

Weekly Devotions: THE REFINING FIRE OF TRIALS 14

Learn to Live in Victory not Defeat

In life we cannot control or choose what will or will not happen to us. We often cannot change the way things are but we can change the way we look at our problems as well as choose how to respond to them. We can choose either to rise above our struggles or be overwhelmed by our problems. Trials are opportunities for us to learn what it means to live in victory instead of defeat; to be an over-comer instead of being a victim of our circumstances.

Overcoming is an act of the will. An over-comer is one who chooses to live according to God's word and to remain faithful to Him to the end. An over-comer is also one who will praise God in spite of his / her struggles. An over-comer does not forget who God is and chooses to trust Him even if the situation worsens. His / her love and faith in God will persevere regardless of how difficult the situation.

Read Romans 8: 36-39; 2 Cor. 11: 24-30

The early Christians had to face intense persecution for their faith. Paul encouraged them that they were more than conquerors and through Christ they would rise above every difficulty (Romans 8: 37). The reason for Paul's confidence is that nothing can and will separate the children of God from the Father's love.

Our confidence in living victoriously is not because of our love for God but His love for us. God loves us and is with us in our darkness. If He is with us, He will give us the power and strength to live victoriously in spite of the difficulty we face. God's love and power are the reasons we can live like conquerors. We need to look to Him and lean on Him in our difficulty.

Questions to ponder

1. In your experience what is the most difficult thing you had to over-come? What are some of the struggles Paul had to overcome (2 Cor. 11: 24-29)?
2. What do you usually boast about? Why did Paul rather boast about things that show his weaknesses (2 Cor. 11: 30)?
3. How are we to respond to tragedies or problems (Romans 8: 37)? What would prevent you from being confident of God's love & power? What does it mean for you to be an over-comer instead of being a victim of your situation?
4. Why do we lose our faith in times of difficulty? What is the basis of Paul's confidence that he would be victorious in his struggles (Rom 8: 38-39)?