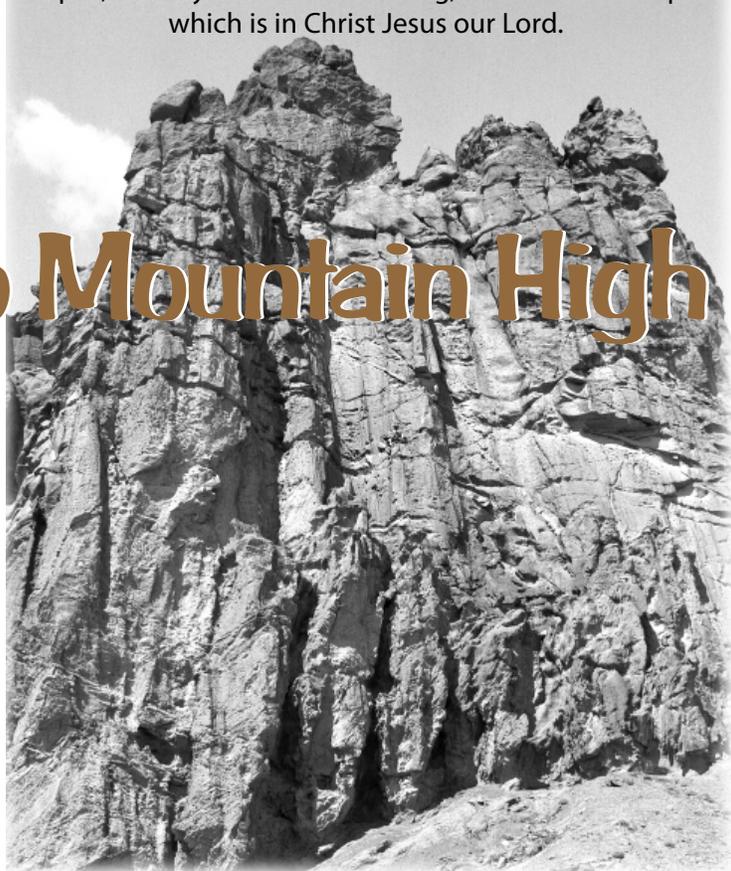


For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Ain't No Mountain High Enough



BACK IN THE 1960s several versions of the Ashford/Simpson song “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough” were recorded. My favorite has always been the Diana Ross album version recorded in 1969, and released in 1970. After a long absence, I recently listened to it again, and found it oddly moving. The music is driving, broad, luxurious, and it is certainly possible for music alone to touch my soul. But this time it seemed that the lyrics were reaching into me, moving me even to tears. How in the world could it possibly be that the words of a forty-five-year-old teenage love song would move me so?

Then I realized what it was. Diana Ross may have been singing about human love (“If you should ever miss the arms / That used to hold you so close, or the lips / That used to touch you so tenderly”), but in much of the words my heart was hearing a song about the persistent devotion that exists between God the Father and His children. Ashford/Simpson wrote

*No matter where you are, no matter how far.
Just call my name. I'll be there in a hurry.
On that you can depend and never worry.
You see, my love is alive
It's like a seed that only needs the thought
of you to grow.*

God, through Moses, wrote
“Be strong and courageous, do
not be afraid or tremble at

them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.”
Deuteronomy 31:6

and, through the apostle Paul, He spoke of how the “seed” of His Spirit connects us to His thoughts.

**For to us God revealed them through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches all things, even the
depths of God.**
1 Corinthians 2:10

Whether they realized it or not, Ashford/Simpson were writing of the compassionate, eternal love our heavenly Father has for His people.

*I know you must follow the sun
Wherever it leads
But remember
If you should fall short of your desires
Remember life holds for you one guarantee
You'll always have me.*

The love of God is stronger and more dependable than even the love of a mother

for her child.

“Can a woman forget her nursing child
And have no compassion on the son of
her womb?
Even these may forget, but I will not
forget you.
Behold, I have inscribed you on the
palms of My hands;
Your walls are continually before Me.”
Isaiah 49:15-16

And then the riveting chorus:

*Ain't no mountain high enough
Ain't no valley low enough
Ain't no river wild enough
To keep me from you*

*Ain't no mountain high enough
Nothing can keep me
Keep me from you*

Nothing—absolutely *nothing*—can ever prevent us from getting to our heavenly Father, and certainly nothing can prevent Him from getting to 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 8:35

The unspoken answer is, No. Nothing. And the overwhelming realization of this truth—even when inadvertently voiced in the words of a secular love song—can pierce us to our very souls, and drive us to our knees in praise of our God.

