

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

God is Love

I, II, III John
& Jude

WEEK 4

“The Testimony of God”

Study: I John 5:4-9

Reading: Hebrews 6:9-20, John 5:31-47

Memory: Romans 8

When President Clinton was in office, he found himself in the public spotlight for some of the mistakes that he made in his private life. News had surfaced that he had an affair with one of the interns that worked in the White House. To defend himself, he made a public statement in which he proclaimed that he didn't have any sexual relations with the intern. Soon after that, the evidence that he had lied became overwhelming and he publicly admitted that he did indeed have an improper relationship with a woman. He never admitted that he lied, though all America knew that he did. Many people feel that Clinton's vice president, Al Gore, lost the race for the presidency in the next election because of the dishonesty of President Clinton.

Today, we are going to see that we can't always believe the testimony of men, but we can always trust the testimony of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

We saw yesterday how it shouldn't be hard for us to obey God because of the love we have for Him. Another reason it shouldn't be hard for us to obey is because God has given us all the power we need to obey. We can have victory over any sin that Satan throws at us when we have faith in Jesus Christ. According to the MarArthur Study Bible, “The word for ‘overcomer’ comes from a Greek word meaning ‘to conquer,’ ‘to have victory,’ ‘to have superiority’ or ‘conquering power.’” No sin is too great for Christians to overcome. There are some people who feel hopeless because of the sin they are trapped in and addicted to, but Christians don't have to feel that way because we have the power to overcome sin (vs 5).

It appears that the false teachers that John was speaking out against taught that the Holy Spirit came upon Christ after his baptism and left Him before His death. The water in verse 6 refers to the baptism of Christ. Jesus wasn't only God during His baptism, but He was God the

whole time He was on earth. John wanted his readers to know for sure that Jesus was the Christ. There are three things that prove that Jesus was the Christ: 1) the baptism of Christ when the heavens opened and the Spirit descended like a dove 2) the death of Christ when the sky turned dark and the earth shook 3) the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the believers (vs 6-8).

John then points out the fact that we believe the testimony of men. Most court cases require that a person testifies about what happened in their certain case. People are sentenced to life in prison and even put to death because of the testimony of man. If we believe what men say, we surely should believe what God says. The Word of God is far greater and more powerful than any words that men can utter. God sent His Son down to this earth so that we might be 100% sure that we have eternal life (vs 9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you ever doubt God? Most every believer will admit that at one time or another in their lives they doubted that God would do what he said. Your doubt may be one of the reasons why you might not be having the victory in the Christian life that God promised you would have. Faith in God means that we should totally depend upon him. When we place our total dependence upon God, He will give us the victory because He promised He would. It is easy to choose to live in defeat because you just don't think that God can fulfill His Word. Most likely, you would never verbalize the fact that you don't trust God, but your actions will show it. Believers often don't even ask God for things because they are afraid that He will fail them. You can always trust God to do what He says He will do.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Praise God because He always keeps His Word.
- * Ask God to help you trust His Word.
- * Thank God for never failing you.

Thought for the day

What does every child of God do (vs 4)?

What do you think this means?

***All those who believe on Jesus Christ will be successful. The power is not in yourself, but comes through Jesus.

What do you think it means to have "victory" (vs 4)?

What allows you to overcome the world (vs 4)?

What question did John ask in verse 5?

How did he answer his own question (vs 5)?

Why do you think he basically repeated verse 4?

****It is our faith in Jesus that allows us to be overcomers. Believers don't have to be trapped by the world's system like unbelievers are. You are no longer a slave to sin, but as a child of God you have every ability to be victorious over sin.*

Does this mean that all true believers will always be victorious over sin? Explain.

What do you think "water" means in verse 6?

What do you think "blood" means in verse 6?

Why do you think John emphasized that Jesus came by the water and the blood (vs 6)?

****Commentators vary on what they think this means, but many believe it refers to His baptism, and his death.*

What does the Spirit do (vs 6)?

What all agree (vs 7-8)?

What point was John trying to make (vs 9)?

“Approaching Daddy”

Study: I John 5:10-15

Reading: Ephesians 3:1-13, Luke 11:1-13

Memory: Romans 8

One thing I try to do is respond to people when they text me or email me about something. This is because I want them to know that I received their text or email. I do this because I often wonder if someone got my text or my email. There are times when I have sent an important message and for some reason, it was never received. In some circumstances, it is important for me to have confirmation that they received my message because the information that I sent is crucial information. When I do get a response, I am confident that the person received the message and I am not left wondering.

Today, we are going to see how God always receives our messages and always responds to them. Though I wish He would send an immediate response like a text message, I can be confident He hears me when I pray because He said He would.

