

What Shall We Say to These Things?

I recently I found myself burdened within my own heart about something that was challenging and complex. For a moment I thought within myself, *I don't even know what to say about this, or even what to think*. The words in Romans 8:31 immediately came to mind: *what shall we say to these things?*

Sometimes there are 'things' that are unsettling, 'things' that have come against us clearly to steal our peace or to take us in a different direction. *What shall we say to these things?* – to the mountains that stand in our way, to some fear that suddenly rises in our hearts, to things that sometimes we can't explain or control?

Opening scripture: Romans 8:31-39: 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 delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?* ³³ *Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.* ³⁴ *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.* ³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* ³⁶ *As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."* ³⁷ *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.* ³⁸ *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

What then shall we say to these things?

There are 7 questions in this passage. However, each question leads to 7 unquestionable realities. We need to believe, internalise those realities and speak in line with them.

What then shall we say? 7 things to say:

1. I will say, no intimidation because God is for me.

V.31^a - *"if God is for us, who can be against us?"*

Psalms 56:9 - *When I cry out to You, then my enemies will turn back; this I know, because God is for me.*

Ezekiel 36:9_a - *For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you ...*

2. I will say, no limitation because God provides for me

V.32 - *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

One of the earliest revelations that God gave us of Himself in the Bible was as ‘God our Provider’ (Jehovah Jireh) in the story of Abraham. God provided a ram for Abraham and he did not have to give his son on that altar.

God spared Isaac but interestingly God did not spare His own Son, Jesus. He gave us Jesus and with Jesus all things – freely. It is an act of the grace of God. It is unlimited provision.

3. I will say, no accusation because God defends me

V.33 - *Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.*

Isaiah 50:8 - *He is near who justifies Me; who will contend with Me? let us stand together. Who is My adversary?*

Isaiah 54:17 - *No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment [every form of accusation] you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord.*

In Zechariah 3 we read about the devil accusing Joshua, the high priest. That chapter is such a great example of God cancelling the accusation.

4. I will say, no condemnation because God pleads my cause

V.34 - *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

The devil is the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10) but Jesus is our advocate (1 John 2:1). He pleads our cause and makes constant intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).

The devil accused Job (Job 1:6-12) but Job had no one to plead his case. He had no mediator. Jesus came to be our mediator – **1 Timothy 2:5**: *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:1 – *There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...*

In this same chapter 8 of Romans, Jesus makes intercession for us and so does the Holy Spirit. We are fully covered.

Romans 8:26 - ²⁶*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

5. I will say, no separation because God loves me

V.35 - *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

What shall we say to the ‘things’ that come to separate us from God? – They can’t. They are just circumstances. They are temporary – subject to change. God’s love, however, is permanent, eternal and immutable.

6. I will say, no defeat because God makes me more than a conqueror

V.36-37 - *As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

In the Greek language, the word that was translated as ‘more than a conqueror’ is *hupernikao*. Two compound words: *huper*: over and above and *nikao*, to conquer.

Huper is the root word for ‘hyper’ in English. One commentator says that this word could well be translated as ‘hyper conqueror’. I love that!

Another commentator added:

“The words “more than” are derived from the Greek word huper, which literally means over, above, and beyond. It depicts something that is way beyond measure. It carries the idea of superiority — something that is utmost, paramount, foremost, first-rate, first-class, and top-notch; greater, higher, and better than; superior to; preeminent, dominant, and incomparable; more than a match for; unsurpassed, and unrivaled by any person or thing.

Now Paul uses this same word to denote what kind of conquerors we are in Jesus Christ. We are huper-conquerors! Paul uses this word huper to dramatize our victory.”

7. I will say, no doubt for I am persuaded

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

I am not doubting for a second, I am persuaded that

- God is for me,
- God provides for me
- God defends me
- God pleads my cause
- God loves me
- God makes me more than a conqueror

Conclusion

What shall we say to those things?

7 questions that reveal 7 powerful things, 7 powerful revelations to hold on to, 7 foundations to never let go in times of struggle and confusion. Let us have these 7 facts clear in our minds and speak them with our mouths:

I will say...

1. **no intimidation** because God is for me,
2. **no limitation** because God is my provider,
3. **no accusation** because God is my defender,
4. **no condemnation** because God pleads my cause,
5. **no separation** because God loves me,
6. **no defeat** because God makes me more than a conqueror.
7. **no doubt** because I am fully persuaded!