

Romans Road

**Group Writing
Project**

24 Contributors

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Introduction

Faithful Bloggers is a community for Christian bloggers. Our purpose is to provide a common ground where we can encourage one another to use our blogs for the glory of God. While we want to mix and mingle and have fun, our purpose is to help you build a blog that will glorify the Lord while also strengthening your relationship with Him.

Why was Faithful Bloggers started?

As blogging continues to grow in popularity amongst women, a wonderful benefit to this “hobby” has arisen. The ability to meet new friends and form relationships is easier than ever. For those who are in rural areas or are housebound in some way, meeting someone is as easy as turning on your computer and relaying your thoughts. For Christians a challenge becomes apparent. Due to the rampant ungodliness that abounds on the Internet, the world of blogging is an overwhelming and often scary place to be. Where can a person who is striving to live the Christian life find an online area of common ground where she can build those godly relationships? Searching for Christian bloggers can be achieved through a simple search. It is overwhelming, however, to find that sense of community with a common purpose – becoming holy and serving our God – when we limit it to just searching through a search engine. Thus, Faithful Bloggers was born.

The Project

Faithful Bloggers issued a group writing challenge and 24 Christian bloggers stepped up and met the challenge.

The Challenge

The topic for the second Faithful Blogger’s Group Writing Project was about Romans Road. Each blogger selected a verse and wrote a post explaining what that verse means to them. It could be as long or as short as they wanted. It could be a personal testimony, a devotional, or Bible study in nature. The only rule was that it had to be about a verse from Romans Road.

Romans Road

Romans 3: 23, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

Romans 3:10-18, *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat [is] an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps [is] under their lips: Whose mouth [is] full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet [are] swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery [are] in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes”*

Romans 6:23, *“For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Romans 5:8, *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Romans 10:9, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

Romans 10:13, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

Romans 5:1, *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”*

Romans 8:1, *“[There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

Romans 8:38-39, *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Romans 3:23

I think **SIN** is a major stumbling block to getting saved. After all, if you don't believe you're a sinner, why would you need a Savior?

You may think that certainly all people realize they sin. But many people rationalize sin. They claim their intentions are pure. Or they may say they've never committed the really **BIG SINS** like murder or adultery.

But Jesus says in Matthew 5:27-28:

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

The standard is extremely high!

God is holy. He is perfect. He cannot come into the presence of sin.

Consider this analogy. If you walked into a smoke filled room and you never smoked, you would immediately be aware of the odor. But if you were a smoker and you walked into that same room, you may not even be aware of the smell.

That's like us rationalizing sin. We tend to adjust to our own standard instead of God's standard of perfection.



We are born into this world with a sin nature. You can thank Adam and Eve for that.

Since God cannot be in the presence of sin, what can we do?

- We can't earn holiness.
- We can't do acts of penance to secure us a place in heaven.

The only way to God the Father is **...through Jesus His Son.**

That is the most wonderful gift from a loving God. He knew we were doomed because of sin. But He sent Jesus to be fully human and fully Divine. He lived a perfect life without sin and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He was punished for you and me.

Because He was the only One who could live that perfect life, He offers us a way to come to the Father. By receiving His gift of life, we can be set free from the penalty of our sins.

But there is one thing you must do to be saved.



You must **receive this free gift** into your heart.

Admit that you're a sinner and you can't save yourself. Simply invite Jesus into your heart.

He will change you from the inside out and **...you will never be the same.**

■ [Debbie, Heart Choices](#)

I remember having an in-class discussion back in high school about whether people are inherently good or evil. The discussion occurred while we were reading the book *Lord of the Flies*, in which a group of schoolboys are stranded on a island. As they attempt to govern themselves the situation quickly devolves into anarchy and chaos.

I was so surprised to find that I was the only person in the class who believed in any sort of sin nature. Everyone else believed we come into this world perfectly good and are corrupted by our environment.

Clearly, God's Word says differently. *All* have sinned. Everyone of us. And we sin because it is our nature to do so, not because we have been taught to.

Children are a great illustration of this.

Did you have to teach your children to be disobedient?

Did you show your toddler how to have a temper tantrum?

Did you sit little Johnny down and tell him it's time he learn how to lie?

Of course not. All of these behaviors have to be disciplined out of children, not taught to them. This is because of the fall. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the garden every child has come into this world with a sin-stained heart - all but one that is.

Jesus, who dwelt as God and with God from all eternity, was born of a virgin and lived a perfectly sinless life. He died on a cross as a substitute for us so that all who repent and believe in Him may have eternal life. Jesus, the sinless Savior, was punished for our sins so that we can find forgiveness at the cross.

■ [Jessica, By Grace Alone](#)

You try so hard to teach your children right from wrong. You take them to church to ensure they know what the Bible says, and yet, as they turn into teenagers, they begin to rebel. They do things that they know are not right such as sneaking out, drinking, smoking and so on. "Why?" you ask them. The response: "because everyone else is doing it. I just want them to like me." Frustrating, right?

Peer pressure is extremely difficult to handle as a teenager. Adults have a hard time telling their friends no, but for teenagers, it is worse. So much is changing with them and that is awkward. The only thing they want is to be accepted. Unfortunately, that means they do things they know are wrong.

Remember that the Bible says in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" No one is without sin. You sinned, your parents sinned, and your kids will sin. The important thing is to help them understand what they did was wrong and help them to ask God for forgiveness. Show them that ours is a loving God, who knows our human weaknesses and loved us so much that He made a way for us to escape death and Hell, even before we served Him.

If your teenagers are going through this stage in their lives, pray for them, and help them pray for themselves. Show them in a loving way that what they're doing is wrong and make sure they understand that you discipline them because you love them and you want to help them. Remind them that their actions will always have consequences good or bad, and you only want the very best for them.

Pray for your child to see the error of his/her ways, and when he/she does, be prepared to pray with him/her for forgiveness. (It's important to add your child's name where you can, since you are praying a faith prayer over your child.)

Father, I know that what my child did was wrong and I ask your help in showing him/her that. I know that I have to discipline him/her according to your word in Proverbs 13:24. Reach out to my child and

show him/her your ways, and help me to be ready to pray with him/her when he/she is ready to receive. Guide me as I go through each day so that I am better prepared to handle the situations that I am faced with concerning my child, in Jesus name. Amen

■ [Amy, My Life as Me](#)

Romans 3:10-18

These are very serious charges. The verdict: guilty. Who is the guilty party? All of mankind. Who indicts us? God Himself

Man is corrupt. You can deny if you want. It doesn't matter. The evidence is all around us. Don't believe me? Turn on the news. Look at your neighbors. Look at your family. Take an honest look at yourself! We are a sin stained people.

