

More than Conquerors by Willem Hekman

In the recent World Cup there was only one winner. The Brazilian team conquered all the other teams and come out the Victor. I was thrilled to see “Jesus” signs on the T-shirts of some the players. It was their way of telling the world that Jesus is the winner in their lives!

In Romans chapter 8 verses 28-29 the Bible says that the believers in Christ we are more than conquerors. How is it possible to be more than a winner, more than a conqueror?

In our text we notice the wording of the Apostle Paul: “we face death all day long” yet more than conquerors! A strange way indeed. But this is Christ’s way. He also triumphed over all His enemies and the powers of darkness on the cross. There He died for the sins of all mankind. The Bible says: “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life”. Jesus Christ is our substitute and God accepted His death on the cross as payment of sin for every man, woman, boy and girl who truly believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ we have eternal life in heaven and while still on this earth we can all be “more than conquerors”.

More than conquerors – Triumphers

Those who are more than conquerors conquer **WITH LITTLE LOSS**. Most conquests in the world’s history are fought with great loss and much bloodshed. During the Civil War in the USA in 1861-65, 620.000 people died. In the Spanish Civil War more than 1 million died. Over 50 million people died in the Second World War.

What do we lose when we follow the Lord and serve Him? We lose what the gold loses in the furnace, nothing but dross. It is no great loss to lose anything earthly.

“WITH GREAT GAIN”. As we serve the Lord Jesus Christ we gain peace, forgiveness, joy, satisfaction, salvation, and crown of righteousness. The Gospel is the message of triumph and victory.

“IT IS ONLY THROUGH CHRIST WHO LOVED US”. This means that Christ living in us is more than conqueror. Without Christ we are defeated, continually failing and falling, a life full of ups and downs, stress, frustration and disappointments. Forever worried and fearful.

We are conquerors only in His strength and in His grace.

More than conquerors is a total submission to the Lord Jesus Christ and say with our Lord “Not my will but your will be done”.

More than conqueror is Stephen who was being stoned to death and cried out “Lord forgive them for they do not know what they are doing” He died with a radiant

glorious face entering the presence of God.

More than conquerors are Paul and Silas in prison with their feet locked in stocks after they were severely beaten praying and singing hymns to God.

More than conquerors are my missionary colleagues, Erickson and Tritt, hacked to death in 1952 as they walked into the interior of the Birds Head of Irian Jaya now called Papua, looking for a place where they could build a mission station.

More than conquerors are Larry and Shirley Rascher who left Kokonao by boat in the mid sixties to reach villages with the Gospel. Their small boat turned over in the rough seas. They and their 2 small children tried to hang unto to boat turned upside down. They drifted out to sea and after a few hours they realize both children had died in the open water. They were holding on to dead bodies. They buried their children at sea by simply letting them go to the depth of the ocean and the next morning their boat drifted back to the shore. They knelt down on the beach to commit their lives to God. A week later they lost their house and all belongings in a fire. They continued to serve the Lord in Kokonao for many more years reaching the Mimika tribe for Christ.

More than conquerors are Stan Dale and Phil Masters who walked into the Dani valley in Irian Jaya to reach the Dani people for Christ. The Dani people were following them above on the ridge and suddenly attacked them with their spears and killed both men. Now the entire Dani tribe are believers.

More than conquerors are God's servants who continue to serve the churches in Ambon even though they are marked men by the Muslim Holy War fighters. Pastor Arnold Abraham is number 39 on the list of the Muslim militants to be killed. I was told while in Ambon recently that a member of the Holy War warriors receives a bonus of \$ 2,500.00 when they kill a minister of the Gospel.

More than conquerors are 12 of our BMW interns, all lady students who have been ministering in Ambon recently for almost 2 months. Even though Ambon is a war zone these young ladies were all full of joy and had no fear. I talked to Srie, their leader and she mentioned that more than 5000 children had come to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and prayed to accept Him into their hearts.

The author of Hebrews is listing the conquerors in the Old Testament and in Hebrews 11: 32 he says "And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephtha, David, Samuel and the prophets who through faith conquered Kingdoms, administered justice and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames and escaped the edge of the sword, whose weakness was turned into strength and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their death, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging while still others were chained and put in prison. They were

stoned, they were sawed in two, they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated. The world was not worthy of them”

It is through faith that you and I may be more than conquerors! Faith is trusting, Faith is submitting. Faith is expecting God to work but faith is also attempting something for God. Because faith without works is dead.

Faith is moving out for God. Faith is making decisions according to His will. Faith also involves resisting the devil who wants us to live defeated lives. In the Name of Jesus we have authority. In the Name of Jesus there is power and strength. In the Name of Jesus there is victory.