



We Are Victorious!

By Becky Combee

I found out years ago that the Scripture does not say a lot of different things, but it says a few things many different ways. If you and I both saw a car accident, we would describe it differently, depending on our perspective. If we were looking at a bright green paint, I might say it was chartreuse while others would say it was neon green, lime green, or Granny Smith apple green. I jokingly say it depends on our age!

In the Scripture, the victory that belongs to every Christian is described in several ways. The apostle Paul writes that we are more than conquerors and that we will always triumph. In First John, we are told we will overcome and walk in victory. The apostle John later reports that we will prosper. This is not specifically in reference to money, but means we will have a successful journey through life. In the Old Testament, Joshua reports that we will have good success, and the psalmist declares that we will bear fruit and prosper. All of these words can be summarized in one thought. We win!

It is wonderful to win, to be on top, to be out front, to prevail over life's circumstances. But, we

must understand that these words of victory declare that our life will have some challenges. The words victory, triumph and conqueror presuppose an enemy that must be overcome, and it doesn't matter if the enemy is disease, financial loss or difficult relationships. The Word of God declares that in all these things, we are more than conquerors.¹

This same wonderful verse declares that our victory is through Christ. I think this is the best news we could embrace. It does not depend on our



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 within God's shadow.



strength, wisdom or tenacity. Victory is assured through our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Once again, this relationship is depicted by many different scriptural illustrations. In Psalms 91 the Holy Spirit writes to abide under the shadow of the Almighty.² Obviously, we cannot stand in one room and cast a shadow through the wall into another room. The shadow is always very close to the light. According to the apostle John, God is our

light.³ The psalmist also writes that the Word is a light unto my path.⁴ This means I am standing in the light of God, the light cast by His Word, allowing it to guide me in every decision. Thus, the Word of God is not a book resting in the back of my car all week or a decoration for the coffee table. It is my daily bread.⁵

Psalms 91 also paints another picture that helps us understand God's leadership and protection. It says that we must be covered with His feathers and underneath His wings. Many of us have seen a mother hen protect her chicks by



*He that dwelleth in the
secret place of the most
High shall abide under the
shadow of the Almighty.*

Ps 91:1



gathering them under her wings. Jesus used this illustration in reference to Jerusalem saying, "How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings."⁶ Then sadly, He said, "And ye would not!

I want to be close, always standing under the mighty wings of God in the light of His Word. I want to follow Jesus' directive when He said, "Come unto me...and I will give you rest."⁷ Similarly, the apostle James writes, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."⁸ However, the question we must ask about these verses is, "When should I draw nigh and how close should I be?" The answer is obvious! We cannot wait until some crisis or dilemma invades our life. We must live every day within God's shadow. We must live where we can always hear His voice. We must stay close to Him.

Jesus said that we must abide in Him like a branch abides in a vine.⁹ Wayne and I abide or live

together. We are in the same city, the same house, on the same property. Now that he is retired, we are always together, and we like it that way. I seldom drive because he chooses to chauffeur me. We must allow God to guide our lives, walking with Him, living with Him, close enough to hear the voice of His Word and His Spirit and to obey. When we abide in Him, we will live in His overcoming power.

In John 15 we learn that a branch that does not abide in the vine withers.¹⁰ In like manner, the psalmist writes that a tree that is not planted by water will wither.¹¹ Like a severed branch, it will not bear fruit. However, the glorious good news in both of these passages of Scripture is that we can abide in Him, washed by the water of His Word, and bear much fruit.

Every Christian wants to bear fruit in God's Kingdom of victory and triumph. In His kingdom we overcome. I have often said this means we come over, come around, come past, or come through. This means we win! We prevail! We dominate! We are victorious! From the apostle John, we learn that this victory is through our faith. Once again, this brings us to close relationship with God and His Word because faith comes by hearing.¹²

FINALLY

In the end, we have one magnificent truth! We can abide in God's shadow, live under His wings, stay connected to Jesus the vine, or plant ourselves like a tree by the water of His Word. Each of these scriptural expressions leads us to CONQUER difficulties, OVERCOME obstacles, rise in VICTORY and always TRIUMPH. We will win because God is the light of our life and in Him there is no darkness.¹³ We must STAY IN THE LIGHT!

¹Rm 8:37 ²Ps 91:1 ³1Jn 1:5 ⁴Ps 119:105 ⁵Lk 4:4 ⁶Mt 23:37
⁷Mt 11:28 ⁸Jas 4:8 ⁹Jn 15:1-6 ¹⁰Jn 15:6 ¹¹Ps 1:3 ¹²Rm
10:17 ¹³1Jn 1:5