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

The Word of God tells us that only Jesus Christ, who is also God, is good. There has never been nor will there ever be a perfect person other than Jesus Christ. It's not possible. As humans we have a sin nature, and that nature will prevent us from ever being the good people we tell ourselves that we are. As good as you want to believe yourself to be God says that it just isn't so. By nature we are wicked. No amount of good works can save you or make you good. Our ability to do good just makes us a sinful people that sometimes does good things.

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Sin keeps us blind to the truth of our nature and who God truly is and our need for Him. The world doesn't really care for God, so we don't truly seek Him out. We don't even understand who He is or why we need Him so why would we seek Him out? The world is unable to understand the character of God. Because of their spiritual blindness unsaved man is unable to see his need for God and His love for us.

Oh, people fall into all kinds of false religions all day long. Sure. But, they are only seeking head knowledge, not heart knowledge. They want to be seen as holy and spiritual. The truth is that they never really sought God out, the One True God, because if they did they'd have to come face to face with the truth about themselves. The truth being that we are full of sin and need to change, and that the only way to change is to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior.

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

We seek to do our own thing; go our own way. Instead of going right and doing the right thing we go left and walk down the wrong path. Even when we know the truth we do not always take heed. It is not in our nature to do the good and right thing.

Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

The words we speak are only a reflection of the things that are in our hearts. We use our mouths to speak such ugliness sometimes. We lie, and curse one another, argue. We use our mouths for hate, deceit and evil. We murder each other with our words. Many people have been destroyed emotionally by the hurtful things others had said to them. Others still have had reputations destroyed. Our tongues are small and yet powerful. We say that we are good, and yet we show no love for God, ourselves or others. Even our speech is corrupt. Like an open grave our hearts are rotten and we spew forth what is in our hearts out of our mouths.

Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

We don't always speak to others with love. We gossip, malign others, lie, curse. Our mouths are full of filth. Many times we do not hesitate to speak in a heartless manner. Instead of speaking thoughtfully we speak thoughtlessly. Out of our mouths we show the ugliness that resides in our hearts.

Their feet are swift to shed blood:

People are often quick to do evil and slow to do what is right. Revenge. Murder. People are spiteful and hateful by nature. Tit for tat. An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. If you have ever hated someone then you have held murder in your heart. Just the thought of murder is murder to God. People are generally at the ready to do wrong. If it weren't against the law more violence and crimes would take place in the world because of the wickedness in our hearts. We are vengeful by nature. We have no value for each other. We have no true appreciation for life. Without restraints the world would be even more wicked because it is human nature to be destructive.

Destruction and misery are in their ways:

Misery and destruction is spread everywhere the unsaved person goes because that person has no peace. The saying "misery loves company" is rooted in truth. Misery does love company and the lost take it with them wherever they go. Anger, bitterness, animosity, violence. The destruction and misery of man is all around us. It is inherent. That is why man's heart is so full of evil.

And the way of peace have they not known:

The wicked cannot know or spread peace. Because man is not good and full of wickedness, and quick to do all that is not right it is not possible for man to act peaceably. This is why we fight and have wars, and commit numerous other acts of violence, thoughtlessness, selfishness and carelessness. Peace does not live in us.

There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Proverbs 1:7 says "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. "

Proverbs 1:7 explains it all! We want to follow our own way. We want to do our own thing. Because there is no fear of God the unsaved person could care less about following the ways of God. They think that they are wise, but they are truly foolish. They have no reverence. This is why man is as he is. Until man develops fear of the Lord he will remain ignorant.

I know a few people that claim to “believe in God” but they don’t want to live for Him. Belief in God alone is not enough. That’s just an acknowledgement that you believe that God exists. But belief is not knowing. Belief is not relationship. Belief is not reverential fear of God and His ways. Belief in God alone is no different than my believing that the sky is blue. That knowledge does not affect my life. That knowledge does not change me and make me new. If belief alone is all you have then you are still lost. You must put your faith and trust in the Lord. You must not only believe in Him, but choose Him. You must choose Christ!

We all need Jesus

We all need Jesus. Every single last one of us. Without the Lord we have nothing even if we have every material thing. Without Jesus we all lead empty lives of destruction, deceit, corruption and wickedness.

Only God can change us and make us new. Try as you might you can never change yourself. You have read the charges against you. You are guilty. There is no denying it and no way around it.

So what are you going to do? God is knocking on the heart of somebody reading this. I know He is. Some one is feeling convicted. You can walk away and hold on to your false sense of goodness, but that won’t save you or get you into Heaven.

No one is good enough. Not me. Not you. Only God is good. If you died right now you would not go to Heaven. You would go to Hell and it IS a real place. Your excuses can’t save you. You can not justify your way to God.

We have all sinned

Romans 3: 19-20 says “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

We have all sinned before God. We have all broken every last one of His Commandments. Several of them have been mentioned here. The Words of God have been spoken. The truth of your true spiritual condition has been laid out before you. You can no longer live blindly. You now know the truth. Justifications can’t help you. Your mouth has been stopped. Your excuses are gone. To continue on as you have been is to knowingly continue on the path of destruction.

God doesn’t want any of us to go to Hell. He wants us all to come to Him and repent of our sins and put our trust in Jesus. Jesus died for us so that by putting our faith and trust in Him we can have eternal life in Heaven. Without Christ Hell is the only place for us because God can not allow unrighteousness into His Holy Presence. Only through Jesus Christ can we be made right with God.

For God so loved the world

Jesus Himself tells us in John 3: 16 that “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. “

God sent Jesus to us to save us. Don’t try to clean yourself up first. You can’t. Only God can cleanse us

and change us and make us new. Don't wait until tomorrow to accept this free gift of Salvation. Tomorrow may never come. Don't wait to give your life to the Lord. Stop and do it now.

Romans 10: 9-10 says "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Just say a simple prayer. It needn't be pretty or fancy. Let it come from your heart. It must be real. You can't fake it. It must be true. An empty confession of faith will not help you. You must truly believe the words that you are about to speak. Just tell Him that you know you are a sinner, and that you repent of your sins. Tell God that you believe that Jesus died for you, was buried and rose from the dead. Tell Him that you are giving your life to Jesus and that you invite Him into your life to be your Lord and Savior.

