

# *Nothing Means Nothing*

## Today's Scripture

*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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

ROMANS 8:38-39

I often hear people say, "God's love is unconditional!" But the moment they fail, all of a sudden, the love they once said was unconditional becomes contingent upon their behavior. Many believe that God loves them when they do right, but stops loving them the moment they do something wrong. Well, I'm going to shatter that wrong belief into smithereens with the truth of God's Word!

While our love for God can fluctuate, His love for us always remains constant. His love for us is based on who He is and not based on what we do. I love just how confident and emphatic the apostle Paul is when he says, "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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39). In the New International Version, it says, "For I am convinced..."

Are you persuaded and convinced the way the apostle Paul is that as a child of God, nothing, not even your sins, failings, and mistakes, can ever separate you from the love of God? Don't go by what you feel, think, or have been taught. God's Word proclaims in no uncertain terms that nothing can separate you from His love. Nothing means nothing! His love for you is not contingent on your immaculate performance. He loves you even in your failings. That's why it is called grace! It is the undeserved, unmerited, and unearned favor of God. If you can deserve God's grace, then it is no longer grace.

So the next time you do something wrong, hold fast to His love as unconditional. Receive His love afresh, and you will have the power to overcome that failing—and every struggle—every time.



## Today's Thought

*As a child of God, nothing, not even my sins, failings, and mistakes, can ever separate me from His love.*

## Today's Prayer

*Father, thank You for the assurance of Your Word that says Your love for me is constant and that I never need to try to earn or be worthy of Your grace. I praise You for Your grace—Your undeserved, unmerited, and unearned favor in my life. I declare with the apostle Paul that I am persuaded that nothing, absolutely nothing—not my sins, failures, or mistakes—can ever separate me from Your love in Christ Jesus, my Lord. I thank You, I am completely and irrevocably forgiven. Amen.*

### **Today's Reflection on Right Believing**

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## *See what God Sees*

### Today's Scripture

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*

*ROMANS 12:2*

Learning to see what God sees is a powerful key in right believing. It involves replacing your wrong beliefs with right beliefs based on God's Word. When Jesus saw the man with the withered hand, He didn't just see the withered hand; He saw that there was more than enough grace for that hand to be made completely whole. Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" The man did as told, and his hand was completely restored and made as whole as his other hand (see Mark 3:1-5).

Now, you don't say "stretch out your hand" to someone whose hand is obviously shriveled and disabled unless you see differently. Jesus sees differently from you and me. That's why we need to go back to God's Word and learn to see what He sees. When Jesus sees a disease, a lack, or someone trapped in fear, guilt, addiction, and sin, He doesn't just see the problem. He sees God's healing, grace, and power superabounding in that area of weakness.

You too can change what you believe by seeing beyond what your natural eyes see. Press in to see what God sees. In your very area of lack, struggle, or challenge, see His super-abounding grace all around your current situation. Jesus says to you today, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). Give all your weaknesses, failings and mistakes to the Lord Jesus and see Him transform your weaknesses into strengths.

What you believe is powerful, so are you going by what you see or what God sees? You may not be able to stop negative thoughts from passing through your mind or unhealthy emotions such as fear gripping your heart, but you can definitely anchor your thoughts and emotions on the unshakable Word of God. You can certainly ensure that you believe right regarding what God says about you in His Word, which contains His precious promises to you. The more you learn and believe right about His love and what His Word says about your situation and your life, the more your thoughts will line up with His thoughts about you. You'll begin to develop thoughts of peace and not of evil, thoughts of hope and a bright future (see Jer. 29:11). And you'll be transformed!



## Today's Thought

*In my very area of lack, struggle, or challenge, God's super abounding grace is all around my current situation. I choose to see and believe that His grace is sufficient for me.*

## Today's Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank You that right in the midst of the lack, struggles, and challenges I'm facing, Your super abounding grace is all around me, forgiving me, healing me, providing for me, and transforming my weaknesses into strengths. Help me to always go to Your Word to see my situation as You see it, and to anchor my thoughts and emotions on Your unshakable Word. I believe that as I choose to believe what Your Word says about me and my situation, You are transforming me from the inside out. Amen.*

### **Today's Reflection on Right Believing**

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# *The Power of Redeeming Thoughts*

## **Today's Scripture**

*Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*

*PHILIPPIANS 4:8 NLT*

What mental movies are you playing in your head today? Are they thoughts of defeat and despair or thoughts of victory and favor? Faith is simply saying what God says about you and seeing what God sees in you and your situation.

