

Stuff Christians Say II: Victory

God bless you and good morning. As they're working to get the PowerPoint going, I just want to say this to you: He is present, He is able at all times. He is present. That means He is with you. There is nowhere that you can go that He is not. There is no place that you can be where He has not already been. There is no place that you go that He does not inhabit. And is He able at all times. There is no time when the power of God decreases. There is no time where the batteries run out. You ever picked up something and you went to press the thing and the batteries were dead? And that is so frustrating. That is so frustrating. That's not how it works with God. There is no point in time, there is no place where He does not have the power to assist. To come and be a part of. To come and fill. To come and help you. He is present everywhere and He is able at all times. And so we praise the name of that God, amen. He is present and He is able always.

This is the second week of our series. It's our new series: Stuff Christians Say. These are things that we say with the best of intentions. Christians say things with the best of intentions. And oftentimes we are led down the wrong path. We hear something that someone says, someone of position or authority, someone who should know better. Sometimes, they're quoting someone that they heard. Sometimes we say things to people with the best of intentions with the hope of encouraging them and building them up, but there's not really any Scripture behind it or, if there is Scripture, somehow it's kind of taken a left or a right turn. Last week we learned that "God will never give you more than you can handle" is an incorrect statement. I had a conversation right after church and somebody was a little upset with me. They said, "Look man! I've been leaning on that for a long time. Why are you snatching that out from under me?! I say that, I pray that. What am I supposed to do now? Where do I go from here? If God's going to give me more than I can handle, what does that mean?" And I said, "Well...maybe, you know, you trust Him a little more. Maybe you lean a little stronger on Him."

We say that with the best of intentions and here's what I believe – and I truly believe this. I believe that, to a certain extent, God honors intention. I believe that. If God never honored even the intention of our hearts, we would be in trouble. Because sometimes we have the best of intentions and the consequence or the impact is unintended. But I believe, to a certain extent, that God honors intentions. So, "God will never give you more than you can handle" – there's great intention behind that. However, a more accurate reading of Scripture will tell us, and this is what we left with last week, that through your weakness God is building your strength.

"But Pastor that doesn't feel as good to say! That doesn't feel good. I want to give something that helps someone. I want to fix their fix. When somebody comes to me and says, 'I just feel overwhelmed!', I don't want to look at them and say, 'Well, through your weakness, God is building your strength'. I want to say, 'Don't you worry! God will never dump on you more than you can take.' That feels better."

But a Scriptural reading says that through your weakness, not around it. Not you'll be spared by it. Through your weakness. Through the very temptations that you face. The temptations to be angry. The temptation to sin. The temptation to use shame and guilt as your personal

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motivations. The temptation to call yourself things that God never intended you to be. I didn't say this last week and I should have. We are tempted to do things to ourselves that we would never do to other people. I run myself in the ground in a way that none of you would ever hear me say. I have plenty of love and faith and hope and encouragement for you. I believe in you, but when it comes to my failings, I'm like, "You idiot." And I feel fairly confident that God is not happy with that because He did not create an idiot. He didn't.

In all ways that we are tempted, Jesus was tempted. And I'm going back over this because we're building, kind of, a little bit in this series. In all ways that we are tempted, Jesus was tempted and yet He did not sin. Through your temptation, through your weakness, God is building your strength. Through it. He uses everything. Even your weakness to make you stronger. We serve an incredible God. We serve an all powerful, all mighty God, and the promises of Scripture are intense. He will never leave me nor forsake me. He will come to me. He will not leave me as an orphan. He says that through His disciples to me. He sent out 72 people and when they came back they said, "Lord, even the demons flee at Your name!" That's my God! If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask anything in My name and it will be done for you. If you have the faith of a mustard seed, say to the mountain move and it shall be moved. That's my God! No weapon formed against me can prosper...

Yeah. That's in the Bible. And that's motivating, isn't it? Don't you love hearing that? I love hearing that. Listen, to a room full of sitting people, just about any Pastor, at just about any time, at just about any location, can say 'No weapon formed against me shall prosper' and someone will say amen. Or multiple people might stand up or there might be a 'holy' running of the -- you understand what I'm saying to you? There's something about that -- no weapon formed against me can prosper. There's the ring of true victory in that. I am victorious. You know that's what that means, right? If no weapon formed against me can prosper, if nothing fashioned for my evil can follow through, then that means I'm victorious. That's what that verse is about -- I have victory! No weapon formed against me shall prosper. That comes from Isaiah. Isaiah chapter 54.

