

ROMANS – LIVING BY FAITH
THE CHILDREN OF GOD & THE SPIRIT OF GOD – Chapter 8

LESSON 30 – CONQUERING SHEEP – Romans 8:37-39

This lesson will show us all the things we are protected from because we are in Christ.

Deep down, everyone is tempted to be afraid of something. The past...the future...powerful people...supernatural forces...death...there is a lot to consider. A Christian should only consider one thing and that is nothing. Nothing is more powerful than “the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.”

The Victorious Pronouncement

What do you think Paul means when he refers to believers as more than conquerors?

That phrase literally means...over and above victory. Or maybe think of it this way...we as Christians are super conquerors. Notice also that Paul says we ARE...it is present tense, not future tense. We are...right here and right now...more than conquerors.

We are not simply conquerors so that the forces that oppose us are neutralized...but we are more than conquerors. Death, life, angles, demons, the present, the future, any powers, height, depth or anything else in creation cannot separate us from the love of God.

“We are not simply enabled by His love to hold on, and not to fall away and falter; neither is it the case that we just manage to obtain a victory. We are ‘more than conquerors,’ a very strong expression! We do not merely stand up to these trials, we demolish them, overcome them completely. And let us not forget that death is included. Everything that can possibly come against us is included.”

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Paul has just reminded us in the previous verse by quoting a passage from the Old Testament that the people of God face death all day long and are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. But now in verse 37 he tells us that we are all more than conquerors.

Sheep that conquer? We can think of lions, tigers or wolves that conquer but the very idea of sheep as conquerors seems ridiculous. Now this is figurative language of course. It is only through Christ and His love that we’ve been made more than conquerors.

Paul makes it very clear that all of this is due to God’s love for us. When we put Romans 8:28 next to Romans 8:37 and look at the similarities, we see His divine love.

Verse 28 says that this promise is for those who love God. Verse 37 tells us that we can only love Him because He first love us. God’s love for His children is the centerpiece of this whole chapter.

The Victorious Persuasion

Paul begins verse 28 with “we know” and ends the section here in verse 38 with, “I am persuaded.” This could be translated as, “I have learned and I remain convinced.” There is a big difference between knowing a truth and being convinced of it.

Paul’s persuasion is not only the result of his knowledge of God’s truth, it is also the result of his own experience. He experienced most of the things he wrote about so he could say with confidence that none of them could separate him from God’s love.

To make his point, he uses ten things that could possibly become barriers between us and Christ.

Neither Death nor Life

Paul was not afraid of death. He knew that Christ had overcome death's power and removed it from those who are saved.

Paul knew that not only death but also life could not separate him from Christ. There are some who feel that life poses a much greater threat when it comes to separation from Christ than death. For many, life is more difficult than death. Burdens, bitterness, disappointments, uncertainties, miseries...all of these things have the potential to pull someone away from Christ if He is not in control.

Neither Angels nor Demons

Many Bible scholars believe that the mention of angels here in verse 38 is a reference to evil angels. They state that no good angel would ever attempt to separate a believer from God.

Paul tells us that neither angels nor demons can remove us from the love of God. The reason for this is obvious. Jesus reigns over all the angels, demons, principalities and powers. All are powerless to separate us from the love of Jesus.

Neither the Present nor the Future

Paul says that no matter what happens from the present to the future, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

Verses 31 and 33 have already shown us that things in the present can't harm us and nothing in the future can sneak up on us either. Why? Because the Bible says that Jesus is in complete authority over the future.

Nor Any Powers

This often refers to miracles. It was also used to refer to those in positions of power and authority. Whatever Paul meant by this word, it is just another way of describing something that could be a serious problem for us if we were not more than conquerors.

Neither Height nor Depth

Paul's reference to heights and depths reminds us of what David said in Psalm 139:8, "If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there."

In other words, God is at the top and bottom of the universe and everywhere in between. There is nothing anywhere that can harm us.

Nor Anything Else in Creation

This is a statement by Paul that makes sure nothing is left out of the list. Everything is under the control of God so nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Victorious Conclusion

Let's look at four reasons why Christians are more than conquerors through Jesus.

Our Enemies Are Not Human but Spiritual

Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

If our enemies were human then our victories wouldn't be anything special. Because our enemy is Satan, when we are victorious, it is a super victory. Satan is powerful but he is NOT God's equal or God's opposite. We can stand against our enemy because through Jesus we are more than conquerors.

Our Struggle Is Not Momentary but Constant

From the moment we become Christians, we are the targets of the world, the flesh and the devil. There is never a moment's reprieve but the victory is this... In this constant struggle, we are made better not worse. We come out of our troubles stronger than when we went into them.

Our Victories Are Not Earthly but Eternal

Every victory we win here will one day seem unimportant to us. But the battles we are fighting have eternal ramifications.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Our Rewards Are Not Perishable but Permanent

No matter what happens in this race we run here on earth, nothing will keep us from the prize of that everlasting crown.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."

Romans chapter 8 is thirty-nine verses of pure promise for all who've placed their faith in Jesus. Make sure YOU are really, truly saved. Being "in Christ" is simply a matter of faith in Him.