Remember this: "It takes a thought to heal a thought." Unlike the world, which teaches you to empty your mind to achieve peace, God's way is to fill your mind with fresh, powerful, and redeeming thoughts.

The apostle Paul tells us, "Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise" (Phil. 4:8 NLT). So it's not just trying to blot out bad thoughts with your willpower. It takes a thought to replace a thought. It takes a right belief to replace a wrong belief. You need God's truth to replace the enemy's lies that have kept you in bondage.

If a wrong, bad, or negative thought is lodged in your mind today and you can't seem to shake it, stop trying! Perhaps you're lying in a hospital bed and can't help but think of the worst-case scenario. You're attempting to suppress it, but it's not working. Well, stop! Stop trying to erase it from your mind. That just won't work. What you need to do is replace that destructive thought with a thought that's from God. That's the only way to deal with the wrong thought and begin the healing process.

Start to meditate on truths such as, "Surely Jesus has borne my sicknesses and carried my pains. The chastisement for my wholeness fell upon Him, and by His stripes I am healed. With long life He will satisfy me" (see Isa. 53:4-5 and Ps. 91:16). Begin to play mental movies of yourself getting well, being discharged from the hospital, having fun with your family, or going on a nice holiday!



### Today's Thought

*Bad thoughts don't disappear as a result of my willpower. They disappear when they are replaced with thoughts that are from God.*

### Today's Prayer

*Father, thank You that You haven't left me on my own to somehow stop all the wrong thoughts and lies the enemy uses to keep me in bondage. You have given me Your Word and Jesus. Help me fix my thoughts on Jesus, His grace, and His finished work. He is true and excellent and worthy of all praise. Let Your Word bring healing, life, and liberty from every wrong belief and bondage as I meditate on it and Your grace. I believe that as I declare what You say about me in Your Word and see how You see me and my situation, I will experience Your unmerited favor and victory. Amen.*

### Today's Reflection on Right Believing

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# 18 *How to Be Kept in Perfect Peace*

## Today's Scripture

*You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You,  
because he trusts in You.*

ISAIAH 26:3

You need the truth of God's Word to uproot any wrong belief. This is why it's so important to get into His Word and take time to meditate upon verses that reveal God's unwavering and unfailing love for you. For instance, if you find your mind drifting into anxious thoughts over the smallest things, I encourage you to memorize and quote today's scripture: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You" (Isa. 26:3).

Whenever I feel stressed or worried about something, I pull away from life's hustle and bustle and simply meditate on God's promises. Sometimes I like to drive to a quiet park, and as gentle anointed music plays in my car, I feed on and speak His Word, allowing it to permeate my spirit: "God's Word declares, "You will keep Him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You. "And I tell the Lord, 'Yes, Lord, it is You who will keep me in perfect peace. Perfect peace comes from You. I just need to rest in Your Word and keep my mind on You. I don't need to think about what to do about this challenge. As I trust in You and keep my mind stayed on You, You will lead me and guide me. My trust is not in my own strength, but in You and You alone, Jesus."

What am I doing here? Instead of allowing stress and worry to get to me, I'm training my heart to see how God sees my challenges. The bigger God becomes in my heart, the smaller my challenges become. In fact, many times when I just relax and keep my mind on the Lord, His peace and wisdom begin to flow in me, and the challenge that I was previously so worried about becomes minute and inconsequential in the presence of Almighty God.

Are you faced with an insurmountable circumstance today? Learn to see what God sees by meditating on His Word, and let His peace drive out your anxiety. Let His wisdom direct your paths.



