

More than Conquerors!

By Santiago Lange



God didn't create us to tiptoe timidly through life, to shrink and shiver about the unknown future, to cower at every turn of events, to live in dread and fear like terrorists would like us to live, to be knocked around by evil or by our circumstances. Must we always feel beaten-down, conquered by life's circumstances? The answer is NO. God has created you and me to lead victorious lives.

What we believe about God and about ourselves matters, because it directly affects our sense of God's power in our life. God does not expect us to face situations on our own, relying solely on our own inner resources. God out of His goodness offers to us His strength. We're not of course always aware that God is for us.

Let's look at some things God does to help us become more than conquerors in life. These are things we cannot do for ourselves. Here are three things we need to remember:

First, we have an all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving prayer partner. Look at Romans 8 verse 34. *"Christ Jesus who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us."*

Have there been times when we have struggled with prayer, when we haven't known what to pray for, or how to pray about a particular situation? We say: "I know I should pray, but I can't find the words," or "I want to pray, but I don't know how to or what to pray for." There have been times when we are so frustrated, or so discouraged that we find it difficult to find the words to pray. During those times, Jesus Christ our Lord is at the right hand of God praying on our behalf. Jesus prays to the Father for you and me. Jesus has forgiven our sin and guilt. We stand acquitted. Jesus is the advocate for our defense. He stands at God's right hand to present our case.

If we want to be more than a conqueror in life, remember that we have a powerful mediator and prayer partner in Jesus Christ.

Second, God is in ultimate control of the events of our life. Romans 8:28 says: *"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."* This means that nothing can stop God's purpose from working in our life. It means there is a creative and saving possibility in every situation that can't be destroyed. It means that if our heart is yielded to God, He will work through us and our circumstances and ultimately we will be victorious.

It doesn't mean nothing bad or sad or tragic, or disappointing can ever happen. Loss, adversity and pain are a fact of life. But when they happen, God has promised to ultimately work through them, and restore and rebuild our lives for our good, for our benefit.

Most have had the experience in which something that appeared to be negative at the time, turned out to be a positive thing in the long run. God has promised to take all of the events of our life and work them out for our good.

In order to fully benefit from this promise, we need to trust in God's goodness. Otherwise, we'll fall apart every time something doesn't go according to our plan; we'll think the world is caving in on us and that God has deserted us.

That's not the way God made us to live. He made us in such a way that we can rise above our circumstances, not be a slave to them. In Christ, we have the freedom and power to rise above. Because of this promise, we can live our life with confidence. In Romans 8 we read: *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* No situation ever has to get the best of us, because God is in ultimate control of the events in our life. No circumstances can ever ultimately get the most of us. In our relationship with God, we can learn to rise above our circumstances. And that requires trust and patience.

If we want to be more than a conqueror in life, remember that ultimately in all things God works together for good for those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose.

Third, we are surrounded by God's inseparable love. Hear these words: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that in Christ Jesus our Lord."* God's presence above us, within us, beside us and below us is constant.

If you have ever thought "God no longer loves me," pause for a moment and ask yourself, "What happened that caused you to think such a thing?" Was it because you had financial problems? Or was it because you were victimized by some hateful person who decided for some reason to cause pain in your life? Was it health problems? Or was it the death of someone close to you? Or some sin you committed that you don't feel God can forgive you for? No matter what it is, these words ring true - nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love.

You are loved with a love that is unbreakable, unshakable, unstoppable, irrepressible and invincible. No suffering, no force, no defeat, no setback can ever separate you from God's love. How do we know? *"God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all."*

What great spiritual strength comes from knowing that we are surrounded by God's love. Focus on God's love, trust in God's love and on what you have become in Christ, rather than what you've lost. If we don't believe God's promise, we will miss out on some benefits. Every time some hardship comes along, we'll say, "God has abandoned me!" "There must be something wrong with me, God is punishing me, or God doesn't care for me." But if we trust in

God's goodness, then we will approach those challenges with a strength and confidence we never knew we had.

“More than conquerors” means living a life beyond mere survival, beyond mere existing, beyond hanging on by our fingertips. It means that though there are real forces that are against us, we also know that the most powerful Person in the entire universe is for us.

If we want to be more than a conqueror in life, remember that nothing in the world can ever separate us from God's love.

When we find prayer difficult, Jesus Christ intercedes for us. As setbacks come our way, God works in and through them for our good. When we face challenges, God is always there alongside us.

As we begin another year I pray that the Lord will powerfully manifest himself in our lives to his honor and glory and that we may be emboldened to share the “good news” of Jesus. □