

# More Than Conquerors

A message from our Lord!

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by

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If you want to open your Bible to **Romans 8**, I'd like to mention a couple of highlights before I get to our text today.

In most of our Bibles, **Romans 8** has three subtitles for the chapter. First is, "*Life Through the Spirit*;" second, "*Present Suffering and Future Glory*;" and third, "*More Than Conquerors*."

I mention all three because we are only going to look at the last one, but it is eminently clear (at least to me) that they are all related. In fact, I encourage you to read the whole chapter before I get going here – of course, that's entirely up to you.

The premise right from the start is that WE are the children of God. He has purchased our redemption through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus, and, though we continue to suffer the same struggles which are common to man (BTW – remember that's why Jesus came to be one of us; to share in our human condition), has given us the Holy Spirit to be the assurance of our adoption as sons and daughters of God, SECURING our eternal future in Heaven with Him.

So again, I must reiterate: "**WE are the children of God.**" As such, God promises us help "in our weakness" (v26). Why, the Spirit even **prays for us** (that means He prays **in our place**, if we don't have words for the pain and stress of it all).

So, to our text.

### **Romans 8:31-39**

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>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? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written:

*“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It would be good if we could get our minds wrapped up around a single thought throughout the storm, we (and this whole world) are currently facing.

**Look to the spiritual in the midst of the medical and the physical.**

Please, READ that again.

I wish I could take credit for that line, but I can't. I heard Rev. Tony Evans use that line in a video I was watching earlier today.

**Look to the spiritual in the midst of the medical and the physical.**

I believe this is good, no, great advice for us to follow during this COVID-19 pandemic. Certainly, there are medical and physical realities for us to consider as we go through this storm. Medically, those of us who are over 60, and again, those of us who have underlying conditions (I have a lung disease), are told that we must be extremely careful to isolate ourselves from the possibility of contracting this virus. We are the population at greatest risk.

Physically, there are things we must do as well. Purchasing food etc., in a marketplace which is dangerous to our health, washing our hands consistently and carefully, plus trying to keep our hands away from our faces, are all physical things going on, to which we must take special care. (Personally, I find the hand/face thing nearly impossible.)

The medical and physical are there, but there is at the same time a spiritual aspect of this storm which we must pay attention to if we are going to be confident in our Lord's ability to keep and sustain us through the storm. This 'confidence' is our faith being worked out in how we live our lives at THIS time.

I went to bring Rosalie some soup yesterday. It looked like she had had a visitor before I got there because the freshly fallen snow in her driveway had a set of tracks in and out of her yard. When I asked her about her company, she looked at me quite puzzled at first, and then said, "Oh, no; I just got brought out to have my hair done." Indeed, as I looked at her it was evident that she had just been to her hairdressers –

who BTW, did a beautiful job on her hair. She's not going to church this week, but you know, "A girl's gotta do what a girl's gotta do!"

Now some might say, "Rosalie, what were you thinking?" Not me. I admire her resolve to put her trust in God. She has complete confidence that God is in control, and that as long as she's not being totally careless, there's no reason why a gal shouldn't look pretty – even if it's to be at home alone.

Please don't hear what I'm not saying. I'm not saying that we should all just go about our business as usual and to h – e – double hockey sticks with the consequences. But we haven't stopped going to the grocery store, have we? Of course, I'm hoping there were not many people where she went to have her hair done, and hopefully they did a good job keeping their hands "Purell-ed," and away from their face.

Let's leave my bunny trail and get back to the Word.

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

<sup>36</sup>As it is written:

*"For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."*

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Trouble, hardship, danger. Yup, I think we can count all of these from **verse 35** as being in play here. What is the verdict of the scriptures regarding these things?

**NOTHING** can separate us from the love of Christ.

**IN ALL THESE THINGS** we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

I'm not going to write out all of the things that Paul mentions in **verses 38-39**, but *“neither death nor life..., nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Let's not forget that all this extra time in our social distancing, allows us to take more time than usual for spiritual consideration. Let's “bulk up” on the Word of God, and in prayer. You can leave all the crazy living up to Rosalie and the Pastor, but don't neglect the spiritual while the whole world is caught up in the medical and physical. Let me end with more words from the apostle Paul. Words of perspective in dangerous times.

I encourage you to make these words your **prayer**.

*<sup>6</sup>Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup>For we live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*