## Today's Thought

*The bigger God becomes in my heart, the smaller my challenges become. When I keep my mind on the Lord, His peace and wisdom will begin to flow in me and direct me to victory.*

## Today's Prayer

*Father, I choose to keep my eyes on You today. Instead of focusing on how big my challenges are, I choose to see You watching over me, going before me, and taking care of all my needs. In the midst of my challenges, I look to You to keep me in perfect peace and to lead me by Your wisdom to do the right thing at the right time. I receive Your perfect peace right now, and I thank You for leading and guiding me in whatever I need to do today. Amen.*

### Today's Reflection on Right Believing

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# 19 *What Actually Happened at the Cross?*

## Today's Scripture

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

Once, the Lord showed me a vision of what happened at the cross. I saw how all the sins of the entire human race (lies, deceit, envy, bitterness, adultery, addiction, bondage, murder) and all the consequences of sin (fear, sicknesses, guilt, disease, and condemnation) swirled around Jesus like evil spirits and demons, laughing heinously, taunting and tormenting Him. Jesus became like a magnet for all sin and, of His own volition, accepted all this sin into His own body.

You and I will never be able to imagine the excruciating pain that tore through His body at the cross. Every malignant cancer, every tumor, every sickness, and every disease came upon Him at the same time. He who knew no sin took upon Himself the mountainous weight of all men's darkest and foulest sins. He took it all Himself.

The Word says that "He Himself took infirmities and bore our sicknesses" (Matt. 8:17). "Himself"---a singular, reflexive pronoun that signifies the exclusion of you and me. Since He Himself has taken the full punishment, judgment, and condemnation for all sin, you and I are excluded from every punishment, judgment, and condemnation for all sin when we receive Him as our Savior.

But the story did not end there. Jesus did not die on the cross in the middle of receiving upon Himself all of humanity's sins. He took it all and accepted it all in His body. Then the fire of God's judgment was unleashed upon His own precious Son, and only when every last sin had been punished did Jesus cry out, "IT IS FINISHED!" moments before breathing His last breath (see John 19:30). Can you see that? Jesus held on at the cross until every single sin that you have ever committed and will ever commit was punished in His own body. That is why we call what Jesus accomplished at the cross a "finished work."

Now, what is your part today? Your part is to believe with your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is the Lord of your life and that all your sins have been paid for at the cross. If you believe that all your sins have been forgiven, sin will have no more power over you. You don't have to walk around with "a mountain of sin" on your shoulders anymore because this "mountain of sin" was laid squarely on the shoulders of another --Jesus. He Himself has already paid the price for your sins, so stop condemning yourself!



## Today's Thought

*Because Jesus Himself has already paid the price for my sins, I can stop condemning myself.*

## Today's Prayer

*Lord Jesus, because You love me, You went to the cross and suffered for me. Thank You for taking the weight of all my sins and bearing the punishment for every last sin until You completely exhausted God's wrath against my sins. I believe that because of Your finished work, I stand completely forgiven, with every sin paid for and with the right to live free from condemnation today. As I look to You to help me live by this truth every day, I believe that sin will no longer have dominion over me. Thank You for Your amazing grace, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

### **Today's Reflection on Right Believing**

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# *Only Believe*

## **Today's Scripture**

*“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

*JOHN 3:14-15*

Do you know why Jesus chose the cross? He went to the cross so that whoever believes in Him can receive the gift of eternal life.

Whoever believes. That is all you need to do to step into the inheritances that was purchased for you with the blood of the Son of God. Believe in HIM. Believe in Jesus. Believe in what He has done for you at the cross. Believe that all your sins have been imputed to Him and all His righteousness has been imputed to you (see 2 Cor. 5:21). Believe in the divine exchange. Believe in His love. Believe that all your sins have been punished at the cross and that through Jesus you have received the gifts of righteousness and eternal life.

Look at John 3:15 again. Tell me, who qualifies for salvation? The Word of God doesn't say, "Whoever obeys Him perfectly and keeps all His commandments." It doesn't say, "Whoever never fails again." It simply says, "Whoever believes in Him." "Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. The only action needed on your part is to believe!

Pastor, how can simply believing in Jesus make me righteous? There must be something more that I must do to earn and deserve God's love for me.