That's it. Now buy a Bible. I recommend the KJV (King James Bible). If you can't afford one right now there are numerous free online Bibles. Read it daily. Speak to God in prayer daily. Find a good Bible believing Christ-centered church and worship and have fellowship with other believers. Be baptized. Serve in some capacity with others in your church. And tell others about Christ!

■ [Haneefah, Reflections of a Queen](#)

Romans 6:23

Everyone sins daily. Not even the writers of the Bible are exempt. Let's take Saul for example.

At first Saul was not a believer and he did ungodly things. He killed people that followed Jesus. Then Jesus spoke to him in a blinding light and asked why he was persecuting him. Saul said, "Who are you." Jesus said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." At that point Saul knew Jesus was real. Saul became blind for several days. Then God sent three men to minister to him. He accepted Jesus as his Savior and God changed his name to Paul. God is just and fair and because he heard Paul's prayer he forgave his sin and granted him eternal life.

Romans 6:23 says "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." If you have sinned or you continue to sin, you need to ask for forgiveness. Once you ask for forgiveness, God is merciful and will forgive.

God is merciful to forgive all of the sins that people commit and repent of each day. Those who refuse to repent are condemned, but he forgives those that ask for it. We are not to refuse to forgive either, because that's sinning too. It may be hard, but we need to let go of things and let God handle them.

If you find it's hard to stop sinning, you need to ask God to help you and guide you through this difficult time, then listen to him and do what he tells you to do. God will not ask you to do anything that is bad or evil. He won't ask you to do anything that is against the law. If you have those feelings, the devil is trying to confuse you. You need to resist him and he will flee from you, according to God's word.

Here is a prayer you can say to help you get through this difficult time.

Dear Lord, I praise and thank you for all you have done and will do in my life. I have sinned and I know that's wrong. I ask for forgiveness of all my sins. Thank you for helping and guiding me through this difficult time and showing me what is right and what is wrong. I thank you for the strength to stand strong when evil tries to get in, in Jesus name. Amen

■ [Corrie, Heavenly Crosses](#)

We start right out with sin. There is no way around it at all. Thanks to Adam and Eve there in the garden. Eve just had to listen to that snake. To this day I do not like snakes and maybe that's why. Back to Eve. It was bad enough that she had to eat of the fruit that she knew she was not to have eaten of, but turned around and gave it to Adam so he could also eat. Now we have the sin problem!



Stop and think, do you think we would have done any better if we had been there? Think about the last week or yesterday, did we go without sinning? Probably not.



Sin brings death. Lets take a look at the sweet, cute, loving, little new born baby. Surely there is no sin in that baby.

They are too young to know anything about sin and never would sin. The Bible tells us "that all have sinned" in Romans 3:23. Think about your children when they were babies, only one thing was of interest to them and that was themselves and their needs.. That sure sounds like sin to me.

We go from **sin** to a **gift**. That sounds so much better to me.



Do we not all like to get gifts? Christmas, birthdays, other holidays and sometimes just an unexpected gift are nice to get. They are so much fun. Then we are expected to give back gifts on some of these occasions.

The best gift of all that we can get, is the free gift of eternal life that God gives to us. God loved us so much that He gave His only Son to die on the cross for our sins. If I had been the only person, with my sin, He still would have died for me and the same for you. This gift is free, all we have to do is accept it. That being, confessing our sins to Christ and accepting Him as our personal Savior.

Sin – Death -Gift – Eternal Life

When I think of all Christ gave up just for me, a sinner, just because He wanted me to be in Heaven with Him. It makes me ask what am I doing for Him, who loved me so?

■ [Nancy, Nancy Lewis](#)

To the unbeliever– the unsaved– this verse probably doesn't mean much. "We're all going to die." they may say. Since we're all, at some point, going to die, then that's not much of a consequence to sin, right? Might as well live it up and enjoy life while we have it, right? Others may mock and say "God is going to strike you down if you sin" as if it is some big joke. And yet others may say "I'll deal with it when the time comes. I have plenty of time." They're not thinking of death because they are too busy living; and they're running out of time.

The death this verse is referring to isn't a death of the body. It isn't even a death of the mind. It is the death of the soul. Eternal death. Condemnation. Forever lasting. The heaviest of consequences. No joking matter. And you won't have a chance to deal with it when the time comes.

God is preparing a place in His Kingdom for all those who believe and accept Him— this is eternal life. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be tortured and condemned— to die in our places— for the very sins we commit on a daily basis. We live in a fallen world— a world where sin is in everything we see, hear, and do. It is impossible for any human being to live a sinless life. But we don't have to follow the path this fallen world has set. We can turn from the darkness of sin to the light of salvation. Our sinful nature can be wiped away— forgiven. We can turn toward God through His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. It isn't hard. In fact, it's one of the easiest and most responsible things we can ever do. All we have to do is ask.

By accepting Jesus as our Savior, by surrendering our lives to Him and allowing His Spirit to dwell in our souls, we are given the gift of eternal life— life in His Kingdom— for all of eternity. The other side of that token— certain death.

When we are saved through Jesus, our first death— the death of our bodies— isn't the end of us. Our souls live on in the Glory of Heaven, with our Creator, our Protector, our Master and King. He knows the world we live in, and He knows that we as humans will *never* be without sin— it is ingrained in our DNA; but His love for us is so strong and pure that He gives us a chance to join His family for all of eternity. Eternity— that's an awfully long time. But there is a price to be paid for eternity— and that price is salvation. We can *only* reach the gates of Heaven through Jesus Christ. There is no other way. When we accept the Lord; when we give our lives to Him, we are saved from eternal damnation— we are saved from the wages of our sin. We are given eternal life through Jesus, and only through Jesus.

Many people believe that if they are 'good'— if they try to do good and help others, they will be rewarded. Many people falsely believe that the reward for these deeds will be Heaven. But this verse tells us otherwise. Good deeds alone will not get you an eternal life with our Creator. Good deeds alone will not get you into Heaven. The gates are closed to anyone who is not saved through and by Christ. Sure there are numerous people on earth who are good people; they do many wonderful things and selflessly devote their lives to doing wonderful things for the benefit of others. But if these people have never accepted Jesus as their Savior, their good deeds are useless because upon their physical deaths, their souls will die as well. All their goodness will have been wasted, and their souls will spend all of eternity in damnation. *He died for this very reason— in our place, for our sins!*

The gift of God is eternal life *through Christ Jesus our Lord*. There is no other way. This is the Gospel. The time *will* come, and when it does, how many deaths will be awaiting you?