Before I read this, you're probably familiar. If you're not familiar with all of the Scripture that's okay because sometimes we as pastors, we like to choose the bullets. You know what I mean? We don't like to choose, like, all of the building stuff. We like to choose the things that shoot you right in your heart. We want to shoot you with that and be like, "Go home with this! It's good!" We like to pick those things and be like, "Take that satan!" We like to give you those things so you can take it home and, y'know, shoot the devil.

So, you may not be familiar with all of this passage, but you should be. Isaiah, just an incredible guy. We don't know a lot of him from the Bible. We don't have a lot of canonical evidence, but we know from Jewish history that this guy was well trained. He must have been born into an aristocracy, an aristocratic family, because he was well trained. Isaiah is one of the most beautifully written books in the Bible. It is full of poetry and prose. This guy knew how to handle a... pen, quill, I don't know! Whatever he was...stylus. Whatever he had. This guy knew how to handle that. He was a crafter of words. He knew how to talk and he knew how to write.

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He's considered the greatest Old Testament prophet. He's considered the greatest one. "Well, that doesn't seem very fair." We consider him the greatest because of all the Messianic prophecy that he writes. He writes about, in some of the most amazing, specific detail, who Jesus is going to be and what Jesus is going to experience in His life.

He ministered, basically, mostly to the southern kingdom of Judah. The kingdoms have split. There's northern and southern because people are people and sometimes we just can't get together. Especially sometimes over our issues with God, so they split. God's people are split, and there's some in the north and some in the south. And Isaiah ministered mainly – he had some things to say to the northern kingdom – but mainly to the southern kingdom of Judah. And he ministered for decades. Through several reigns of several different kings.

The first 39 chapters of this book -- I know. Stay with me. I know that this is all academic, but I really want you to have the context 'cause you know I'm all about context, context, context. I don't want to come at you and say something to you like, "What you've been saying is wrong." That's not what I want you to leave with. I want you to leave with a better understanding. The first 39 chapters of the book are all about get it together. Get. It. Together. Isaiah is saying, "Listen northern kingdom, and especially southern kingdom, and even all of you peoples around. God is God and He will not be joked with. Get it together. Get your stuff together. Get your mess together. Stop the foolishness. God is going to come and show everybody exactly who He is and what He is. Get it together." That's the best way I can distill the first 39.

But from 40 through 66, it's this message of comfort and hope and encouragement. Specifically to Israel. "Things are going to be okay. God is coming and it is going to get rough. You are guys are going to be displaced. You are going to be homeless for a season. You've made some mistakes and those mistakes come with penalties. And you just keep on keeping on. I have sent people to you. I have sent miracles to you. I have shown you who I am and you keep on with the idolatry. And you keep on with the 'It's going to be my way'. And you just keep on backing away from Me. And so because of that, there will be a price to pay. There is judgement. There will be judgement.

But on the other side of that, I will bring you back to Myself. You will be My people and I will establish you back in the place that I originally intended you to be. There's going to be a homecoming like you have never experienced. I love you and I will never again - after this exile piece that's coming, after the judgement, which you have earned because I'm the God of both justice and mercy. After this, this is never going to happen again. It's going to be you and me, boo. You and me. Not only that, but the Messiah is coming. The Messiah is coming for the world, but He's coming first for you. And I'm going to describe the Messiah to you through My prophet, Isaiah."

So, that's what's happening. Do you have a clearer picture now? We're in the second half of the book. First half of the book – it's coming, baby. You're going to get swatted like a fly. Second

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half of the book – I love you. Everything's going to be okay. This is going to sting, but it's all going to be good. I love you. And into this, this is what Isaiah speaks:

**Behold, I Myself have created the smith who blows the fire of coals
And brings out a weapon for its work;
And I have created the destroyer to ruin.
No weapon that is formed against you will prosper;
And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn.
This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,
And their vindication is from Me," declares the Lord.
[Isaiah 54:16-17, NASB]**

That's powerful, isn't it? "When we get back to good, Israel, when we're back. When we're holding hands and we're singing songs and we're picking flowers; When we're back to good, it doesn't matter what the world tries to put upon you. It doesn't matter what weapons they fashion. It doesn't matter their intent. It doesn't matter their ferocity. It doesn't matter what schemes they create. It doesn't matter how intelligent they are. It doesn't matter what they do, I'm in charge. The very swords that they are smithing", Smithing? The very swords that they are – you know what I'm talking about!, "The very swords that they are making. The swords and the spears that they are forging to be used to kill you, will not prosper." And prosper's an interesting word there because it means, "Will not gain something at your expense." No weapon formed against you.

