

LET US BE CONFIDENT, GOD IS FOR US!

It is very common to find people live with reasonable questions, negative minds, and wrong perspectives. Bible reveals several characters who trusted in God but had to go through real transformation in life. They all experienced God who is in control.

Gideon had reasonable questions, "if the Lord is with us why has all this happened to us? Where are all the wonders that our fathers told us about? Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt? But the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian" (Judges 6:13). God assured His presence with him while he would strike down all the Midianites together. Gideon defeated the enemies with a small group of people (Ch. 7) and proved God was with Israel.

David in alarm doubted, God, I am cut off from your sight (Ps. 31:22). This is true with every one of us. We feel lonely for certain moments in life but realize very soon God is with us. He was transformed as man of God's own heart.

Asaph became negative minded for seeing the wealthy- healthy wicked people around while he had been plagued and punished every morning though kept a pure heart (Ps. 73:13-14). He was convinced of God who held him with right hand with guidance and counsel to take him to glory at the end (23-24). When we are constantly affected with sickness as an individual, family and a congregation we need to enter the sanctuary of God for the answers (17).

Apostle Paul narrated the life in Christ through the Spirit which gives us the blessed assurance that we are more than conquerors in the world. To have right perspective in life, we need to be grounded in scriptural revelation. Christian life doesn't mean that we have no problems. Paul highlighted several opponents in our life at the end of chapter 8 to prove that If God is for us no challenges could defeat us. Let us know the fundamental truths to believe that God is for us.

1. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (8:1)
2. We are led by the Spirit of God assures us that we are sons of God (8:14)
3. We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him and have been called by His purpose (8:28)
4. We are convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (8:37-38).

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

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If God is for us, who can be against us?

Preeti Regi, Sunday School Principal

This rhetorical question from Paul is one that has the most obvious answer. If God is for us, NOTHING can stand against the name of Jesus. Know this, that the devil will flee because 1 John 4:4 says, "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

FIRST - "Is God for us"? Scripture is very clear that even before creation, God had a plan for the redemption of the sinful and rebellious man. His plan entails the sacrifice of his only beloved Son to be paid as debt offering for our sins. Why? Because He loves us and pursues us with grace, so we believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

Time and time again we hear these promises woven into scripture - In the Old Testament, God told Isaac, "Fear not, for I am with you" - (*Genesis 26:24*). As the risen Lord prepares to return to heaven, He leaves His disciples and us with this promise, "Lo, I am with you always" (*Mat 28:20*).

SECOND - If God is for us, then why does suffering, sickness, pain, and death still stand against us? A purposeful question for Christian's.... and the most meaningful answer is -

God is still dealing with the matter of the heart that is..."Sin" so until that is taken care of there will be suffering. Also, suffering for the Christian is a testimony to the world of the following:

- The Glory of God displayed through suffering,
- The strength of God made perfect in our weakness.
- The pruning of the vine that creates more fruit for His kingdom.
- The ever-sufficient Grace that provides Peace that surpasses all understanding.

(Col 1:27) says "Christ in us is the hope of Glory." So, we are hopeful of that day when the Lord comes to get His own:

- Every wrong will be made right
- Every tear will be wiped off.
- Our beloved ones who are asleep will be raised again and be with us forever.

THIRD - Meditate on this, Ultimately, our victory through Christ lies in the fact that

- No grave will hold God's people, because He has won the victory through His resurrection.
- The battle belongs to the Lord because He has already won the victory for us since He has overcome and assured us rest.

All this should encourage believers today to take God at His Word concerning our position in Christ with respect to the enemy.