Thanksgiving 1996 **p951127** **961027**

I imagine that everyone has some kitchenware which is labeled 'unbreakable'. What a blessing to have something that is difficult, if not impossible, to ruin. I wish everything that I owned had this characteristic, though we know that there is truly nothing that is "engineer-proof". It is different in the spiritual world, however. Jesus gives us one answer when he describes God's word as something which cannot be broken (John 10:35). It is great to be able to trust in something so completely, knowing that it will never fail. Have you ever had a car break down and leave you stranded, or had the TV go out in the middle of a crucial football game? Just think about how frustrating this can be!

God also uses the word 'unfailing' in regard to his love for us. When the Old Testament writers speak of giving thanks, 20 out of 43 times (NIV) they give as their reasons "for He is Good." And then there follows the comment, "His love endures forever." We have again the idea of something which never fails. "Unfailing Love" is one of the greatest themes in the Bible. David speaks of it as he gives thanks in Psalms 136:

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.	*His love endures forever.*
Give thanks to the God of gods.	*His love endures forever.*
Give thanks to the Lord of lords:	*His love endures forever.*
to him who alone does great wonders,	*His love endures forever.*
who by his understanding made the heavens,	*His love endures forever.*
who spread out the earth upon the waters,	*His love endures forever.*
who made the great lights --	*His love endures forever.*
the sun to govern the day,	*His love endures forever.*
the moon and stars to govern the night;	*His love endures forever.*
to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt	*His love endures forever.*
and brought Israel out from among them	*His love endures forever.*
with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;	*His love endures forever.*
to him who divided the Red Sea asunder	*His love endures forever.*
and brought Israel through the midst of it,	*His love endures forever.*
but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;	*His love endures forever.*
to him who led his people through the desert,	*His love endures forever.*
who struck down great kings,	*His love endures forever.*
and killed mighty kings --	*His love endures forever.*
Sihon king of the Amorites	*His love endures forever.*
and Og king of Bashan --	*His love endures forever.*
and gave their land as an inheritance,	*His love endures forever.*
an inheritance to his servant Israel;	*His love endures forever.*
to the One who remembered us in our low estate	*His love endures forever.*
and freed us from our enemies,	*His love endures forever.*
and who gives food to every creature.	*His love endures forever.*
Give thanks to the God of heaven.	*His love endures forever.*

The idea of unfailing love is expressed in the New Testament in Romans 8:35, where we read, "I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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." God is Good and his love is overpowering. We can count on it forever, in spite of our sinful nature. In this Thanksgiving season, I cannot think of anything more worthy of our thanks.

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