So, He's not just talking about actual physical weapons of war. He's saying, "Anybody who's got it out for you, doesn't matter what their plan is, they will not get one over on you. They will not profit at your loss. They will not gain at your expense. No weapons formed – whether verbal or actual physical – will prosper." That's what He's saying. "You don't have to be afraid of the enemies and their weapons because I created the creators of the weapons. I created them. And I created the enemies who would use them. And if I say that their weapons will not prevail, they will not. If I say something won't happen, it won't happen. I am God. And what I say is the rule and the law. No enemy will gain anything at your expense." This is great because this one's even a little bit better because we can kind of understand this, "And anybody who accuses you or judges you," That's what it says, "Every tongue that accuses you in judgement, you will condemn. Anybody who accuses you and judges you, you will condemn." And that word means, "pronounce judgement on".

My co-worker. I heard what you said at the water cooler. God rebuke you, in Jesus name! I mean, we can, kind of begin to feel that. Nobody ever came for me with a sword, Pastor, but people have come for me with their attitude before and this word said that I condemn them in Jesus' name. That feels good. It's good if you read it in context.

I'm gonna take a little aside here, but stay with, stay with me, 'cause we're going to talk about context here in a minute. I'm a big fan of tools. I love tools. If you look in my basement – Shh!

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Do not tell my wife. If you look in my basement, there are more tools than she knows have been purchased. And also, out in the shed. I just want to be transparent with you, I'm your Pastor. This is my heart. I love tools.

I like having the right tool for the right job. There's lots of men in here and here's what I can guarantee you, ladies: every man in here at some point in time has tried to use the wrong tool for the right job. Dudes in here have used some of your flatware as screwdrivers, they just have. They just have. They picked up a butter knife and been like, this screw has been loose for 17 years. I'mma do it right now. They've been in a place where they desperately needed a hammer and all they had is pliers. Those pliers don't work well anymore because they used them as a hammer. I guarantee you that that's happened. If I just had a thing. And ladies, probably you know what I'm talking about. You've probably used other things to fix stuff and you're just like, 'The paperclip does not work to keep water in something.' You understand what I'm saying. I like having the right tool for the right job. It's important because you're frustrated. Frustrated on two levels. Number 1, there's a job that you need to do that you can't do because you don't have the right tool. And number 2, if you just had the right tool, if you just had the right thing, then you could be done with this.

Did you know that a tool is just a tool in name only, unless you use it for its purpose? A hammer is just a thing you trip on; it's not a screwdriver. I dare you to try -- no, don't do this! Do not do this. Don't you go home and break something and be like, "Pastor Ben said I could use a hammer as a screwdriver." No, he didn't. Do not hammer a screw with a hammer. That's never going to work. Until you use that hammer for its intended purpose, it's just an object. It's the same way with weapons. There has to be somebody using the thing for what it was created for, otherwise it's just a thing. And God is saying, "Not only did I create the tools, I created the creator of the tools. So, this thing will never do what it's intended for unless My intent is behind it and the person I created to use it is using it." That's what He's saying in Isaiah chapter 54.

"Pastor, what in the world does that mean for me? This is the second time in 2 weeks because I have been telling myself for years, 'No weapon formed against you shall prosper!' He can't overcome you, he can't overtake you", Well, that's true! "What are you trying to say? If 'No weapon formed against me shall prosper' is stuck back in Isaiah's time, talking to a very specific group of people, for a very specific context, what does that mean for me?"

Well, let me ask you, do you face an enemy? 'Cause they were. They were gonna. Even after things went well for them. Even after they turned their faces back to God and said, "Okay." After 1, 2, 3, 4, 700 years of being disobedient and getting the hammer dropped. After the 7, 8, 2 MILLION people that have died because of their disobedience, "We're ready to make the turn, we're going to make the pivot, and we're gonna be Your people again." Even after that, this verse says, "No weapon formed against you will prosper", which helps us assume that there will be weapons, and there will be an enemy, and there's going to be trouble. So, even for them, even in the time of blessing, they could expect trouble.

