

Feeling God's Love

*I am convinced that neither death, nor life, . . .
nor anything else . . . will be able to separate us
from the love of God. —Romans 8:38-39*

READ: Romans 8:28-39

REFLECT: Bill and Dan (names changed) competed like typical brothers as youths but became closer as adults. While Bill knew Dan struggled with depression in his early 30s, it was a stunning blow when Dan, a loved and respected pastor, took his own life.

For two years Bill tried to pray and wrestle with the whys and what ifs. If only he had said something different in his final conversation with his brother. Why had neither medications nor the best hospitals been able to help? Bill couldn't feel God's presence. It was a stark time.

Yet over time Bill understood Dan's mental illness, which had drained all rationality from his mind and spirit. He knew God's love covered Dan's soul. He missed his brother, but Bill's own awareness of God's presence and love in his life began to return.

Another Christian sister said that when her son suffered a life-altering head injury, there was a long period of time when she couldn't pray. She was too depleted. Keeping a constant vigil by her son's bedside while he was hospitalized and through long months of rehab, she struggled to get from day to day. Later she acknowledged that it was the prayers of others that saw her through.

When we suffer, God's promise in Romans 8 that nothing will be able to separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus is one of the most blessed promises in all of Scripture.

—Melodie Davis

RESPOND: *Lord God, even when I can't feel you, and especially when I don't feel like talking to you, thank you that your love carries us.*