

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

New LIFE Fellowship, Johns Island, SC - 07/12/2015

Romans 8:14-39

¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Adoption by whom we cry out, “**Abba, Father.**” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we SUFFER** with Him, that we may also be **GLORIFIED** together.

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **GLORY which shall be revealed in us.** ¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the children of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the **GLORIOUS** liberty of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. ²⁶**Likewise** the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for **as we ought**, but the Spirit Himself makes **intercession for us** with groanings which **cannot be uttered.** ²⁷Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He makes intercession** for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.** ²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also **GLORIFIED.**

³¹What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely **give us all things?** ³³Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **makes intercession for us.** ³⁵**Who (or what) shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written: “For Your sake we are **killed** all day long; We are accounted as sheep for **the slaughter.**” ³⁷Yet in all these things **we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through Him who loved us.** ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, **nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate** us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Apostle Paul has taken us up to the Pinnacle, the Apex, **the Top** ... of the **Gospel Mountain**. It is as though we've fought monsters, wild beast, hurricanes, volcanoes, tornados, demons, and everything the devil himself has thrown at us to keep us from God ... but God saved us, gave us an inheritance, cause us to be justified, born again ... and now we are More Than Conquerors ... Victorious over sin, death, hell, and the devil himself. We've fought our way through to the top ... but along the way was suffering, pain, betrayal, horrible set-backs, failures, but somehow God's Spirit continued to prompt you to move forward, to never stop, to never give up ... to endure with intense perseverance ... all the time knowing the God's Spirit is interceding for you, Jesus Christ is seated on the right hand of God the Father in Heaven, also Interceding for you ... cheering you on, giving you encouragement and strength to overcome the trials, the tribulations, the challenges to your faith ...

This could be said of all the apostles ... just read through the book of Acts. Read through Christian History of many of the dear precious warriors for Christ who died for their faith in Christ over the centuries. They were warriors for Christ. They were not warrior with physical weapons ... but spiritual weapons from God ... and moved forward in spreading the Gospel all over the world. From Jerusalem outward toward the edges of the earth East, North, South, and West ... every continent, every country, every region has in some way been touched with the Word of God and the Gospel of Christ. They were pioneers, warriors pushing forward, never giving up ... They believed God and moved forward in His Name, in His Spirit, in His Power, with suffering, tribulations, trials, and many were tortured, persecuted, and many died for their faith. But NONE were Victims ... NONE.

VICTORS – Not Victims... Today we are seeing Victorious Disciples of Christ rising up ... Rejecting Victim status ... not using "victimhood" as a cover for manipulation towards others. That "victimhood" is a tactic Satan and his followers use. The "victimhood" syndrome ... of being "offended" by everything as a tool to silence Christians or any protest of evil or sinfulness. Yes, that is Satan's tactics ... Satan's followers (fallen sinful humans who are ardent enemies of The Gospel, the Church, the Bible, and enemies of the God of the Bible ...) they utilize this "that offends me" and "we don't want to offend" ... as a way to engender folks to feel sorry for them, and then they use that to their advantage to "legally" silence Christians. Since, the Bible addresses sin, specifically, sinners don't want to hear it ... **but VICTORS in Christ push through**, in love, because we love sinners more than their assault on our "rights" ... we push through and Warn Sinners of Coming Judgment, so that they might RUN to the CROSS and Receive Christ's Salvation ... Salvation is found in no one else... only found in Christ Himself. Crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is enough ... God punished Jesus Christ on the Cross for all of our sins (past, present, and future) ... all paid for, once and for all. Done, It is Finished. Christ is the ultimate VICTOR ... Victoriously Rose from the Grave ... Victorious over Sin, Death, Hell, the Grave, and Satan ... He is the VICTOR. He gained the Victory for all of His Disciples. He never played the victim or used victimhood ... and neither should we.

Being OFFENDED – the enemy uses this tool to his/her advantage ... don't be deceived, Jesus warned us about this ...

Matthew 24:9-14

⁹"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be **HATED** by all nations for **My Name's sake**. ¹⁰And then many will be **OFFENDED**, will **BETRAY** one another, and will **HATE** one another. ¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹²And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³But he who **ENDURES** to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴And this **gospel** of the kingdom will be **PREACHED** in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and **then the END will come**.

Notice Matthew 24:10 ... "then many will be **OFFENDED**, will BETRAY ... HATE..." doesn't this sound like today ... folks are using these "tactics" strategically to gain advantage. **Don't let them.**

TRUTH to CLAIM to REMEMBER ... His Word, by His Spirit gives us Strength and Victory

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³⁷ Yet in all these things **we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through Him who loved us.** ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, **nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate** us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

VICORIOUS WARRIORS for CHRIST – NO FEAR of man (see Matthew 10:26-39)

Notice, again, as we said before ... if we are in Christ, follow and obey Christ, spread His Word, spread the Gospel, **we will be Persecuted.** Count on it, just like the air we breathe. **Be fearless** Look at verses 35 & 36 → (if we are silent in a cave, nothing will happen ... but ... **if we speak**)

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²⁶ **"Therefore, don't be afraid of them, since there is nothing covered that won't be uncovered and nothing hidden that won't be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light. What you hear in a whisper, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:26-39)**

When folks obey Christ, Spread His Word, Live for Him in the public, openly ... **Persecution is inevitable.** Paul experienced tons of persecution (see 2 Cor. 11:22-33), and so have so many others throughout history. Right now, all over the world, sinners are persecuting Christ with such ferocity, such as has not been seen since the Roman Empire or when the Roman Catholic church was killing 100's of thousands of Protestants through the centuries (all from Rome, by the way) or by Muslims throughout the centuries ... and TODAY in the Middle East and other parts of the world. And our turn is next, here in the USA and the Western (so-called) "Christian Nations" who've mostly abandoned our Biblical heritage for plowing the wind ...