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I'll ask you again, do you face an enemy? Do you think he's the nice type of enemy who's going to let you off? Do you think he's going to wait until you're having a good day to come for you? He's gonna show up and be like, "I'm here to -- Ooo. Death in the family. I'll wait. Yeah, I'm roaring like a lion. I'mma come bite the heads off of -- Ooo, lost your job? I'll come back tomorrow. You've got enough going on." You think that that's what the enemy does?

It can get scary, can't it sometimes? When you think about an enemy, just an enemy, that you can't see, that's just out there. Sometimes, it can get frightening. But let me ask you a question, where do you think Lucifer came from? Do you think that there was just some kind of big pit of evil, at the beginning of all things and he just kind of crawled his nasty self out of there at some point in time? Do you think he's like the originator of himself? Genesis 1:1 tells me that Lucifer was created. Part of the created order. **Genesis 1:1** says, "**God created the heavens and the earth.**" That means everything in the heavens. Angels weren't self starters; they didn't just pop into being. Lucifer at one point in time was called Lucifer. The light. He was an angel. He was with God; part of the angelic host. It was his disobedience and his rebellion that forced his removal. He fell like lightning, the Word tells us, to earth.

Let me ask you this then, what weapons do you think, that he created? What weapons does he have at his disposal that he fashioned? *[From the congregation: Lies.]* Okay. So, you think that there are some things that he's created? That he's the father of lies? Okay. So, he has some weapons, there seem to be some things that he can use, right?

God says I created the blacksmith who created the weapons. I created the destroyer who uses the weapons. I'll prove it to you. When satan came into God's presence, it said he was going to and fro on the earth. And the angels came to present themselves before the Lord. And God said to satan, "Whatcha been doin'?" And satan said, "I was taking a walk, to and fro. Just been ambling about on Your created world. And that's when God says, "Well, have you seen Job? Have you considered Job? Have you considered My servant Job? Have you considered them at all?" And satan says, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. But if You touch him. If *You* touch him, 'cause I can't." You're not getting it yet. it's okay you will. "If You touch him, if You touch him and everything that he has, he'll curse You and die. If You, God, the all powerful One, manipulate him in his circumstances. If You, God, get into his life and do some bad stuff. If you turn off his water, if You take away his camels, if You let a few of his people die. If You, God, who has the power, touches him, then he'll turn on You. 'Cause I can't. I'm just a fallen angel. You created me. Anything that I would bring to bear in his life can't touch him because *You* created *me*. He worships You. He loves You. He's focused on You. I can't touch that. I can't come against that because any weapon that I have, You already fashioned. And You made me. You're in charge of the whole thing." And that's when God says this, "Behold, all that he has is in your power."

So, you might say, that the only influence that the enemy has is what God allows him. Y'all need to stop making a boogeyman of the devil, 'cause he ain't nothin'. Stop growing him in your mind, stop giving him -- the apostle Paul says in Ephesians 4, "Do not give him an opening" 'cause you can give him influence with your fear and your doubt and your insecurity.

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When you take your eyes off of God, the all powerful One, you give power to the one who has no power. He can't do anything to you, God created him and the weapons that he uses. That's hard for me Pastor, 'cause sometimes I feel like I'm put upon. Sometimes, I feel like he's got the upper hand. Wrong. That's wrong. The Spirit of God lives within you. If the Spirit of God lives within you, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, then he can't manipulate you, touch you. Well, then what does that mean? That means that sometimes, life just happens. That means the devil is not the author of my cold. That means that the devil didn't cause my boss to give my job to someone else. That means the devil didn't, somehow, kill my car battery. That means the devil didn't get into my account and steal money. That means sometimes, life just happens because God allows the devil to have any and every type of influence that he has. It only comes through God's hands. You might say, that satan's rebellion just turned him into another tool for the Lord to use for his purposes.

God uses satan?! No, no, no! I'm not getting heretical. And everybody took off out the back door and that was it. Maranatha was done. No, no, no, no. I'm not saying that God uses satan, I'm saying he allows the deceiver certain influence in order that we might seek God more clearly, look to Him more often, and lean on Him more heavily. God has all authority under heaven and in heaven and on the earth and in the earth. And the devil cannot overcome anyone that has the Spirit of God living in them. He cannot overcome you. He cannot overcome you, if you have the Spirit of God. Again Paul says, in Ephesians chapter 4, he says, "Listen, don't sin in your anger. Don't tell lies. Y'all need to get along and be together – you're one Body. Don't let the sun set on your anger. Tell the truth. Do not give the devil an opportunity." So, you can give him influence if you want. That's up to you. But he cannot take influence over you. Because every weapon that he has, is fashioned by God Himself.

