

## I Can Get Through This

Rom 8:31-39

I don't know about you, but I am almost afraid to look at the news anymore. It feels like our nation and the world have gone insane. Mass killings, major natural disasters, corruption and terrorism. Then we go to a personal level and many are suffering from loss of loved ones, broken marriages, diseases and conditions, and so much more. And we're about to have a holiday around giving thanks in a few days? Is there really anything to thank God for?

Paul and the people he was writing to were looking at a world gone mad in our text, but he makes an amazing statement. "We are more than conquerors." What does he mean by that? How can you be conquerors, let alone MORE than conquerors when you feeling attacked from every direction? Let's look for an answer to those questions.

PRAYER

I. It will work out

A. Greek Lesson

1. If you look back at vs 28, Paul makes an interesting statement. Romans 8:28 (ESV) — 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
2. Really, how do we know that?
3. If you look at the Greek, the word indicates instruction.
4. It's like math, you know  $1+1=2$  because you were taught that.
5. We know God works things for good because he has taught us that.
6. I may not see right away how this truth comes about, but I trust him that what he says is true.

B. Dramatic example

1. I read a true story a while back about a guy Named Joe. They didn't give his last name. Joe was the apple of his daddy's eye. He could do no wrong. Because his mom died when he was little, his dad babied him terribly. While his brothers went out to work at the family farm, Joe got to hang around the house and do whatever he wanted. He always had nice clothes and thought he was better than everyone else.
2. One day, his brothers had enough of his arrogance and kidnapped him and sold him to some human traffickers who took him to another country and sold him as a slave to a wealthy government official.
3. Joe had to grow up fast. He promised God that if he would take care of him, he would do whatever God wanted him to do.
4. For being a slave, his life wasn't too bad I guess. Over the years he even became the head slave for his master's holdings. He was making the best of the situation until he had to deal with a situation of following God and doing the right thing or giving in and doing something God wouldn't accept. When he chose the right thing, he was thrown in jail because of false accusations.

5. He spent years in jail, but still someone kept his faith in God and even ended up doing well as a prisoner and gained some position within the jail system.
6. As I read this story, I wondered if I could have been as faithful as he was. I wondered if I would have gotten angry with God and felt betrayed by him.
7. How in the world was God taking care of him?
8. Finally, by a stroke of incredible coincidence, he was paroled out of prison and went to work for the leader of that country.
9. If you guessed I am telling you the story of Joseph, you are right.
10. Remember how that story ends? He became one of most powerful men in Egypt and was not only able to take care of his family, but helped create an atmosphere for the Jewish nation to begin.

#### C. Long view

1. The reality of our life is that it may take a lifetime to see the good.
2. The heroes of faith in Heb 11 NEVER saw the completion of God's good in their lives, but they trusted God that he would be true to his word.
3. That's the understanding we need to have.
4. Oh, it's so much easier when we see the good a week later, but faith means trusting God when it takes a lot longer than a week, year or lifetime.
5. How you look at life during those dark times is a good measure as to how strong your faith is.

## II. The War for Your Soul

### A. The fight for our souls

1. Paul goes on from this thought to point out how we should respond to God's goodness.
2. He puts it in the context of a war.
3. There is a battle for our souls that goes on every day of our lives.

4. Every day we are faced with the battle of who will rule in our hearts. God or Satan.
5. The outcome of this war is an important one to each and every one of us. If we win, an eternity in Heaven, if we lose, an eternity in Hell.
6. Paul talks about the battle that we feel like we are losing in vs 35-36. Romans 8:35–36 (ESV) — 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”
7. Wow, that doesn't sound very hopeful to me.
8. All those things can undermine our trust in God.
9. All those things could defeat us if we forget who is in control.
10. All those things could be our downfall if we allow the enemy to get into our heads.

#### B. The Enemy

1. Ever since sin was introduced to mankind, Satan has really taken it to us.
2. When he was cast from Heaven, he has made it only goal to spite God by taking as many of us as he can to Hell with him.
3. He has used every trick in his considerable arsenal to keep people from following God and to pull those who do follow God away.
4. Satan is powerful, resourceful, determined and deadly
5. He isn't referred to as a roaring lion, the great deceiver, the prince of this world for nothing.
6. If you think you can stand up against him all on your own, you are very sadly mistaken.
7. You'll pay the price for that kind of arrogance.

#### C. The Ally

1. but we have an ally in our war.
2. We don't have to depend on our resources alone, we can depend on God's.

3. I absolutely love verse 31. Romans 8:31 (NCV) — 31 So what should we say about this? If God is for us, no one can defeat us.
4. When God is on your side, the other side ceases to matter.
5. Oh, they will still attack, but they aren't going to win.
6. With God on your side, the battles may be tough, but you are guaranteed you are going to win the war.
7. Satan doesn't stand a chance against God.
8. He never has and never will.
9. From the very beginning of man's first sin when Satan, thought he destroyed everything for God, God let him in on an incredible fact in Genesis 3
  - a) Oh, you'll hurt me and mankind.
  - b) that's the meaning of bruising his heel. – it means to injure badly, or deliver a sharp blow.
  - c) But God goes on to say I will crush your head!
  - d) Even though the Hebrew word is the same, the way it is used grammatically mean to crush.
10. He realized he can't beat God head on, so he goes after us instead of God.
11. God will do whatever it takes to protect us from Satan.
  - a) He even gave up his own son for us.
  - b) And in giving up his son, he guaranteed our win.
  - c) He also guaranteed Christ's win as well.
  - d) Death couldn't defeat Jesus, Satan can't defeat God.

### III. More Than Conquerors

#### A. The Conqueror

1. Paul says, "we are more than conquerors". What does that mean?
2. When you think of conquerors, you think of great and powerful men.

- a) Attila the Hun
- b) Shaka Zulu
- c) Julius Caesar
- d) Alexander the Great
- e) Napoleon
- f) ...Darth Vader

- 3. Conquerors bring fear to their enemies and pride their own people.
- 4. Being the conqueror is very good.

#### B. More than Conquerors

- 1. Paul say we are MORE than conquerors.
- 2. Most scholars believe that phrase means Super Conquerors.
- 3. It's the idea that the conquest is so complete that there is no opposition to the conqueror left in the area they took over.

#### C. Absolute Confidence

- 1. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.
- 2. Don't let Satan's lies get into your head.
- 3. Don't let him convince you that God is losing, that you are losing.
- 4. We are super conquerors.
- 5. Rolf Harris has a song called "2 little boys." It's about 2 boys who grow up together and when one breaks his toy riding horse the other one picks him up and has him ride with him. As the years go by and WW1 breaks out, they go to war. There in the midst of the trench warfare, the blood and mud, one of the boys is gravely wounded. The other, hearing his

friend, defies orders and enemy bullets to ride out and get his friend and carried him back to safety.

6. The main point of the song is that each boy was there for the other, when they needed it the most.

7. You can get through this because God is watching over you.

8. You can do it because no matter where you are, no matter how bleak life looks, God said he will carry you through it.

9. When you need it the most, God is there to care for you.

10. So, in a few days when we celebrate thanksgiving. Give thanks to God for what he has done for you spiritually, no matter your circumstances physically.

11. Romans 8:37–39 (NLT) — 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12. You can get through this because God has your back.