Paul recounting his persecutions: Are they ministers of Christ? — I speak as a fool — I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— ²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: **my deep concern for all the churches.** (2 Corinthians 11:23-28)

Christ saved us from the Lake of Fire ... and we have also been Enlisted into Christ's Army, as a Warrior for Christ, **not a spectator, not a consumer, not a person who sits back and play games.**

Paul the Apostle is a great example of how we should be in this world for Christ, living for Christ, being a witness for Christ (see 1 Timothy 1:15-16 Paul is a “pattern” to follow, etc.)

He did not recruit us to play games in the Disney World Amusement park for the rest of our time here on earth. If you read the Bible, and really read it and take it for what it says, God is saying that we’ve been recruited to engage in Battle. It is serious ... throw away the toys and engage in battle. Prayerful Battles ... and Battles of life, staying true to God’s Word ... Battles against temptations, and compromises ... Battles to win souls for Christ. It is warfare ... not being neurotic here ... but reality ... just read the Bible ... and you will start to see the imagery of Warfare, Battle, Military terms are used constantly for a reason. “Stay Alert”, “Be Vigilant”, “Be the Man”, “put on the armor of God” (Eph. 6:10-2), “we have weapons of warfare that are not worldly/earthly, but spiritual for the pulling down of strongholds..” 2 Cor. 10:3-5

Yes, it is true farming, agricultural terms are used as well, just to be fair. So, we are agricultural warriors for Christ ... ok ... now lets move on. The Farmer who is a Warrior for Christ ...

Verse 35: **Who (or what) shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Why does he ask these things ... about tribulation, distress, etc... ? Because these are the kinds of things we will face as Christians because of the Gospel (following, obeying, and spreading the Gospel of Christ). These are not things of the past, only, **but of the present**, today, all over the world. This earth is NOT our home, we are just passing through. **Don’t be deceived into thinking** → wow, if only I could have “thus and so” and be safe, comfortable, live a convenient, carefree life ... then that would be truly living the best life, now. **Again, have you read the Bible?** Have you read Christian History? There are only brief periods of time of “no persecution” against Christians since the day of Pentecost. Persecution is a part of the Warfare. Sinners are not just waiting to accept Christ. They are AGAINST God already. They are enemies of God, already. They Hate God, Hate Christ, Hate the Bible, and Hate Christians. Either they are arrogantly, viciously, aggressively opposing God or they are in some degree passively opposing ... somewhere in between on the sliding scale of opposition and enmity against God, His Word, and His People. So, it is warfare, and God has called us to engage the Battle for lost human souls for Christ. We must engage, be strong, bold, loving, kind, gentle, and endure ... **never giving up.**

If you read through the New Testament you will read words like Perseverance, Endurance, “you will reap a reward if you don’t give up”, and words and phrases like that. Why? God is encouraging us to keep on keeping on ... regardless of how we feel, regardless of the circumstances, regardless of anything that is coming against us ...

Our Victory is Through Christ in us:

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Do you believe that you are **“MORE THAN CONQUERORS”** in Christ? **God says you are.** He does not LIE. He never lies and will never lie. He is TRUTH ... HE is LOVE ... God, by His Holy Spirit enables us to be **“MORE THAN CONQUERORS”** in Christ. If we Obey Him, If we pursue Him, If we Study His Word, Live According to His Word... and above all If we Spread His Gospel Message according to His Word, the Bible ... He will Empower us ...

Our Victory Realized when we are Obeying Christ to Christ's Glory (not for our own glory). When we are seeking to Please Christ, alone, and obey Him because we love Him, that is when He empowers us to Persevere, to Endure, to Never Give Up.

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

That is a Promise to Claim ... you can claim that promise in Christ. Do you believe this?

God said so, that is enough, it is settled ... let's BE what He says we are ... and live it out.

To the degree of your intimacy with God, to the degree of your surrender to Him, to the degree of you knowing His Word ... that is the degree at which your Victory is realized. (repeat this ... until it makes sense)

We must cling close to our Father, in Christ, in His Spirit ... deep intimacy, study of Word, deep prayer times, fellowship with other believers, and sharing the faith with the lost. God says we are **"MORE THAN CONQUERORS"**, therefore we can and should move out in His Victory. You see, we are busy doing what God wants us to be doing, will we have time for sinful things, to indulge in sinful habits? No, of course not. Sow to the flesh, reap corruption and death, but Sow to the spirit (spiritual things of God) we will reap God's rewards of Victory. Nothing shall separate us from God's Love, so let's be Victors and Conquer in Christ's Name.

Why does he say these final things in these last two verses?

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither **death** nor **life**, nor **angels** nor **principalities** nor **powers**, nor **things present** nor **things to come**, ³⁹ nor **height** nor **depth**, nor **any other created thing**, shall be able to separate us from **the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**.

Because these are the kinds of things we have faced, are facing, and will face until the day we die. These are the things that challenge the Truth of God's Love for us. The Battle is won when we believe this truth, rest in this truth, rejoice in this truth. No matter the kinds of things life, Satan, sinful people throw at us ... this Truth remains ... settle it, believe it, trust it .. Trust in HIM for His Love ... even when you don't FEEL it ... He loves you anyways. As **"MORE THAN CONQUERORS"**, we can move forward, keep moving, keep trusting in God, keep proclaiming His Word, keep praying for lost sinners, etc... until our final breath on planet earth.

We are not to just REST, fall asleep, play, piddle around, waste time, focus on ourselves and pleasing ourselves ... with this POWER of God He has given us, with the Great Commission ... **we need to move out in Victory** and Spread the Gospel ... while we can until our last breath as **"MORE THAN CONQUERORS"!!!**