Let me be clear. Isaiah chapter 54. These verses are about Israel's return to God. It's about God's protection over Israel as she reunites with Him. It's about His promise to never be angry with them again. It's about His promise to be with them and to never leave or forsake them. "The exile is coming, but after that, after you have been punished – because you earned it and I told you that I would. After the justice, the mercy is there. You will be My people, and I will be Your God." So, what about 'no weapon' though? I mean, is that still? What about 'no weapon'? That's been a part of my, that's really, that's really important. You know there's some familiar language, there's some language that's kind of like that in Romans chapter 8. There's some language that the Apostle Paul uses. It's very interesting.

If you know anything about the letter to Romans, he's just trying to teach. And he's just trying to help these people understand. He's trying to help these people understand who God is. And he's trying to help them understand what salvation means and what it means to be changed and to be transformed by the Spirit of God that lives within you. He's just trying to help them get what it means to live for Christ, to accept [the Messiah] as their Saviour, and live a life that looks like that.

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Chapter 8. And he goes and tells them a lot of good things, and he gets down to verse 31 and this is what he says, **“What then shall we say to these things?”** Everything that I have written before this, all of this good stuff about love and encouragement and about how God lives with you and He loves you and if you just can get your mind right, if you can understand what it means to be saved by the grace of God, if you can just get that Jesus is Messiah, and if you can bring yourself to submit yourself in every way shape and form... **“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”** If you want to bring something into your life that is accurate and that it is contextually bound to who you are: if God is for you, can't nobody be against you. Not the devil himself with all of his schemes. Because God created the devil and any tool that the devil has. There is no surprise there. God never saw the devil do something and went, “Huh, I didn't see that coming,” or “That's a new way of torturing someone.” That never happened.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

[Romans 8:31-35, NASB]

Is there anything that can come into my life? Anything that I create in my own life? Any decisions that I make that go bad? Anything that the enemy attempts to, and God allows the influence of in my life? Is there anything? I mean at some point in time, can't I sin enough to be apart from the love of God? Absolutely nothing will separate us from the love of Christ. Not tribulation. Not distress. Not persecution. Not famine. Not nakedness. Not peril or sword. Nothing separates us from His love. Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ. Nothing can separate you from the love that drove a man to get killed. He had every choice. Don't ever think that He didn't have a choice.

At any point in time, Jesus could have said, “Enough”. “No, He couldn't've.” Yes, He absolutely could! We sing a song that says He could have called ten thousand angels to destroy the world and set Him free. Don't ever let the enemy or anybody fool you that at any point in time, Jesus couldn't've just said, “Reset.” Because He could've. He was man in every way, shape, and form, but He was also God. And He could've looked at His Father and said, “Nope!” and God would've said, “Done”. But His love for His people, His love for this world, His love for you drove Him to the cross that He didn't earn. Drove Him to the cross that He didn't deserve. Drove Him to give His life, so that you could have life. Nothing can separate you.

My friend, get this in your head. If no weapon formed against you can prosper, great. But you cannot be separated from the love of God through Christ Jesus. You. Can't. Be. Separated from that. So, what does that mean? Verse 37, **“But in all these things we overwhelmingly**

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conquer through Him who loved us.” Because of His love, you can’t be defeated. Because of His love you will conquer every obstacle and every issue. You will overcome. **“For I am convinced” – verse 38 – “that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will ever be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** That has power, my friend. You want to bring something into your life that can just diminish the darkness, that can force the enemy to flee in every way, shape, and form? You tell him, I am loved. I am loved. And I am loved by a love that covers me from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet. It is an impenetrable barrier. Back off! I AM LOVED. He gave His life for me. You can’t touch. That you can’t cross that. This is what you take home today.

I’m not trying to steal Isaiah 54. Man, listen, I’m not trying to steal that from you. There’s power in God’s Word. And Paul says that God’s word, every bit of it is good for teaching and correction. Every bit of it. And none of it will disappear. Not the least letter of it will disappear, ‘til we cease being here and start being over there with Him. It’s powerful, that Scripture. I’m not going to take that from you, but I can tell you that if you want a little bit more contextual truth for you right now – in the victory of God’s love there is no defeat. In the victory of God’s love. It’s a done deal. It’s not waiting to happen, it’s not gonna come. There’s victory for you because of what God did in Christ Jesus. And it’s about love. And because of His love, you can’t be defeated.