What Does the Bible Say?

No man is ever saved apart from the Holy Spirit drawing him to God. When we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we are assured by the Spirit that we are children of God. If a person rejects the prompting of the Holy Spirit in their lives, they are rejecting the Word of God. By rejecting the Word of God, they are calling God a liar because they don't believe what He said (vs 10). John put the truth in simple terms in verses 11 and 12. He told his readers that God has made only one way for a person to have eternal life and that is through trusting in His Son Jesus Christ. In John 14:6 Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (vs 11-12).

John didn't want any of his readers to have doubts about salvation. One of the reasons he wrote the book of I John was so people would know whether they were or weren't believers. He wanted them to know for sure what their standing was before God. When a person places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ to take away their sin and restore their

relationship with God, they can know beyond a doubt that they are children of God (vs 13).

Because we are His children, we can have confidence as we approach Him in prayer. Believers can rest assured that God does hear and answer their prayers. We don't have to approach the throne of God with doubts and insecurities. God wants us to come before Him and ask Him for help. Many times we fail to ask God for help because we are too prideful and want to try to work things out on our own. Other times, we just don't believe God will do what He says He will do. This is because we have a misunderstanding about who God is (vs 14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How do you approach the throne of God? Do you approach Him with doubt and fear, or do you approach Him with confidence? As a child of God you have a tremendous privilege that others don't have. The God who created you desires for you to bring your needs and requests to Him. He wants to answer your prayers and help you because He loves you more than you can ever imagine.

Do you ever doubt your salvation? As we close our study in First John, I want you to have full assurance that you are a child of God. God doesn't want you to go through your life wondering if you have been good enough for Him to accept you, neither does He want you to be worried about your eternal security. God wants you to rest assured that you will go to heaven. If you have believed in the work that Christ did on the cross to take away your sins and have put your faith in God, you are a believer. You never have to doubt or worry about your salvation. Simply put, you have to trust that God will do what He says He will do.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God because He has given you a know-so salvation.
- * Ask God to help you trust in His Word.
- * Praise God because He doesn't lie.

Thought for the day

What do you think John meant by “testimony” (vs 10)?

How can you have this if you believe in the Son of God (vs 10)?

What do people make God if they don’t believe (vs 10)?

Sum up what John was saying in verse 10 in your own words.

What has God declared in His testimony (vs 11)?

Why is this such an important declaration?

Who has eternal life (vs 12)?

Who does not have eternal life (vs 12)?

Why do you think John wrote this and emphasized this over and over in this letter?

Why do you think it is important to have the confidence to know that you have eternal life?

****Many religions leave people wondering about eternal life since they teach that obtaining eternal life is up to their good works. This leads people to constantly wonder if they have been good enough, which actually produces fear rather than joy.*

Who did John say he wrote to (vs 13)?

Why did he say he wrote his letter (vs 13)?

What can you be confident of (vs 14-15)?

What do you think it means to ask “according to His will” (vs 14)?

What can we know when we understand that He will hear our requests (vs 15)?

“Praying For Change”

Study: I John 5:16-17

Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21

Memory: Romans 8

One of my daughters, who was a teenager at the time, asked me a question. She wanted to know how she should approach a friend who was making choices that she did not agree with and was concerned about that friend. The first thing we told her she needed to do was to pray about it. Specifically, she needed to pray that God would open the eyes of her friend. We cautioned her to be very careful about how she approached this topic with her friend because it was God who needed to step in and do the work. Though there are times we do need to say something, what is more important is prayer.

Today, we are going to see how we should put prayer into action on a regular basis. We will see how prayer will change people.

What Does the Bible Say?

In verses 14 & 15, we saw that we can be confident that God will answer our prayers. John illustrated this in verses 16 & 17. This passage was easily understood by his original readers, but is a little bit harder for us to understand today. Some confusion is caused when we try to distinguish between the sins that lead to death and the sins that don’t. John told us that we needed to pray for those who were committing sins that don’t lead unto death. Much of the confusion is also caused by the use of the word “brother.” Naturally, that term would seem to refer to a Christian, but sometimes it is used in a broader sense. Here it is probably referring to others around us, saved and unsaved.

Most likely, John was referring to the false teachers when he told his readers that they didn’t have to pray for those who were committing the sin that leads to death. This sin was blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The false teachers rejected the testimony of the Holy Spirit about Jesus Christ and tried to turn others away from the truth. Notice that John didn’t say that his readers shouldn’t pray for these people. He just didn’t think it was necessary because these people had openly and willfully chosen to reject God. John wasn’t limiting the power of God, but He did

realize that God has given man a free will to choose to reject or accept God.

