

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Romans 8:35, 38-39

My spiritual discipline would be better characterized as undisciplined. As with many people, I suspect, my prayer life becomes much more active and intentional when a crisis arises. When someone I love is diagnosed with cancer. I have a health scare of my own. A friend loses her job. A loved one dies.

This passage from Romans comforts and reassures me in all times of crisis. Nothing in scripture or in our understanding of God's love tells us that we will not face crisis, pain and even death. But this passage reminds me that while God does not erase the tough times—God does not even remove the cup from God's own son's lips—God is always with us. God's love always surrounds us. That is no small comfort.

—Josephine Hicks