

God is For You

by Reverend Victoria Ney

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I think we have all heard the words "God is good." And **God is good!** But it gets even better. God is FOR you. And as Romans puts it, "If God is for us, who can be against us?!" (Romans 8:31).

From God's perspective, you are so "worth it" that God was willing to allow Jesus to leave the glories of heaven to become one of us—to show us how to live, and to die for us—so that we will never be separated from him. You are valuable, purposeful, and important. Listen to this verse from my favorite passage in Isaiah 43: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1).

If God is for you, shouldn't you be for you! Does it make sense for you to be against you? You are against you when you call yourself dumb, ugly, old, horrible—add almost any negative adjective. You are against you when you tell yourself that there is no solution, no hope, no promise in life. You are against you when you decide that you don't have enough talents, or friends, or future.

So how do you begin to see yourself as God does?

First of all, remember that your words matter. Other people's words can sting and hurt, for sure. But I believe we can do more damage to ourselves. Those inner voices we keep hearing in our ears—perhaps from ourselves or from people in our past—that replay the same messages.

Think about it, you are either your worst critic or your greatest cheerleader. The words you tell yourself will usher in either fear or faith. Whatever word follows "I feel ..." or "I am ..." is going to be a self-fulfilling prophesy. So make sure that what you tell yourself is uplifting and helpful. Proverbs 15:4 says: "The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit." How true! Maybe the writer of Proverbs was actually the wisest person in the world!

Secondly, hold fast to the promises in Scripture. Let God's words soothe your spirit and lift you up. The apostle Paul modeled this for us. He said, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39)

Christian author and preacher Max Lucado says we should personalize that passage. Make it really meaningful for you personally. Insert the sources of anxiety that come into your daily life and sleepless nights. Like this: "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither poor health nor waning energy, neither unemployment, nor college debt, neither today's deadline, nor tomorrow's diagnosis, (or any family member's diagnosis), neither fears about the Covid-19 virus, nor sheltering in place, neither moving, nor problems with children or parents, neither job fears, nor spouse issues, neither addictions nor moral failures, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus my Lord."

Stop the negativity and let only positive thoughts, words and actions be on the playlist today and every day.

Be for you!

God is.