



water from rock

## Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- May 2, 2024

The Lord be with you.

How good are you at awful? That's right, I said how good are you at it? Well, if you're anything like me, you're probably pretty creative at imagining the most awful things that could happen to you. I mean, you're one of those people who gets your exercise, mountain climbing molehills, forecasting the worst that could possibly happen. Some people call this stinking thinking. It's the interest that we're paying on borrowed trouble now. It's because I am so good at awful that I am so drawn to a scripture that I'm eager to share with you today a scripture in which the Apostle Paul, well, he does some awful.

It's a scripture in which the Apostle Paul imagines the most awful things that could happen to you or me and shows us how God's love makes us triumphant in every awful situation. I am looking at the Apostle Paul's letter to the Roman Christians. Romans chapter eight verses 36 to 38 where I read who will separate us from the love of Christ will affliction, our distress, our persecution, our famine, our nakedness, our peril, our sword in all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us for.

I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers 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. Now I've taken a highlighter to my bible here and I have underscored some of the most awful things that could happen to you or me.

I mean, they're all right here. There's persecution, famine, sword, slaughter, death, things present things to come. And if Paul has an awful eye enough, he throws in. He says anything else in all creation. I mean, it's all right here coming at us. But then having come up with some of life's possible catastrophes, calamities, Paul writes across them these words. He says in all these things, we are more than victorious through Him who loved us.

I mean, we're not just victorious, we are more than victorious to him about us as God will make us more than victorious in every awful situation, every one of them because it says it says that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God. In Christ Jesus, our Lord, the cross of Christ proves that God will stop at nothing to pour out his love on you and to make you victorious in every situation. I mean, just a few verses before this Paul says in Romans eight verse 31 he says, if God is for us who was against us, he who did not withhold his own son, but gave him up for us all. Will he not with him? Also give us everything else. He makes us victorious in every situation.



*water from rock*

So in a world where there are a lot of things we don't know, at a time when there are many awful things happening, you can be sure that nothing will ever come between you and God. Nothing will ever separate you from the love of God. In Christ Jesus, I can't help but think care of Corrie Tinboom, that incredible Dutch Holocaust survivor and teller of God's good news. Corrie said that out of a lifetime of experience she had learned there was no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still. If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look to God, you'll be at rest.

So we look at the news of the world today. Let's keep our eyes on God because nothing, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus that makes us more than victorious in every situation. God's love is not based on what you do or who you are, but God's love is based on who God is for. God is a love.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening until next time.