He does want his readers to pray for all those who were not false teachers. John is emphasizing the fact that it is God who changes the hearts and lives of men. If we want to see others draw closer to God, we need to pray for them. In James 5:15 James says, “And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.” We often feel it is our responsibility to change people, but it isn’t. God wants us to trust Him to do a work in the hearts and lives of men (vs 16-17).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How often do you pray for the spiritual needs of others? Does your prayer time and your prayer requests focus more on physical needs than spiritual needs? Many Christians don’t often ask for prayer for their own spiritual needs, because of pride. When you ask for prayer for your personal needs it causes you to admit that you aren’t perfect and need help. When you pray for the spiritual needs of others, it gives you a burden to help them in any way that you can. It also helps you remember that life isn’t about physical things, but it is about spiritual matters. God wants you to remember that He changes people. Your responsibility is to love people and pray for them. God’s responsibility is to convict them of their sin and give them the forgiveness that they ask for. Then next time that you get discouraged because you see someone straying away from the Lord, realize that it is God who has the power to bring that person back to Him. Also realize that it is God that has the power to convert sinners to become His children.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Praise God because He has the power to change lives.
- * Ask God to help you trust Him to change lives.
- * Praise God for how He works and has worked in your life.

Thought for the day

Who did John encourage his readers to pray for (vs 16)?

What will God do when those prayers are prayed (vs 16)?

What do you think John meant when he said that “God will give them life” (vs 16)?

****I do not believe this is teaching that another person can be saved when we pray for them. I believe John is simply saying that God will work in their hearts and lives to help bring them to the light of Christ.*

Why do you think John emphasized those who committed sins that weren’t “unto death” (vs 16)?

****Many commentators have presented explanations to these verses which make some sense, but they differ on their views. Whenever we come to confusing passages like this in Scripture, it is vital to make sure we compare Scripture with Scripture. Many false doctrines come when people base a theological emphasis on verses that are hard to understand without comparing it with other Scriptures. Whenever I come to passages that I can’t fully understand, I decide to step back and take a look at the big picture. Instead of pondering over what a “sin unto death” is, I choose to focus on what point is being made. The point John is making in these verses is to pray for the salvation of the unbelievers and spiritual growth of believers.*

What does John say about “all wrongdoing” (vs 17-ESV)?

What does not all sin do (vs 17)?

****Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death . . .” John can not be saying that there are sins that don’t end up leading to eternal death because that would contradict the rest of Scripture. It appears he is saying that there are sins that lead to immediate death or immanent death. This could be sins that have natural consequences of death or sins that God deems it necessary to take a life. Again we are not clear on the exact meaning of verses 16 & 17, but the simple message we can take away from it is the importance of praying for others.*

“In Conclusion”

Study: I John 5:18-21

Reading: I John 5

Memory: Romans 8

Michael Jackson was one of the biggest names in music for many years. For a while, the big story about his life was about the “Iron Lung” that he put into his house. It was a Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber that was thought to have the ability to help prolong life. Sadly, he died at the age of 50 from a drug overdose.

Today, we can see that there are few things that we can be sure of in life. We know that we can be sure of death, but we can also be sure that we will live beyond this life. God wants us to know whether or not we have eternal life. Many people say that you can never be sure, but we will see that the Bible tells us otherwise.

What Does the Bible Say?

John concludes his letter by reminding his readers that true believers don’t continue to commit sin. Anyone who habitually commits sin and doesn’t feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit about that sin is not a child of God. When a person is born of God, they will have the desire to keep themselves from sin so that they might glorify their Heavenly Father. The reason a believer can do this is because he has the power of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Satan can control those who are his children, but he has no power over the children of God. The only way that Satan can lead us is when we choose to listen to his lies and choose to sin (vs 18).

According to John, there are only two types of people that exist on the earth, those who are children of God and those who are children of the Devil. In its simplest form this verse means that those who are controlled by God and live to bring glory to Him are His children, and those who are controlled by Satan and do his work are children of Satan. This explains why there is so much evil in the world. The world will never be a wonderful place for Christians to live because it is controlled by Satan. That means that if we want to change the world for Christ, we can’t do it through social causes or through the government. The only

way to change the world is through the inside out. God wants us to share the Gospel so that He can change people from the inside (vs 19).

Believers can also rest assured that all they need to do is place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Once we accept Christ, we can have the assurance that we are His children. If we know that we are His children, we will also know that we have eternal life. God promised eternal life to all His children, and since God can’t lie, we can know for sure about our eternal destiny (vs 20).