Video - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzGWrsFp WE&feature=player_embedded

■ [Nickie, Southern Expressions](#)

Romans 5:8

To forgive someone, we have to make ourselves vulnerable. This is hard to do! When people do things that cause us injury, sometimes they don't realize they've done wrong. Sometimes they know exactly what they did, but don't feel sorry—they think their actions were justified. Worst of all, sometimes the people who wrong us are caught up in addictive kinds of behaviors and will continue to do wrong regardless of the hurt they cause, whether or not we decide to forgive. When any of these are the case, we long to protect ourselves from possible pain. It's extremely difficult to forgive.

Yet Christ went to the cross for each of us at just such a time as this. He had no guarantee that any of us would repent of our sins, ask forgiveness, or receive the salvation He made possible for all. While we were still sinners, Christ not only made Himself vulnerable. He suffered and died for us.

I'm so thankful He made this choice—out of His great love! Life with Him is possible—right now this minute and forever and ever, amen!—because of His vulnerability.

And maybe, if I follow His example, taking a chance on people when I'm not sure they deserve it, maybe, just maybe, His Spirit will use that to draw these people to Him. It's the vulnerable choice, but it shows the world God's love.

Lord, though it's hard to forgive, help me to do so to honor Your name and draw others to You. In Your strength and love, help me live what You've taught me. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

■ [Janet, Wildflower Thinking](#)

*Imagine you are in a courtroom, standing before a judge. You have committed horrible crimes – punishable by death. However, the judge declares that it is possible for you to go free and the record of your offenses erased forever, **if** someone will die in your place.*

You look around the room, but no one volunteers. You resign yourself to the fact that you must die. Then, a man steps forward – the judge's son. "I'll die for her," he says, and the judge willingly offers his son, his only son, in your place. You cannot believe this gift has been granted to you as you walk out of the courtroom – free and forgiven.

You may think this is an unbelievable story. No innocent man would willingly die for another innocent person, much less a guilty one. And no father would offer his only son as a sacrifice. However, those of us who know Christ as our Savior received such a gift. We were guilty – just like the person in the story. Our sins and transgressions were worthy of death, but God showed us love and mercy by sending his son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place. The Lamb of God, innocent and without sin, took upon himself the sins of the world. Over two-thousand years ago, He paid the ultimate price by giving his life upon the cross in order that we might live free. His sacrifice is the highest form of love.

Do you ever think about how you can demonstrate love to others? To your family, your friends, your neighbors, your co-worker, etc? You can demonstrate love to your family by doing something special for them, something they will remember and leave a lasting impression. To your friends, by making them a homemade meal when they are ill. Mowing the lawn for your neighbor who is a single mom. To your co-worker, by buying them their favorite coffee. To demonstrate love just because.

The word demonstrate means to extend, to reach, to come.

Romans 5:8 says: *But God demonstrates, His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

I love this verse for so many reasons. But one of the reasons I really like it so much and have it after my signature when closing in an e-mail is because it reminds me of what I was before Christ was in my life. It reminds me that it was Him who loved me first, not because of what I have done, but because of what He did. While I was a sinner, ungodly, a debtor, unjust, He put his love on the line for us by offering His Son in sacrificial death so that we would be made just and right through Him.

A few days ago, I was searching on craigslist for a t.v armoire, I found one I was interested in. So, I sent an e-mail inquiring about it, to see if it was still available. To my surprise I received an e-mail a few hours later saying: "It's still available(Bible verse kinda of creepy) if you are still interested". As I mentioned before after my signature this verse follows. I was sadden about this persons response, because I know for sure he is not a believer.

*John MacArthur in his commentary on Romans says:
God loves the sinners who think sinful thoughts, who do sinful deeds, even while they are still hopelessly enmeshed in their sin. Even when men openly hate God and do not have the least desire to give up their sin, they are still the objects of God's redeeming love as long as they live.*

God demonstrated His love by sending His only Son to die for us, this is something I want my children to know and for it to leave a lasting impression on them. I pray that the work Christ did on the cross is not creepy to you, but an act of the best love ever demonstrated.

■ [Karla @ Purify My Heart](#)

Romans 10:9

It's that easy. No rocket science, no explosion and no sacrificing of your children. All you have to do is confess with your mouth.

We confess many things on a daily basis.

- * *I will have that dream job*
- * *I will have that dream home*
- * *I will have that perfect husband*

We understand that words are powerful, that's why we confess our hopes and dreams. The same way we confess our hopes and dreams is the same way salvation works.



As a young adult and as many people in the world, I thought something magical had to take place in order to give my life to Christ.

“God won't hear me as much as I sin”
“I must get myself together before I make that Jesus confession”
“I have time. I'm still young”

I was wrong. The time is now.

God wants us to come as we are. As imperfect as we are. He knows we are imperfect. He wants to clean us up and he understands that we can not do it alone. We need him, like a newborn needs his mother. We need him like an ocean needs water.

You see, this confession can be made anywhere.

It doesn't have to be at the altar of a mega church or at a Sunday revival. People are proclaiming their new life and confessing in bathrooms at rest stops. In their home over coffee or at their computer on the job. It doesn't matter how you do it or where you do it, as long as you do it.

We must confess to see him. We must confess to be born again.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

BAM! You are saved!

■ [Nicole, Breathe Again Magazine](#)

*"Romans 10:9 and 10
I believe it once and then
I've got a life that will never end
I've got Christ in me
Whoopee!"*

As a kid I remember learning this song in one of my Bible study lessons. The depth and meaning flew over my head and I just loved Jesus with the innocent heart of a child, which desolved as that heart became the heart of an adult filled with its deceits and lies. I strayed far away from Christ, and then one day met and married a man who represented Christ in the most incredible way and I truly came to understand what it meant to be a Christian. As a result, Romans 10:9 came to have a completely new meaning.

"because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." ESV

At a quick skim this verse seems rather simple and something anyone can do, then you break it down and realize the life changing quality involved in this one simple sentence. I can only explain the meaning through God's Word.

The definition of confess in the original Koine Greek of the New Testament meant "to declare openly by way of speaking out freely, such confession being the deep conviction of facts." (*Vine's Expository Dictionary*). Mouth, "since thoughts of a man's soul find verbal utterance by his mouth the "heart" or "soul" and mouth are distinguished." ([Blue Letter Bible](#)).

Confessing with our mouth is then something that can only truly happen when we hold a deep conviction about Christ. But what is that deep conviction? That Jesus is Lord.

