

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

Our Day of Victory

The other day, out of the archives of my heart, a line from a song erupted. Over and over again, it kept marching through my soul. It was “Me and the devil had a tussle, but I won.”¹ Funny, huh? I don’t know the origin of the song, perhaps it is a spiritual song, but it projects a great truth. We are victors.

The wonder of our victory is the work of Jesus Christ. It is through His death and resurrection and not through our own effort or by our ability that we triumph. We win because He was our substitute. We live abundantly because He defeated our enemy, Satan. The situations and circumstances of life cannot overcome us because He is our Lord. It is not by our might, or our wisdom, but it is through Christ in us that we are “more than conquerors”.²

Why then does life bring us face to face with overwhelming difficulties? If the devil has been defeated, why does trouble manifest so frequently? Here is one important facet of our answer. The devil has not been eliminated. He lives on the earth. He works here to kill, steal, and destroy.³ He is the prince of the power of the air and the god of this world continually attempting to deceive men and defeat them.

But, he has no power or authority over God’s children. According to Colossians 2:15, Jesus “spoiled” principalities and powers and won for each of us a great victory. This word “spoiled” as

written in the King James Version of the Bible seems strange to our modern ears. It is a wonderful word simply meaning Satan and his entire team have been disarmed, stripped of authority, and robbed. Our Lord enlarged our understanding in Luke 11:22. He spoke about a strong man saying “But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.”⁴ What a vivid picture of Satan’s defeat!

*The Greater One,
our glorious God,
dwells in us.*

Now here again is our thought-provoking truth. Satan has been defeated, but he has not yet been eliminated. He still seeks to deceive and destroy the people of God. He attempts to victimize all those who do not identify him and stand against him in the mighty name of Jesus. I am so glad we are not ignorant of his plots and plans. He may roar like a lion, seeking prey to devour, but we can resist him successfully.

How is that possible? The greater one, our glorious God, God dwells in us. As we submit our lives to Him and resist the devil, he will flee

from us. I believe he runs in terror. I believe he retreats from the memory of that great resurrection day when Jesus was raised from death by the Spirit of God. It was a glorious day for us, a day of triumph and a day of victory. But, for Satan, it was the day he lost the keys to hell and death. It was the day he lost his armor. It was Easter.

¹ "I Won" by Johnny Mae Dunson
² Romans 8:37

³ John 10:10
⁴ NIV



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On Hymns

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior,
 Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose
 With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,
 He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
 And He lives forever,
 with His saints to reign.
 He arose! He arose!
 Hallelujah! Christ arose!

The words and music to this hymn were written by Robert Lowry, a Baptist minister and professor of literature for the University of Lewisburg. Rev. Lowry, who was ordained in 1854, pastored churches in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

He wrote an estimated 500 songs, including "Nothing But The Blood", "Shall We Gather At The River", "We're Marching To Zion", and "I Need Thee Every Hour". It was while meditating on the angel's words in Matthew 28:6, "He is not here: for He is risen, as He said," that Robert Lowry was inspired to write this song.

Of his song writing, he once stated, "Music, with me has been a side issue...I would rather preach a gospel sermon to an appreciative audience than write a hymn." Yet it is for his inspired hymns that Rev. Lowry is well known today.

Sources

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"The Complete Book of Hymns", By William J. Petersen, Ardythe Petersen