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Fuel for Courage

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The goal of our meeting together is to openly share what God has led us to know from His word and through life experiences. This is to be an interactive study. Different instructors will each have a month to be with you. God is giving us this time to encourage and learn from one another in the faith. As adult learners and as born again believers in Christ, God has given us His Word and His Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth .

Read Romans 8:35-39.

Today's Theme : ' **More than Conquerors** '

(Gk) Hupernikomen
Overwhelmingly conquers
More than victorious,
Superconquerors

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Romans 8:35-39

More than Conquerors

The Book of Romans, written by the Apostle Paul, is filled with Bible doctrine especially as it relates to salvation and in chapters 6-8, it discusses our union with Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit within us. Specifically, Paul wanted to give spiritual strength to the believers in Rome, a place he had not yet visited in his missionary journeys. (KJV Bible Holman Study notes)

Our passage today opens with a rhetorical question Who can separate us from the love of Christ? This evening let's go line by line in each of these 5 verses and see how we can apply them to our lives that will enable us to **stand strong** in the Lord. Ephesians 6:10.

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Romans 8: 35-39

In previous verses in this chapter, Paul has already explained that Jesus has already paid the penalty for our sin for our justification and that therefore there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus. v.1. He is our **propitiation**, our **advocate**, our **intercessor** and therefore no one has anything else to say against us.

Christ loves us and died in our place, the **Father** sent the Son to be our Savior because He **so loved us**. **The Holy Spirit loves us** and is our Comforter who lives inside of us to lead and guide us into all truth.

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More than Conquerors Romans 8:35-39

This type of love is **agape** love and is not based on our worthiness but on the election, the foreknowledge and the free choice of our Sovereign Lord. When we speak of God's attributes, we speak many times of His **Greatness** (His natural attributes) and His **Goodness** (His Moral attributes) Remember our childhood Grace? God is great and God is good...

1) **Love** - Agape, not Eros. | **John 4:8, 16 God is love**

A. Benevolence- God's concern for the welfare of those He loves. He unselfishly seeks our welfare. John 3:16

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Romans 8:35-39 More than conquerors

The self giving unselfish quality is seen in what God has done. **Since God is love**, the description of love in I Corinthians 13 is also a description of Him. Romans 5:8 tells us of while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

B. Grace. God deals with His people not on the basis of their merit or worthiness, what they deserve but simply according to their need. He deals with them on the basis of his goodness and generosity. God does not seek His own good but that of others. God supplies us with **undeserved favors**.

C. Mercy. God's tenderhearted, loving compassion for His people. (Heb. Chesed)

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Romans 8:35-39 More than a Conqueror

D. Persistence. God is pictured in the Scriptures as withholding judgment and continuing to offer salvation over long periods of time. [Erickson Millard J.. Christian Theology. (P. 318-323). Baker Academics]

The attributes of God's love are also to characterize the believer. In John 15:10 Jesus tells us to keep His commandments and we will abide in His love. Verse 12 spells out His command for us to **love one another** as He has loved us.

Testimony?

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Romans 8:35-39 More than Conquerors

- 1) In your chat box please list some of those who could be considered the '**Who**' in verse 35 of this passage. In what ways do they **try** to separate you from God's love? **Possible Answers:** Devil (forces of evil) Friends, Family, You (resisting, drawing away,) , the flesh.
- 2). Who shall **separate**..Chorizo to put asunder, depart drive a wedge between us. We won't be snatched away, we won't walk away, look away, won't turn away, won't leave the fellowship of saints. Nothing may come between God's love and His people. Not all the trials they have experienced or might experience.

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How are you? Ok under the circumstances... what are you doing under there? Christ already died for that. How are you? **Hanging on...**Why? Jesus already hung on the Cross, what is needed now is that we **trust Him** to see us through.

Tribulations- troubles

Distress- Hardships- Hard times

Persecution- bullying, threats, back stabbing

Famine- not enough food/ finances- poverty

Nakedness-

Peril- danger

Sword- death, war. What seeks to separate us? Fear, worry, here, distrust, uncertainty, loneliness, isolation, injustice, quarantine, suppression, condemnation.

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Living a godly life will not insulate you from hardships. The more blameless your life is, the more you will be persecuted. Your Christlike nature will be offensive to those in rebellion to Christ's Lordship. [Blackaby Henry and Richard. Experiencing God Devotional. (p. 286). B&H Publishing Group] Persecution may even come from another Christian who did not understand your motives.

Sometimes though we feel as if we are persecuted when just one of our actions met with criticism rather than praise. True persecution might be the best evidence that your life is like that of Christ.

DISCUSS

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Romans 8:35-39

More than a Conqueror

The provision, protection and deliverance of God will enable us to endure temptation. I Corinthians 10:13. The believer is not spared from danger or trial but is preserved within it. There is no promise that persecution or suffering will not come. The promise is that they will not prevail over us. Sometimes such ordeals enable us to identify with Christ's sufferings and prove the reality of our faith.

Persecution can also be defined as hostility and ill treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs.

Question: Anyone share a time of persecution?

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Romans 8: 35-39

More than Conquerors

"How have I become a Conqueror?"

Possible Answers: Through Christ, because of His Love, Power, Promises to me, His Sacrificial Death, His Word, our Relationship with Him. And not in any other way. He is the way (John 14:6)

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Challenges to be Conquered. Choose one or list one of your choosing and prayerfully ask God to help you develop a plan and then step out in faith. (Don't curse the darkness, turn on a light)

Fear

Hate- civil war/ a divided nation

Apathy- voting

Procrastination

Homelessness

Hunger

Global persecution of Christians

Health issues

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Additional Questions

How do we live as people who are 'more than conquerors'? What does this phrase mean on a day to day basis? Low bank balance? Kids sick, husband laid off. In what ways are we still Conquerors?

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Points to Remember

- 1) We overwhelmingly conquer **through Him** that loved us.
- 2) God will always continue to love us. Nothing can stop that.
- 3) We must be convinced and continue to be convinced that as we look to the Lord, that we can conquer in Jesus's name.
- 4) We are not to let evil conquer us. We conquer evil with good.

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