

WE SHALL OVERCOME

The book of Revelation trumpets victory for God's people when it declares, "And they overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony."¹ What a wonderful word of strength and encouragement! Think about it: "They overcame." Doesn't that mean they won? Of course it does! There was a battle or an adverse circumstance, but they won.

With the word "overcame," we are transported through rough waters and stormy seas to victory. We are drawn beyond life's traumas to smooth sailing and every step of the way we loudly testify, "The Lord is my helper." Now, I am certain there have been times in all our lives when we have envisioned great loss and sudden collapse. Our troubled mind persistently shouts, "I can't; I can't; I can't." But in these moments, the inspired promises of heaven are the vessels of strength and triumph.

Oh, how I love the words spoken by Solomon at the dedication of the temple. When he blessed the congregation of Israel, he said, "There hath not failed one word of all His [God's] good promise."² Because God always keeps His Word, we are unmoved by any difficulty. The winds may howl and the waters may rise higher and higher, but our trust is in God. He will perform His Word.

This wonderful message of trust and victory is declared by the apostle Paul in his letter to the church at Rome. He proclaimed, "Nay, in all these things we are MORE THAN

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CONQUERORS."³ Can you imagine that? WE ARE more than conquerors! How is that possible? Is it because of our loud cries of pain or better still, our strong work ethic? No, it is "through [Christ] that loved us."⁴

In his letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul wrote, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to TRIUMPH."⁵ Here, it is clearly stated that God orchestrates our victory. Yet He expects us to hear His voice and obey. He wants to lead us toward victory, to illuminate every obstacle, and to strengthen us by His Spirit. He will tell us what to do and He will do for us what we cannot do. Through our obedience, He causes us to triumph, pouring out His power on our behalf.

The voice of John the Beloved heralds another encouraging message of victory. He writes, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest PROSPER and be in HEALTH, even as thy soul prospereth."⁶ Our soul prospers when we live by the truth of God's Word. The psalmist states this very clearly. In Psalms 1, he says if we delight in God's Word and continually meditate in His promises, we will prosper.

The challenge of circumstances will always pale in the light of God's Word. And according to the psalmist, "Our leaf shall not wither."⁷ This Hebrew word, *wither*, means that we will not faint; we will not fail, fall away, or be foolish.⁸ Certainly, no one wants to fail. We do not want to be defeated or foolishly compromised. Our heart's desire is to live for God and walk successfully through every challenge.

Now, I am sure that no one really wants to be challenged, but Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation."⁹ There will be obstacles to overcome. However, the testimony of the apostle Paul can be our testimony. After he enumerated many of his difficulties, he said, "Out of them all the Lord delivered me."¹⁰ In spite of every hardship, he knew God's glorious triumph. He overcame!

One writer cleverly defined the word "overcome" as "to come over something." I would add to come past something, to go around something, to come through something, or to eliminate something. This is possible because of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. His sacrifice paved the road to victory. Through Him, we have been blessed with EVERY spiritual blessing and are given ALL things pertaining to life and godliness.¹¹

The magnitude of EVERY and ALL is beyond our comprehension. Yet in spite of our circumstances, we believe that God will supply ALL our need.¹² Wholeheartedly, we embrace His commitment to make ALL grace abound toward us.¹³ We trust Him to forgive ALL our iniquities and heal ALL our diseases.¹⁴ He is the Lord of our life.

As we confess His lordship and testify of His amazing provisions, we overcome. This is the message of the songwriter, "Got any rivers you think are uncrossable? Got any mountains you can't tunnel through? God specializes in things thought impossible: He can do what no others can do."¹⁵

He can and He will! We shall overcome.

¹Rev12:11 ²1Ki 8:56 ³Rm 8:37 ⁴Rm 8:37 ⁵2Co 2:14 ⁶3Jn 1:2 ⁷Ps 1:3 ⁸H5034 Strong's Greek and Hebrew Dictionaries ⁹Jn 16:33 ¹⁰2Ti 3:11 ¹¹Eph 1:3;2Pe 1:3 ¹²Php 4:19 ¹³2Co 9:8 ¹⁴Ps 103:3 ^{15"}"Got Any Mountains" written by Oscar C. Eliason, ©1945

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