When you look at the definition of Lord it begins to become more clear, "the title 'Lord,' as given to the Savior, in its full significance rests upon the resurrection, and is realized only in the Holy Spirit." (*Vine's Expository Dictionary*) [1Cor12:3](#) discusses this. A second definition is, "he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord." ([Blue Letter Bible](#)).

Looking at the Greek definition of Lord really makes you understand the gravity and significance of believing that Jesus truly is our Lord. It can't be something said in passing, it has to be a true confession because it's admitting, realizing, and accepting that when Jesus rose from the dead He became our Lord and Master. We belong to Him because of the fact that He died for our sins. He paid the price of living yours and my sinful life. We owe everything to Him, and there is nothing we can claim for ourselves.

This is why the second part of this verse is so important. Anyone can "confess," but believing what they're saying is a whole different matter.

The definition of believe used in the New Testament in this verse speaks, "of the conviction and trust to which a man is impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative and law of soul. To trust in Jesus or God as able to aid either in obtaining or in doing something: saving faith." ([Blue Letter Bible](#)).

I find it interesting that the essence of believing is described as being in the heart. The way it was viewed was the chief organ of physical life. ([Lev 17:11](#))

*"It occupies the most important place in the human system. By an easy transition the word came to stand for man's entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and the emotional elements. In other words, the heart is used figuratively for the hidden springs of the personal life. The Bible describes human depravity as in the 'heart', because sin is a principle which has its seat in the center of man's inward life, and then 'defiles' the whole circuit of his action, [Mat 15:19, 20](#). On the other hand, Scripture regards the heart as the sphere of Divine influence, [Rom 2:15](#); [Act 15:9](#) The heart, as lying deep within, contains 'the hidden man,' [1Pe 3:4](#), the real man. It represents the true character but conceals it' (J. Laidlaw, in *Hastings' Bible Dic.*)." (Vine's Expository Dictionary)*

I think that's such a beautiful picture that the organ that's central in our body, it transports blood throughout our arteries and veins, which delivers the much needed Oxygen to every part of our system, is the place where believing takes place. It's been seen as deceitful, lying, traitorous, but becomes renewed, pure, and cleansed by truly believing in Christ.

And the benefits are too many to count. Here's just the beginning of all the different ways we will be and are saved:

-The spiritual and eternal salvation granted immediately by God to those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, [Act 2:47](#).

-The present experiences of God's power to deliver from the bondage of sin, [Mat 1:21](#); [Rom 5:10](#); [1Cr 15:2](#); [Hbr 7:25](#); [Jam 1:21](#); [1Pe 3:21](#).

-The future deliverance of believers at the Second Coming of Christ for His saints, being deliverance from the wrath of God to be executed upon the ungodly at the close of this age and from eternal doom, [Rom 5:9](#).

-Inclusively for all the blessings bestowed by God on men in Christ, [Luk 19:10](#); [Jhn 10:9](#); [1Cr 10:33](#); [1Ti 1:15](#). (Summarized from *Vine's Expository Dictionary*. I only put the ones that apply to all believers inclusively).

The moment we are saved is a beautiful thing. The new believer clinging to Christ is incredible and something that only God can gift to us. Once that confession occurs it's truly life changing. We then follow and grow closer to Christ, which is uncomfortable because we're not of this world. Jesus died like He had been the one to live our sinful lives, and as a result is now the only mediator between us and the Father. Our lives literally depend on Him.

■ [Rachel, Hopeful Morning](#)

Romans 10:13

Christianity is an exclusive religion. Many fail to understand the true nature of its exclusivity and hurl all kinds of accusations of intolerance and hate towards those who call themselves Christians. Unfortunately, there is much within modern Christianity that deserves such accusations. Perhaps if we understood and lived the above verse a little better many of these accusations would melt away.

” . . . *the name of the Lord* . . . ”

Christianity is exclusive in that it denies that there is any way to heaven apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no salvation, no forgiveness apart from Him. This is what separates true Christianity from all other religions. And yet, this exclusivity makes possible an enormous *inclusivity*.

” . . . *whoever* . . . *shall be saved* . . . ”

Jesus Christ is the only way to God, yet the offer of His salvation is not confined to a select few. His salvation is not confined to any particular group of people. No one is excluded from the offer of the gift of eternal life. *Whoever* calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Even the most rejected, downtrodden, vile, despised individual has equal access to this most amazing gift.

The true nature of Christianity can only be expressed in that most precious word *whoever*. As many guilt-ridden, burdened, shamed, hurting people have discovered over the centuries, that word includes each and every individual that God has created. That word includes me, and you. That word invites each and every one of us to redemption, to freedom, to joy, to obedience, to eternal life.

I am included. What about you?

■ [Vanessa, A Sweet Fragrance](#)

Romans 5:1

For many years, even after I became a Christian, I believed it was necessary to justify my past sinful behavior. I didn't understand what justification was at the time and felt the responsibility of my salvation was on me. I just didn't understand. I was determined to use religion to justify my sinful behavior and turned to religious perfection as proof of my justification and salvation. I was wrong. I spent years in a give up, try- hard cycle that kept me from true freedom and peace with God.

I learned from Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary that to justify means "to pronounce free from guilt or blame; to absolve". Having tried to justify my past sins, I tried to pronounce myself free and absolved of my own sins through my religious work. Of course this too, is a sin.

Essentially, by justifying my own behavior through religious perfection I was claiming myself sinless, but self-justified. The exhaustion and fear that resulted from my self-justified, I can do it myself attitude, kept me from peace and strangled me in exhaustion, fear, and anxiety, which caused panic attacks and more fear. Because I wrongly believed I was in charge of my own justification, my thoughts produced the fear of death. My religious behavior was heavy on working and giving the appearance of salvation, and light on face to face Jesus time in my bible or in prayer.

Discovering that justification for sins can also be hidden in the "I blame my parents" for who I am argument can keep a Christian trapped in self-justification. As a part of Generation X, that made coffee houses, finding them self, and parent blaming a spectator sport, I learned this argument because it was easier to blame my parents to justify the things I wanted to do in my life than to truly seek true forgiveness and justification through faith in Jesus Christ.

But, a Christian only experiences freedom from self-justification when they realize the burden of peace with God doesn't rely on them, but on Jesus Christ. You can't image the relief in my spirit when I was able to grasp true justification through faith. When I learned to put my faith in what He did on the cross, recognizing that He is the only road to the Father, I stopped working at living my life and started living to serve my King with my life.