John then encouraged his readers to keep themselves from idols. The word “idols” here does mean the physical idols, but in a greater sense it refers to the system of the world. God chose to love us, and we have to choose to love Him. We choose to love Him by getting to know Him, by serving Him, by obeying Him and by keeping ourselves from getting involved in the evil of the world.

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you 100% sure you are a child of God? God wants you to be 100% certain that you are His child. Is your life marked by habitual sin that goes unconvicted by the Holy Spirit? If it is, then you are not a child of God. If you know that you are a child of God, you never need to doubt your salvation. Once you are saved, your life is changed. You no longer have to sin because you have power over sin. When you sin it is not because you are a sinner like you were before you accepted Christ, it is because you choose to sin. When you do sin, and you will, remember that God loves you no matter what you do. He wants you to confess your sin and restore your relationship with Him. He is waiting for you with open arms and is willing and ready to forgive you.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God that you can know for sure that you are His child.*
- * *Ask God to help you quickly confess your sin.*
- * *Praise God for His never changing love for you.*

Thought for the day

What do we know (vs 18)?

How do we know this?

Why do you think John emphasized this over and over again in this letter?

What does God do for His children (vs 18)?

How does this reveal that you can not “lose” your salvation (vs 18)?

How can verse 18 give you boldness and confidence to live without fear?

What do we know (vs 19)?

How are believers different than the rest of the world (vs 19)?

Why do you think John pointed this out?

What do you think it means that the world is under the power of the evil one (vs 19)?

What has the Son of God given us (vs 20)?

Why is God described as “him who is true” (vs 20)?

How have we been given the ability to know God (vs 20)?

What do you think John meant when he said God is the “true God” (vs 20)?

How is God also eternal life (vs 20)?

How did John address his readers (vs 21)? Why do you think he did this?

What are believers to stay away from (vs 21)?

What do you think he meant by this?

“Knowing the Truth”

Study: II John 1:1-4

Reading: John 8:31-37, I John 1:1-10

Memory: Romans 8

I remember talking to an elderly saint who was very close to dying. She stunned me when she told me that she wasn't sure if she was saved and she wanted to make sure that she would go to heaven when she died. This lady had been a faithful member of the church and had displayed godliness throughout her life. As I questioned her further, I found out that the reason she was doubting wasn't because she didn't ask Christ to be her Savior, but she was doubting because God wasn't answering her prayer to be healed. She knew that God doesn't heal everyone, but when He didn't heal her, she became afraid that she wasn't His child. I attempted to assure her from the Word that God will keep His promises, and that God's Word is the truth.

Today, we are going to see the importance of knowing the truth of God's Word. Most Christians will say that they know what God says, but do we really know the truth?

What Does the Bible Say?

There has been much debate among the scholars over the years as to who John's second book was written to. Some think that he was writing to a church and the children mentioned were the members of the church, but most likely, he was writing to an actual woman who held some type of leadership role or had a powerful influence in the church.

The word “truth” is mentioned ten times in the book of I John and it is mentioned several times in II John. Apparently, John was using his letter to help combat some of the false teachings which attempted to disregard the truth which he had taught. John expressed his Christian love for the woman by telling her that he loved her “in truth”. True Christian love isn't based on feelings or what a person does, but it is a choice to love others just as God loved us. The truth was and is that some people aren't the most loveable people, but we all have the ability to love

all men because of the work of Christ in our lives. The emphasis on truth can even be seen in verse 3 while John is using a traditional greeting that was often used in those days. He made sure to add the word truth to emphasize the fact that the Gospel is absolute truth. He should know. He had seen it with his own eyes and heard it with his own ears (vs 1-3).

After finishing his introduction, the first thing that John mentioned was how thrilled he was when he heard reports that this woman's children were living out the truths that were found in the teachings of Christ. The command to follow the truths of God's Word wasn't anything new, but had been the message of the disciples since the ascension of Jesus. John doesn't state it, but the opposite of living in obedience to truth is living a lie. Satan was at work in those days just as he is today in attempting to get people to doubt God and live believing lies (vs 4).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How well do you know the truth of the Word of God? Do you realize that many Christians live following the lies of Satan because they haven't taken time to search out the truth? You might be thinking that you know what the Bible says and that there is no way you would get caught in one of Satan's lies, but you would be surprised how subtly Satan works. Simple lies like, "Everything will work out the way you want things to when you are a Christian," "I can't walk in consistent victory over sin," "God doesn't care about the little details in life." If said in the right tone of voice and by a "spiritual leader" many believers would think lies like these are true. These are just examples of how Satan wants to draw you away from the truth. When people believe these lies to be true, they will eventually be disappointed. That disappointment will turn to bitterness which will lead to spiritual deadness. Make it a point in your life to know the truth and compare all you hear and believe with the truth of the Word of God.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for giving you the absolute truth in His Word.*

Thought for the day

How does John describe himself (vs 1)?