Here’s the reality, some of you may sit here, feeling defeated in this place. That’s the truth. Because life is not kind. Solomon, wisest human being to ever walk the globe, save Jesus Himself, said, “The race is not always to the swift. The battle is not always to the strong. And the food, the provision, is not always to the wise. Time and chance happen to all.” And that doesn’t feel good. That doesn’t feel right. Because the Author and the Perfecter of our faith, I just want Him to come and I want Him to mold my world in a way that I don’t struggle, I don’t hurt. I’m not asking to be Richy Rich. I’m not looking for the silver spoon. I don’t want 5 Whips in my garage. I’m not looking for that. I’m not trying to floss and get big. I’m not to trying to flex and fly around the world 15 times. I don’t need all of that; I just want enough to feel safe and be secure and know I’ll never lack. I want to be able to give. I want to have so much that I can give (so that it doesn’t hurt) that I can give to ministries. I want to have enough that I can give to Zambia and I can give to Exodus and I can give to the Pregnancy Aid Center and I can give to the Samaritan Women. I want to have enough so that I can give, give, give. But still, y’know, not have to worry about my light bill or my rent or clothes for my kids. This is a hard truth. Because it doesn’t always feel like we have the victory.

Here’s what you have to decide. You have to decide His love is enough. I wish I had a bigger thing for you this morning. I wish I had a greater way to lift you up. I wish I had, like, literally a syringe of encouragement, that I could – okay, that got weird. I don’t want to stab you. I don’t want to stab anybody. I’m not trying to stick anybody, I hate needles, that got weird. I’m sorry. I wish there was some way that I could give you everything that you need. I can’t, but He can. And He already paid the price to do it. What you’ve got to decide is that His love is enough. If

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His love is enough for you, you can't be defeated. You can't. You CAN'T. If His love is enough for you, if you understand that God's love, that even if that's all that you have, it's enough? Then everything that goes on around you doesn't have to touch you.

Have your reaction. I'm very sensitive to that, because I know that... sometimes there's this Christian filter that they want you put on things where nothing ever bothers you. Like, you don't have faith if you ever get angry. Like, if anybody ever cuts you off in traffic and you give them the 'You're number 1 sign', like, that means that you're lost to salvation. You're going to have to get re-saved and ask God to forgive your sins again. There's this Christian filter that says, "I'm never faithless. I never doubt. I never hurt." That's not true, we're human beings. We have those reactions. But after you have that reaction, fall back into the love that gave itself for you. Fall back into the love that spreads its arms and died for you. Fall back into the love in which there is no defeat.

If no weapon formed against you can prosper, that's good for you, I hope this will find its way into your life, day to day. God loves me. I cannot be defeated. If God is for more, who can stand against me?

Father, I pray that we would all have a new and fresh understanding and revelation of your love. God, you know my heart. And I'm not trying to get legalistic about what verse comes from what era or what time period. I'm not trying to undercut the things that You may have used in the lives of Your people to encourage them, to buoy them up, to give them strength. You know that's not my heart. I know & I believe in the power of Your Scripture. EVERY Scripture is available to us and for us. I know there's great encouragement. I'm not trying to undo any of that. I'm not trying to say to anyone today that what you've been saying to yourself is wrong. It's not. God's word quoted is powerful, period. Father, I pray in this moment, that in the coming days, there would be a fresh and a new understanding and revelation of Your love for us and what that means. I pray God that we would demystify the enemy. I pray, Father, that we would stop feeding him with our frustration. I pray, God, that we would stop giving him opportunities to mess with us. I pray God that we would see him the way You see him: as a broken thing that once had a purpose. It was a purpose of light, and a purpose of love, and a purpose of submission to You. And then that thing, that angel just broke. Here's what I know: you use even the things he wants to bring into our lives. You use those things to make us stronger. To push us in our faith. To cause us to look to You more often and to lean on You more readily. There's nothing he can bring against us God. There's nothing because You stand beside us. Help us see You. Help us see ourselves in You. Help us understand Your love. I thank You God and I praise You. In Jesus' holy and precious name. Amen.

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