Don't write it off just because it sounds simple, and don't underestimate the power of right believing. When you believe right –when you believe that you are made righteous through Jesus – you will end up producing the fruits of righteousness. The apostle Paul refers to "the fruit of righteousness" in Philippians 1:11, and he specifies that they are "by Jesus Christ." When you set your eyes on Jesus and Jesus alone as the source of your righteousness and forgiveness, you will end up producing the fruit of righteousness, holiness, and moral character.

Indeed, the Bible tells us it is when we don't see or have forgotten that we have been cleansed from our old sins that we end up lacking in self-control, godliness, and brotherly love (see 2 Pet. 1:5-9). Can you see how when you believe right, you will end up living right? So, make Jesus, His forgiveness, and His love the center part of your life!



## Today's Thought

*When I make Jesus, His forgiveness, and His love the center of every part of my life every day, I will end up living right!*

## Today's Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of eternal life. I can never praise You enough for choosing the cross for me and for redeeming me with Your precious blood. I believe in You. I believe that all my sins have been imputed to You and all Your righteousness has been imputed to me. And I believe that when I set my eyes on You and You alone as my righteousness, I will end up producing the fruits of righteousness, holiness, and moral character. Amen.*

### **Today's Reflection on Right Believing**

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*Irreversibly Blessed***Today's Scripture**

*"Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it."*

*NUMBERS 23:20*

Take time to reread today's scripture. They are precious words, and they reveal how God sees you and me today. They were spoken by a prophet named Balaam, who had been hired by Balak, the king of Moab, to invoke a curse to drive his enemy, the Israelites, from his territory. However, when Balaam opened his mouth to curse, blessings from God flowed out upon the Israelites instead (see Num. 23:21-24)!

Do you know that when God blessed you, no one--no prophet, no sorcerer, and no devil— can reverse it? You are irreversibly blessed! You can never be cursed! No generational curse or any other curse can come upon you because God has already blessed you! That includes being redeemed from the curse of the law as recorded in Galatians 3:13: "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')." "

When your enemies say negative things about you out of envy, jealousy, and fear, or if there are people spreading nasty lies about you to assassinate your character, know this: the Lord is your defender. It is God who gives influence to words, and He can cause their words to fall to the ground. He can even, as we have just read, turn their curses into blessings. You don't have to get all flustered, agitated, and angry. Just know that the Lord is on your side and that when He has blessed you, no one can reverse it. Amen!

I want this right belief to sink deep into your heart: in Christ Jesus, you are irreversibly blessed. No matter how dire your circumstances may seem right now, put a smile on your face and a spring in your step. Whom the Lord has blessed, no one can curse! God is going to see you through this difficult patch. Things are going to turn around for your good. You don't have to live in disappointment, discouragement, and despair. As you can see in the biblical account of Balaam, if God is on your side, who can be against you?



## Today's Thought

*In Christ Jesus, I am irreversibly blessed.*

## Today's Prayer

*Father, thank You that in Christ Jesus I am blessed and no one and nothing can reverse this. Your Word says that Jesus has redeemed me from every curse, including generational curses, so I don't have to live life afraid of bad things that may happen to me. I can live life with boldness and freedom from fear. Because you are for me, I also don't have to be afraid of what others say about me. You will even turn others' curses into blessings. Thank You for putting strength in my heart through Your Word and for showing me Your grace today. Amen.*

### **Today's Reflection on Right Believing**

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# SERVICE TIMES

## Sundays:

**11:00 am EST In-Person Morning Worship**

**11:00 am EST Live Streaming via [www.caroldixon.net](http://www.caroldixon.net) and CDM App**

**11:15 am EST Live Streaming via YouTube and Facebook Live**

## Wednesday Nights:

**7:00 pm EST Live Streaming via [www.caroldixon.net](http://www.caroldixon.net) and CDM App**

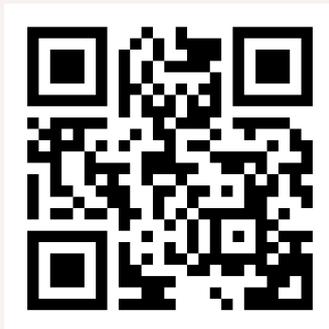
**7:15 pm EST Live Streaming via YouTube and Facebook Live**



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