I discovered two verses that changed my life.

* Because, "if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."- I John 1: 8-9, NIV

* "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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." -Romans 8:38, NIV

I feared mostly that God was going to separate himself from me because I wasn't sure if I could really trust Jesus to do the work that He promised He was going to do, and that is to save me and bring me into peace with God. When I stepped out of my role of playing God and justifying myself through religious, worldly behavior, and into the role of being a saved servant of Jesus Christ, I discovered peace for the first time.

Every where I read in the bible I looked for Jesus in the verse.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -Phil. 4:7, NIV

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.- John 14: 27, NIV

I see now that fear and anxiety can creep back into my life when I spend little time in the bible daily reminding myself of Jesus' promise. It is a fearful thing to put your life in the hands of someone else.

On my Romans Road I am learning to trust Jesus by daily walking with Him, remembering, studying, and memorizing that "nothing will be able to separate [me] ... from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" -Romans 8:38, NIV [because I have been] "justified by faith, [and I] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" -Romans 5:1, NIV

Amen.

■ [ML Michaels, Chronicles of a Writer](#)

Romans 8:1

Many of us have read this scripture so many times throughout our Christian walk that maybe we've simply not fully grasped the meaning of a little phrase, *now no condemnation*. You see the synonym for the word *now* is *instantly*. Of course we all know what the little word *no* simply means NO. The final word, condemnation means *strong disapproval*. The phrase could mean: **instantly no strong disapproval**.

In the recesses of our minds we have stored away many hurtful sayings people have said or things we hold on to, especially if its negative or unforgivable to us. Many times as human beings we pretend to discard hurtful sayings, images, and/or thoughts of the past. We struggle to just let them go. When we think we've conquered feelings of *not being good enough, feeling of unworthiness, comparing our selves with others, or speaking damaging words to our soul*, we find ourselves right back to where we started before receiving Jesus Christ as our Savior.

When we asked Jesus into our hearts, we were *instantly justified, approved, accepted in the beloved, became a royal priesthood* because we are now in Christ Jesus. Being "in Christ Jesus" is a wonderful thing. We've been stamped with **APPROVED** by the blood of Jesus Christ! The blood of the sacrificial Lamb of God that washed away the past sins, hurts, images, etc. We can hold our heads up and walk not after the things of the flesh, but after the Spirit which dwells within. Know who you are in Christ Jesus. 2 Cor. 5:17 (KJV) states, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become **new**. Also, Philippians 3:13 declares, "... but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,..."

Remember Romans 8:1 declares, "[There is] therefore *now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*"

Prayer of Declaration:

*I declare that as of now I am not condemned
but I've been approved by the blood of Jesus Christ.
Thank you Lord that I can move forward knowing that the old
things are passed away and behold all things have become new through Jesus Christ!*

May you forever walk with Christ Jesus!

■ [Sandra, Be Encouraged](#)

To my Grandchildren....

Romans 8:1, "[There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be in prison? To not be able to go where you

wanted to go or do what you wanted to do. To be told where to be, what to wear and what to eat every minute of every day, week after week, month after month and year after year...

Sin is a prison that we cannot break out of. Sin keeps us in bondage and condemns us to a life of hardship serving it. Then when we die we must pay the price for our sin and that is eternal death/punishment in a place called hell, that was created for the devil and his angels.

Without Christ we cannot hope to be set free from this. We cannot earn it ourselves. We cannot be "good enough" to earn salvation or pay our fine. We have all broken God's law. We have lied, stolen, been greedy, hated, wanted things that belonged to others....we sin continually.

Reading through the Old Testament and seeing how many people were put to death for violating God's law and I begin to see how serious sin is and how wonderful the plan of redemption through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

He stood in our place and took our punishment. He gave us His righteousness because we have none of our own. Let me say that again...He was treated like He was a sinner, even though He never committed a sin, and we are treated as righteous even though we sin all the time.

We are set free by the sacrifice Jesus became. We (those who have repented, and believe on the Lord Jesus for our salvation) are not condemned but set free from the prison of sin and given eternal life with our Lord.

When we are given salvation, our heart is changed, we desire the things of God. We hated God before but now we follow hard after Christ and pray to be transformed into the image of Christ.

Will we be able to live a perfect life committing no sin while still here on earth? No but our sin will bother us and lead us to the practice of confession and repentance.

■ [Ann, A Grandmother's Journey](#)

Before we were saved, we were lost in our sin and condemned to Hell. We had no hope, but God, who knew that after the fall of Adam we would not be able to keep His laws, loved us anyway. Our world had come under the control of Satan, and we were separated from God; condemned. God had to find a way, within the laws that put our world into being, to bring about the atonement that would restore man's relationship with God. Since the wages of sin is death, and the only one qualified to reverse the curse that had been brought upon mankind, was someone who was sinless and yet human, God had to find a way to bring a sinless person into this world. It would take a long time to find a man on the earth who was willing to partner with God to bring this to pass, because God was now outside of His creation looking in. God would partner with Abraham to bring about a race of people who would be His special treasure and the ancestors of His Son, who would soon put off His Heavenly glory to take on an earthly body, in order to go to the cross to buy back God's people. He would pay for us with His earthly life, beaten and hanging on a cross, which was the most humiliating way to die in that era. But

Jesus loved us and willingly made this sacrifice for us.

Jesus would enter our world, having given up all the privileges of His status in Heaven, as the Son of God. The cross was so much more than simply the shedding of blood. There was a covenant made between God and Jesus, the Son of Man. Blood covenants in Middle Eastern culture are forever. Jesus had taken our sins, our sicknesses, our separation from God and through the shedding of His blood, He paid the price required to buy our freedom from the curse and condemnation. All that was left was for us to receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and our lives would be forever changed. We would walk after spiritual things and be free from condemnation forever. The sacrifice Jesus made is free for anyone who will receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Lord, thank you for the atonement for my sins that you have freely given. Now I am a new creation. I am no longer condemned, but an heir to the throne. I receive your salvation in Jesus name. Amen

■ [Caryn, Caryn's Thoughts](#)

These last several days I have been meditating on Romans 8:1. As a matter of fact these last couple of years I have been, so to speak, revisiting my salvation experience and looking at my own personal relationship with my Father in Heaven. It is more real to me than it ever has been and I am amazed at God's plan for our salvation—our reconciliation with Him. A true miracle. Romans 8:1 says:

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,^[a] who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. NKJV

The words “no condemnation” in this verse speak to our eternal life. When we “believe in” and “confess” Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior we are no longer destined (condemned) to eternal hell. You may say, “That sounds a little strong.” Maybe, but it is the Truth. There is only one way to Heaven and that is by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. He died on the cross for our sins—past, present, and future.

