

Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love

From: **Know and Believe:**

A Lifetime Journey toward Rediscovering God's Love for You

Taken from Chapter 12: Nothing Can Separate Us

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Perhaps you also gradually adopted the belief that God's presence is something we need to "enter," that it comes and goes based on our righteousness or intensity of worship, or that our closeness with God is based on our diligence in prayer and our level of personal holiness.

For us, "seeking God" required we pray daily (for 60 minutes—not one minute less), read the Bible daily, attend all church services regularly, give ten percent plus more, get involved in multiple ministries, do what Jesus would do, be holy in every thought, word, and deed, and do so purposefully and with much fervor. This list grew regularly as each new teaching trend hit the sermon circuit.

If we fell short in any area, this would explain to us why it felt as if God was distancing Himself from us. For me, it seemed He was motionless with His arms folded, waiting for me to "get it together" spiritually. David's thoughts were more intense to the extent of believing God was not only disappointed in the lack of his spiritual and ministerial accomplishments, but also ashamed of him—a sure ticket to depression. You see, there was nothing we wanted more in life than to please God, and we never felt we did. Oh, yes, we knew this passage.

Romans 8:35, 38-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 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 a glorious truth to know nothing can separate us from God's love, and yet grace can be nullified with ifs, ands, and buts—conditions, additions, and exceptions to God's glorious provisions (Gal. 2:21). This is what happened in our lives as we were exposed to erroneous teachings

such as this one which was delivered with great intensity. Here is an example of such error.

“You will notice in Romans 8:35-39 this does NOT include you!!! It does NOT include your SIN. You CAN separate yourself from God. Your sin DOES separate you. God hates sin. He cannot look upon sin. He cannot look upon you when you sin. Not until you stop your sinning and seek forgiveness can your relationship with Him be restored.”

We swallowed this lie—hook, line, and sinker for way too many painful years until, thankfully, we began to understand “our sins and lawless deeds he remembers no more,” and that “nothing” means nothing, and that included us, even if we sinned. Who can separate us? No one—not even we ourselves. What can separate us? Nothing—not even our sins. Nothing can separate us from the love God has for us. Say it out loud and with conviction.

**“Nothing can separate me from my God
or His love for me.
Nothing and no one!”**