosen race, a people for His own possession. (1 Peter 2:9).
 - iii. Why would we choose to put our trust in anyone or anything else?
 - iv. Why would we choose someone or something else to walk our valley with us?
 - v. “If God is for us, who can be against us?”
 - c. It is only in the arms of the Father that we have no fear of the battle or the night.
- 3. Even When I Stumble
 - a. “Even when I stumble, even when I fall, even when I turn back still your love is sure.”
 - b. As hard as we try to live without stumbling, we fall. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
 - i. We tend to forget about the very next verse.
 - ii. Romans 3:23–24: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,”
 - iii. The NASB95 says, “**being** justified by his grace.”
 - iv. “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;”
 - v. The idea is that in the middle of my sin, I am justified by the blood of Jesus.
 - vi. John writes something very similar.
 - vii. 1 John 1:5–10 “This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”
 - viii. We need to stop asking for God’s forgiveness and start thanking Him for it.
 - c. We have a God who goes before us and is for us.
- 4. Who can be against us?
 - a. The Great I AM, the God Almighty, is on our side!
 - i. Romans 8:31–32: “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”
 - ii. He declares us clean through the blood of His Son, Jesus.
 - iii. No one can accuse us.
 - 1. Are we guilty? Yes! But Jesus has stepped into our place.
 - 2. No one else has died for us except Jesus.
 - 3. No one else has been resurrected for us except Jesus.
 - 4. No one is interceding for us except Jesus.
 - 5. Romans 8:33–34: “Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”
 - b. God walks with us.

- i. Romans 8:26–27: “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”
- ii. He has given us His Spirit, the comforter, and made us His dwelling place.
- iii. He goes through what we go through with us.
- iv. What we feel, He feels with us.
- v. Our God manifested Himself here on the Earth He created and walked as a human.
 - 1. John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
 - 2. He left the glory and splendor of Heaven to become the perfect sacrifice for His creation, humanity.
 - 3. Philippians 2:5–8: “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”
- c. Separation.
 - i. And this is the best part: as long as we are walking in that light, we are connected with God.
 - ii. Nothing can separate us.
 - iii. As long as we are in the light, Jesus’ blood washes our sins away!
- d. “Sing with joy now, our God is for us. The Father’s love is a strong and my fortress.”
- 5. God is for us.
 - a. “Raise your voice now, no love is greater. Who can stand against us if our God is for us?”
 - b. Our Father is a fortress.
 - c. The Great I AM dwells in us.
 - d. The Almighty God walks with us.