There were many years in my life where I wandered and searched for my purpose in life. Yes, I believed in God and loved Jesus, but I didn't have a real understanding of what my salvation meant when as a ten year old little girl I repeated the “sinner's” prayer in the backyard of my friend's house. Her Mother had invited me to her “Good News Club” and I was so excited to go because there was not much talk of Jesus in my home and I so wanted to know Him more than the pictures my Grandmother had in her house. I know He carried me with His grace and mercy for the rest of those years when I confusingly wandered and questioned my existence. I was definitely on a crooked path for quite a few years — it was like I was trying to find my way back to Him but there was something blocking it called “life in the flesh”. Other religions even tried to catch my attention. In my study I found out that not all Bible translations have the last part of the verse which says, **“who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”** That's the **key**! I was trying to live what I thought was a Christian life while walking in the flesh. It can't be done. We **have** to walk according to the Spirit of God who dwells within us—The Holy Spirit. If we don't, even though we are no longer condemned because we asked Jesus to come into our hearts, we will wander aimlessly. For some reason I had no conception of this as a child and with **NO** discipleship and not being taken to church I ended up forming my own idea of being a Christian. I had no idea about walking in the Spirit.

I cannot even begin to describe how important it is for us to walk in the Spirit and not the flesh. Christ is in us—our hope of Glory. The **love** of God has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. What keeps us from walking in the spirit? Why do we seem to struggle with it? How can we get to the point where our spirit more times than not will overrule our flesh? That is where I want desire to live—in the spirit.

Lord God, I ask you to touch all children who have accepted your Son as their Savior but aren't being disciplined and are confused but at the same time have an inner desire for you. You formed them in their mother's womb and they are fearfully and wonderfully made. Show them how they can walk in the Spirit right now. Put people in their paths so theirs may be straight. And Lord strengthen all of us in order that we may operate in the spirit and not the flesh. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen

■ [Charmaine, Straight Paths](#)

Romans 8:38-39



***"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:38-39.***

I still remember quite clearly, the time in my life, when I first came across this scripture in the Bible.

I hadn't yet given my life to the Lord. I was in my late teens and still attending church on a regular basis with my christian mother.

This particular sunday the preacher's voice droned on in the pulpit, preaching hell, fire and damnation. Leaving me with the usual lasting impression that God in heaven, was an angry God, who would punish me at whim. That we all had to be saved or be damned forever. Satan's name would be mentioned from time to time, but much talk was of sin, the fiery furnace of hell and the wrath of God and disobedience.

As I distracted myself, flicking through my mothers tattered and well used bible, I ventured towards the back of it, after reading the family births and deaths. Very rarely, did I enter the books of the bible beyond the safe domain of the 'red words,' as I feared that if I entered Revelation, I would indeed be filled me with the horrors of 'hell, fire and brimstone'.

As I worked towards the end of the bible, I stopped at Romans, where my mother had made notes in the margins. Gosh! writing in the bible, my goodness that was quite radical of my mother. As I delicately turned over the very thin and fragile pages, my eyes stopped at Romans 8:31. I began to slowly read the verses, eventually arriving at verse 38, which started.....

For I am persuaded.....

As I read just those few words, I knew I must be onto something of interest, as my mother had placed a small neat line near them. I carried on reading.

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I read it again, this time, slowly, labouring over each word, attempting to visualize it. I so clearly remember pausing, deeply pondering over those words, as I raised my head and looked up at the preacher. His face contorting as he spoke, thumping his bible, his mouth moving. I could hear nothing of what he was saying, as I was lost in the wonderful, words of reassurance, that I had just read. My own deep thoughts, reflecting, that nothing can separate me from the love of God. Absolutely nothing!

As I raised myself up, I knew that from that day forward those verses were mine!

They were written on lined paper and memorized. For many years, I carried those words, on that precious piece of paper. Transferring it from old purse to new purse, until it was so tatty, the words written were illegible, but that did not matter to me, as the words were deeply ingrained in my heart.

During many life situations, out would come my well folded piece of paper. Such joy and such a peace would replace any panics of the moment.

Praise God, I eventually gave my life to the Lord and during my spiritual growth, I came to know more about this love of God. I came to know that God is love and that in Him there is no darkness at all.

I came to know that there is not and never will be a time when we can be separated from God's love.

I came to know that God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

I came to know, that If we were to travel to the "highest" or "lowest" points in the universe, or anywhere in between, we would never arrive at a place where we could escape Christ's love.

That there is nowhere we can go, where anyone or anything can take our eternal salvation away from us.

Nowhere!

■ [Carole, The Faith Lounge](#)

Do you worry that your worst fear will become a reality? What if I lose my job? What if the test comes back positive? What if my coworkers laugh at me? What if my friend never forgives me? At times, it can seem as though every day brings another close call, another brush with catastrophe. Left to our own devices, we find things to worry about so easily.

In Romans 8:38-39, Paul describes nearly every type of fear--seen and unseen--that may torment our minds. Paul obviously empathizes with our obsessive worries, as he includes **death, life, principalities, and powers**, as well as space and time, in this list of fears. But our greatest hope, **the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**, is greater than any of these created things.

God's power is limitless and eternal. Ephesians **1:19-21** reminds us of God's "**mighty power**", which raised Christ from the dead, "**and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far and above every principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.**" (NKJV) Ephesians 6:11, which tells us to "**put on the full armor of God**" teaches us that God's love surrounds and protects us.

Our financial or physical condition is no match for God's love. Indeed, even death is no match for our Lord, as His arms remain open for us. We can rest safely in His love no matter what disaster happens, no matter when or how it happens. We thank Him for his unending love, and we pray that He opens our eyes and hearts and minds to focus on Him instead of our fears.

