

THE OVERCOMING CHURCH

Rom 2:28-39:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son, so that he might be the first born among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things, who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen. It's God who justifies. Who then is the one who God condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of the God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "for your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present nor the future nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our lord.

With God, it doesn't matter how long it takes, remember you have been at the tent for 14 years but finally you are moving into a permanent sanctuary. It makes me understand the apostles when they say the things they talk about are things we've felt, touched and seen. But for us to reach such conclusions, there is an understanding we must grasp. The Identity of a believer is so critical for us. Sometimes we walk with our heads bowed in defeat and discouragement but we must know that we are children of God. We are born of the spirit of God. In the above passage, Paul tell us our distinctiveness as children of God.

Our identity in Christ is so important, if we are to overcome every obstacle in our lives. Genuine believers are not just children of God because of being created by God, we are adopted into Gods family through Jesus Christ getting full rights of an inheritance. You may not have a piece of land now or anything to inherit, but as children of God we have full privilege of inheriting all that God has instore for us. How we fight every battle in our Christian walk depends on our knowledge of who God is. The holy spirit has a critical role in that he leads us, conforms us and puts the pride of sonship in us. If we are to overcome this world and its troubles, we must know who we are-that we are sons of God.

John 16:33- *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* Just like him and in him, Jesus, says we will overcome the world if we take heart. Only those who believe in him will overcome the troubles of this life. You and I therefore should know who we are despite our situations. The position of a believer is so critical so we cannot be moved like a tree planted by the waters. We are only able to be overcomers in the knowledge of him who first overcame.

In a believer's life, all things will work together for good. Every situation that comes your way, works to your advantage, and it's true only for those who love the lord and have given their lives to Jesus. Their destinies are secure. Even before we were born, our paths were marked. It's not by mistake you are here as a believer and doing what you are doing. You are not in the hands of the anyone except the lord for he orders the steps of a righteous man. We therefore should know who we are and confidently walk

knowing that God oversees our lives. Things may not look good initially, but God turns tables. He always has the final say. In the life of Ruth, the future of the Jewish nation was finished. But in the night through the prayer of one Mordechai, God changed the heart of a king and tables turned against Herman the mad man. God disturbs people on our behalf and causes them not to have sleep because of his people. God knows your name and your address. Even for pastors, we are not in the hands of the council of elders or bishop, we are in the hands of God. Do not complain if things don't go your way, God knows everything he's set out to do. With the assurance that you are child of God, makes you rest easy because we are overcomers!

1pet2:9-10, but you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

You may be perplexed even during this election time, not knowing what will happen, but God says you shall not despair for he knows everything. You might be persecuted in your office, but you are not alone. He always walks with us. You might be struck down but you are not destroyed. In all things, God has seen the end from the beginning.

Paul also says, we have been glorified. Note, it is in past tense which means, it is already done. You might be without money now but God has already taken care of that. Christ has already been glorified, so in conformity, God has already taken care of every of our needs even before we ask. Jesus is the final man and we are victors in him. Jesus is the only king others are just imposters. His term doesn't expire like earthly kings because he is the king of kings and he reigns forever.

We may feel weak and sickly; the world may not see our worth but the day is coming. When we will stand counted as children of most high God. God has done his very best and didn't even spare his own son to die for us all. He also gave the holy spirit as a guarantee of our inheritance therefore we are assured that God will give us all spiritual things in Christ Jesus. It doesn't matter who speaks and works against us because if God be for us who can stand against him. There's no charge against anyone whom God has justified and made fully righteous. Even as we pray God is interested with our success as we pray because Jesus himself is interceding on our behalf.

In psalms 37:23-24; if the lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm. Though he stumbles, he will not fall. For the lord upholds him in his heart.

Paul continues to say that absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God. In spite, all the troubles we go through in this life, there's nothing powerful enough that can separate us from God's love. Isaiah 49:15 *can a mother forget a baby at her breast and have no compassion for a child she has borne. Though she may forget, I will not forget you!*

God has engraved us at the palm of his hands and that secures our place in him forever. Troubles will come; sicknesses will come because we have bodies, people will talk negatively about us but nothing shall separate us from the love of God. This is the only thing that must make our walk steadfast in him and shield us from giving in to discouragement. David knew this when he said though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me, your rod and staff comfort me. You set a table for me before my enemies, you anoint my head with oil and make my cup overflow. Surely

goodness and mercies shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the lord forever more.

Whatever trials come our way, we are more than conquerors. The word conqueror means total defeat of an enemy. It means our wars are already won. This victory is not by our own strength but by Christ who has conquered all. Many times we get discouraged as we serve God forgetting who we are in Christ our lord. We complain when we meet opposition at work; we complain when we aren't making enough money, when answers to our prayers are delayed but in Malachi 3:14-18;

You have said, 'it's futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the lord almighty? Certainly the evil does prosper, and even when they put God to test they get away with it, then those who feared the lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the lord and honored his name. "On the day I will act," says the lord almighty, they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as the father has compassion and spares his son. And you will again see his distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."

Therefore, brothers and sisters do not loose heart, because the church of Jesus is an overcoming church. Nothing can stop it.

Jesus says to peter that on this rock I will build my church and no gates of hell shall overcome it. Nothing can stop the growth of church, not ridicule nor hatred. Jesus speaking to his disciples says all authority in heaven has been given to him and so you should go out and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the father son and the Holy Spirit.

Some trust in chariots others in horses, but we trust in the name of the lord our God. Though we are brought to our knees we shall rise. We shall overcome just like Jesus overcame and when we will stand on the other side of heaven we will say now we have it forever and ever.