Devotion #306

**Victory Is Ours**

**Romans 8:37 (NASB)** *“ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.”*

I was recently talking with some people who shared with me how exhausted they were from trying to make things work in their relationships with others. For them it seemed that no matter how hard they tried, nothing worked. No matter how much they did or said or worked to get the relationship where they wanted it to be, it failed. So they have surrendered to their feelings of despair which have turned into frustration and even a bit of anger - all of which can be so overwhelming. When the emotions get so high, people can give up totally and stop trying to make life what they know it should be.

This is just one example of how we all can allow the pressures of life to get to us to the point where we become ineffective as people in the community, with loved ones, and even in the work of the Lord. So what are we to do? How are we to move forward? The answer always lies in the Word of the Lord.

When Paul was writing to the church in Rome, life was very overwhelming. We know that from history as Nero was dominating the Christians and treating them viciously. And we know that something was up from the way Paul wrote the letter. For example, in the verses just prior to our verse for today, Paul reminded the believers that no matter what came their way, whether tribulation or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword, nothing would separate them from the love of Christ. (Romans 8:35)

He wrote that because he knew it was important for the believers to remember that people will always let us down at some point - either by their actions or comments or just the way they choose to live life. He knew that the daily struggles would overwhelm us at times. But Jesus never will. He will always be there for us, and because of His faithfulness to us, we have the motivation to continue to be and do the things He wants us to be and do - namely, love others, even when they don’t reciprocate that love.

To make that clearer, God does not want us to get overwhelmed with the negative things in our lives to the point where we quit. He wants us to always keep in perspective that He came to save us not only from the penalty of our sin against God the Father but also He came to help us get through anything we face. That’s why Paul could say that we are not just conquerers in Christ, but hyper-conquerers. That’s what the meaning of “overwhelmingly conquer” means. It is to conquer with success to spare - kind of like finishing an intense workout with energy to do more.

The truth is that when you and I were rescued by Christ, He gave us the ability to face anyone or anything head on. Not in a mean or vindictive way but with a heart that is full of awareness that we will win in the long run. We will always have the victory over anything that is negative or hurtful. Certainly we will feel the pain of life from people and circumstances, but in our hearts we know that we are the victors over this life and death because of Jesus who lives in us through the Holy Spirit.

So, whoever or whatever is challenging you right now, hang in there. You may not be able to fix all that is wrong, but nothing should have such an effect on you that you will lose your victorious status in Christ. He will give you all the grace to go through what you are facing. Why? Because He has been victorious over all things and passed that victory on to us. So keep your chin up - not because you have done anything special but simply because you belong to Him.