■ [Judith, A Homemaker Speaks](#)

Whatever you are facing today, **God's love is greater.**

...whether you are grieving over the *loss of a loved one* or *celebrating new life*, **God's love is greater.**

...whether you are fighting a *spiritual battle* or a *physical battle*, **God's love is greater.**

...whether life has you on a *high plateau* or in a *low valley*, **God's love is greater.**

Romans 8.38-39 reminds us that NOTHING can separate us from God's love - the love that is based in our Lord Jesus Christ:

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Whatever you are facing today, remember that **God's love is greater!**

■ [Ashely, AP Free Writing 101](#)



In this life, we will all face different forces to be reckoned with. Those forces take shape in a variety of forms such as daily trials, disease, and death. When we are in these circumstances we ask why God is allowing these things to happen to us. We can't wrap our heads around why bad things happen to good people. Often, instead of drawing closer to God we drift farther away because we are angry, sad, and confused about our present suffering. In Romans 8:38-39 the apostle Paul states, "*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" Paul is telling us that suffering does not separate believers from Christ but it actually is meant for us to draw closer to His love.

Recently, I experienced first hand the power of God's love. My husband and I were expecting identical twin girls and were absolutely thrilled. As we happily attended baby showers, bought new clothes, and decorated the nursery we were filled each day with bliss. Every doctor appointment showed that the girls were growing and were developing on schedule. Around 27 weeks, I woke up with a sharp pain in my stomach. As the morning continued, the pain became more persistent so my husband rushed me to the hospital. Within minutes we discovered that I was fully dilated and I would have to undergo an emergency C-section. Throughout the surgery I was so scared and fearful for my babies. The girls were born weighing two pounds and were rushed to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Later that day, we learned that both girls had to rely on a ventilator for their breathing and they were in a very critical state. Our physician told us that we faced a long road ahead of us that would be filled with many ups and downs. As time continued, the girls battled several infections that made me fear for their lives. Watching my little girls fight death, I felt hopeless and became very fearful for their lives. Over the course of our 81 days in the NICU, Satan used my fear of them dying to manipulate my mind.

In Romans 8:38, one of the first items that Paul states is that death shall not be able to separate us from the love of God. Instead of distancing ourselves from God's love when we are suffering, we should desperately cling to Him. When He is holding us in His arms, the power of the Holy Spirit gives us strength to fight death or any other trial that we are presently facing. This verse states that 'nor height, nor depth' shall separate us from the love of God. This shows that it is impossible for us to get beyond God's loving reach. His arms will always hold us tightly if we choose Him instead of asking why we are suffering. Bad things happen to good people so those believers in Christ can use their experience to glorify the name of God. When we turn to Christ in our darkest hours, the veil is removed from our eyes and we witness his uncontainable love for us. Psalm 18:22 beautifully says, *"But the LORD watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine. We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone."*

Friends, seek refuge in Christ during your times of suffering. His love for us is greater than anything else in this world because He gave us the ultimate sacrifice of Christ Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. God is love and we were created by Him to love Him. When we give ourselves to Christ, we know that His love will get us through anything that we face in this life.

Prayer: *God, please take away my fear of death. Please hold me in your arms so I can feel your love. I pray for the Holy Spirit to come inside of me and give me strength to fight this battle. Thank you for sacrificing your son for my sins. Thank you for being my help and my shield. I am putting my hope in you alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

■ [Christen, The Uncontainable Truth](#)



The bond that is shared between a parent and a child is a very special gift. Nothing can compare to it. It is a relationship that is, in most cases, filled with love and grace. Our relationship with God is such that it too can be viewed from the same lens. And yet, it can be magnified beyond even this scope.

The love that God has for His children is vast. It is abundant, immeasurable, without end. It is higher than our thoughts can reach. It is wider than our thoughts can stretch. It goes deeper than the deepest chasm we can imagine. It is profoundly expansive. Unrestrained.

God holds nothing back from His children, especially His heart and love. More than that; He allows nothing to separate Him from His children. He allows no barrier to exist which will keep His children apart from His presence. No sin. No idol. No veil. No person. No-thing.

From the Garden of Eden to Israel and their penchant for foreign gods and idolatrous practices to the veil that was torn at Christ's death to the person that wants to be placed on the pedestals of our hearts to self – God wants to love us without limits. God wants us to know that He is passionately desirous of loving us. No- thing can separate us from His love.

God's love is alive. It is present. It is real. It is for us. And it is accessible through Jesus Christ.

Encouragement: From this moment forward, let us choose not to separate ourselves from the love of God. Let us live connected to Him and seek after His heart.

Challenge: Search the scriptures, identifying every verse that speaks of God's love for His children.

Prayer: My Lord and Father, I know You have a heart for me and that Your love is available at all times. Help me to believe You when You say You love me. Help me to love You and to allow no more separation between us. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

■ [Kim, The Phone Tree Bible Study Blog](#)

We cannot be separated from God's love.

Children need to know that as a child of God He will never leave them. Use this lesson to help children understand salvation and the love of God.

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38-39 (KJV)

The Love of God is HUGE. It is bigger than anything.

What are some big things?

God's love is bigger than any of those things. He loves us so much that even though we have done naughty things, God gave His Son Jesus to take away our sin.

What is sin?

The naughty things we do are sin. Moms, dads, boys, girls, and even grandpa and grandmas have sinned. Everybody, but God has sinned.

God loves us and wants us to go to Heaven to be with Him someday, but there is no sin in Heaven. Jesus, God's Son never sinned, died, and rose again to take away our sins.

Would you give up your favorite thing in the world for someone who was naughty and mean to you?

God gave His only Son for us because He loves us. If we pray and tell God we are sorry for our sins and believe that Jesus died and rose again, God will take away our sin and we can go to Heaven someday. God takes our sins and throws them far away where they are gone forever.

Have someone toss or roll a ball.

We can still see the ball. God loves us so much He throws our sin where we will not see it again. When we do naughty things and sin again, we can ask God to forgive us and He will throw them away.

Sometimes people who love us leave.

Does that make you sad?

After we ask God to take away our sin and believe in Him, He will always be with us. We cannot see God, but He is always there. God will NEVER leave us. There is not anything that can separate us from God's love.

Take a piece of duct tape, fold it over, and put the sticky sides together. Set it in the sun and make sure it is stuck together tightly.



Ask a child to try and peel the tape apart.

God's love is stronger than duct tape that is stuck together. We cannot be peeled away from God's love.

Read Romans 8:38-39.

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (KJV)

These verses mean that when we believe on God, He is with us now and when we die. He loves us and keeps us safe from things we see and the things we can't see.

Do you know what you are going to be doing years from now?

God knows what things are going to happen to you now and in the future and He will not leave you.

Where is the highest place you could go?

You cannot get away from God's love in the highest place or in the lowest place.

God loves you, sees you, and cares about you ALL the time!

■ [Lois, Building Blocks 4 Life](#)

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