

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

Week 8 – Friday

Rom. 8:35-39 – Footnote 39¹

Secondly, we must have faith in God's heart. God's heart is always good toward us. Dear saints, God has no intention to punish us, to injure us, or to cause us harm. I know that sometimes it is not easy to see this because all of us sooner or later suffer loss in different ways: physically, even of loved ones, and sometimes of loved ones prematurely. I know young people who have lost their parents. I know parents who have lost their children. At that juncture there is a temptation to blame God. We need to have faith in God's heart. We don't have time to read the verses but I think that you are familiar with Romans chapter 8: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?" (v. 35). Paul says that not even death nor life can separate us from God's love. There is a temptation when we experience death of those close to us, especially when it seems so premature. When someone is elderly and passes away we experience the loss but it doesn't sting the way it does when it seems premature. But we need faith in God's heart.

We need faith in God's faithfulness. God is faithful. He is faithful in us; He is faithful to the church; and He is faithful to His word, and He will accomplish every word that He has spoken.

We also need to have faith in God's word. We should take every word of the Bible as God's promise. In Matthew 16 the Lord declared, "I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not prevail..." In my history there were a number of times when I looked around and felt like the gates of Hades were prevailing. Did you ever experience that? I know that in my experience there were a few places where I asked, "Lord, what about this? You said that the gates of Hades won't prevail." What will you believe at that time? Will you believe what you see or will you believe God's word?

We need to have faith in God's ability. Ephesians 3, verse 20 says that God is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think. Who wrote that? Paul. Where did he write that from? A prison in a chain. He was writing while chained to a guard and still he wrote, "Saints in Ephesus, He is able to do superabundantly." Did you ever feel, "Lord, I know that You are able to do, but why don't You do anything for me?" One song we teach the children goes, "He is able, He is able; I know my Lord is able to carry me through." Even my grandchildren know this song, but I don't know if you have ever felt, "Lord, You are able but why don't You do anything? Why have you not done anything for 10 years?" Paul was not stumbled by God. In the prison he said, "Lord, You are able to do superabundantly above all that I ask or think."

Do you know why he could say this? Because Paul also had faith in God's will. We should have faith in God's will. God's will assigns certain situations to us in which He will gain His purpose, and the sweet dispensing can go deeper and richer. All of us know and have experienced that in times of ease in our Christian life, we tend not to be as desperate for the Lord. When there are times of turmoil somehow the Lord is able to go deeper and the dispensing is sweeter.