Why do you think he describes himself this way (vs 1)?

Who is John writing to (vs 1)?

How did John view this woman (vs 1)?

What did John say about the feelings of other believers towards this lady (vs 1)?

Why do you think those who know God naturally love others who know and serve God (vs 1)?

What does it mean that the "truth abides in us" (vs 2)?

How long will the truth be with us (vs 2)?

What do you think that means?

What three things did John mention in this traditional New Testament greeting (vs 3)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How are these things so important to the Christian life?

How do we get these things (vs 3)?

Why do you think John mentioned "truth and love" (vs 3)?

Why did John rejoice (vs 4)?

What are we commanded to do (vs 4)?

How does this cause rejoicing in your life as well?

“A New Commandment”

Study: II John 1:5-6

Reading: John 13:31-35, Luke 10:25-37

Memory: Romans 8

Early on in my marriage, I had to constantly remind myself of how I needed to love my wife. My wife is a wonderful woman and she has been very easy to love, but I am very selfish and sometimes have let that selfishness get the best of me. For instance, for the first several years of our marriage I would sit down on the couch after dinner and watch TV while she cleaned the table and did the dishes. This happened till I finally realized one of the simplest, but greatest things I could do for my wife was to help her do the dishes. I have found that the little task of helping her with the dishes has caused us to grow closer together.

Today, we are going to see how important it is to continually remind ourselves to love one another.

What Does the Bible Say?

John was known as the apostle of love. The word love is mentioned over 40 times in the Gospel of John and in I John. John continued his emphasis on love as he commanded the woman to whom the book was written to love those around her. (The wording of this verse causes many commentators to think that the book was written to the church rather than an individual, which is a possibility.) John used the same type of phrasing in John 13:34 when he revealed that Jesus described love as a new commandment. He also used it in I John 2:8 to describe to the church the need for love. The word “new” didn’t mean something that had never been heard before, but was a challenge to the reader to keep this commandment central in our lives each day. The wording reveals to us that love is a choice. When we are commanded to do something in Scripture, we are given a choice as to whether we want to obey or disobey. Love is not just a feeling that you have inside of you, but love is a choice that you have to make each and every day. Love chooses to put one’s self aside for the good of others (vs 5).

John even defined love for us in verse 6 by telling us that love is walking in obedience to the commands of God. It is choosing not to follow our selfish desire to do things our way and it is choosing to do things the way that God wants them done. Though this may sound simple and basic, it is something that all men everywhere struggle with because of our selfish pride. Satan knows that if he can turn our attention onto ourselves, he can get our love for others to diminish. In John 13:35, Jesus told us, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” This is why the choice to love was emphasized again and again by John (vs 6).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Is your life characterized by love? Do you choose to love others on a regular basis or do you just do what you want? How often are you willing to inconvenience yourself for the good of others? Satan is succeeding in creating a society with very little love. Many children are growing up not knowing what it is like to feel loved. Spouses contemplate divorce each day because they feel that they are no longer loved. Everyday there are thousands of people just waiting for someone to love them. This is where we as believers should come into the picture. You need to be willing to put aside our ambitions and desires and take the time to love others. It is easy to get so caught up in the rat race of this world that it leaves us little time to love others the way God wants us to. The choice to truly love others doesn’t begin with something that we can create ourselves, but it comes from our relationship with God. The closer you are to God, the more you will love others. Examine your life today to see if you really choose to love those that you come in contact with each and every day.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you the ability to love.*
- * *Ask God to help you love as Christ loved.*
- * *Praise God because He is a God of love.*

Thought for the day

How does John refer to the person he is writing to (vs 5)?

What command did John give her (vs 5)?

Why did he say this commandment was not new (vs 5)?

How long had this commandment been around (vs 5)?

If this command was known already, why do you think John reminded her of it and told her to follow it (vs 5)?

Why do you need Scripture to repeat itself?

What does it mean to love others (vs 5)?

Describe how you have practically loved others this week.

Why is loving others a simple command, but often difficult to follow?

What does John say love is in verse 6?

Why do you think living out the commands of Jesus are a sign of love (vs 6)?

****We are told that love is obeying His commands and then told his commands are to love. You love God when you choose to keep His commandments and one of His main commandments is to love one another.*

Why do you think John mentioned again that this was something that was commanded from the beginning (vs 6)?

What are ways that you can be more loving this week?

Romans 8

21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 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. 27 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. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 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? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 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. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.