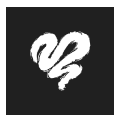


MORE THAN CONQUERORS

FROM THE MESSAGES OF
ADRIAN ROGERS



More than Conquerors

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INTRODUCTION

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Whether you are a new believer or have been following Christ for a long time, we all need to understand how God wants us to live as Christians. In the Book of Romans, the “Constitution of Christianity,” Paul outlines the simple tenets of Christian faith and explores the complexities of living the Christian life. Pastor Adrian Rogers never tired of studying and teaching the Book of Romans. Every time you study it, you will find something new.

In Romans, Paul lays the foundation of the Christian faith—solid and sure. Just like a constitution guides a country, the Book of Romans guides the core aspects of our faith. If you can apply the deep truths within this book, you can discover how the Christian life was meant to be lived. You can discover your purpose and how to make an eternal impact for the kingdom of God in your time on Earth.

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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 (Romans 8:37-39).

The devil wants to divide the Church and tear down Christians, but we can live in victory over sin and death. We will face all kinds of difficulties in this life, but none can separate us from the love of God. The Book of Romans teaches us how to think about our faith and gives us everything we need to live as more than conquerors.

Want more? The audio messages by Pastor Adrian Rogers from which this study is derived are linked using the QR code at the end of this study.

The greatest victory that
you will ever have will
be the victory of your
own spirit when your
spirit becomes subject
to spiritual authority.

ADRIAN ROGERS



ARTICLE 1

THE SPIRITUAL IDENTITY OF THE BELIEVER

■ INTRODUCTION

The Bible says believers are overcomers, but many of us live like we are overcome. We live as victims instead of victors. The Bible says those who are born again have a peace that passes understanding and unspeakable joy, but many of us are overwhelmed by worry and anxiety. We don't live victorious lives because something is missing. There's a gap between what the Bible says we are in Christ and how we behave in reality.

In a military regiment, the flag goes out ahead of the soldiers. The soldiers keep step with the flag. The flag bearer does not fall back or change course if the soldiers fall back or go a different direction. If the Bible is like the flag, we need to keep in step with God's Word, instead of watering down the truth of the Bible to fit our modern lives.

The Word of God says those who believe are overcomers and conquerors. Peace and joy are the fruit of their salvation. If you're a believer, you need to make your life match what the Bible says about you. You need to learn to possess your spiritual possessions.

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, I know that I'm a Christian, but I'm struggling to live a life characterized by peace and joy. I don't have victory when temptations and trials come, and sometimes I wonder if You care. I know You have provided many spiritual blessings for me. Show me all that I have in Christ, so that I will be able to live for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

PROVISION AND ACCEPTANCE

■ PONDER IT

The moment you believe that Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and resurrected, you receive a new identity and spiritual blessings. If you are ready to possess your spiritual possessions, you must understand God's provision and practice acceptance. God has made the provision. But the provision is nothing unless you receive it as your own. You must accept what God has done.

These verses show the importance of these two actions—provision and acceptance—in your spiritual journey. God provided a way for us to be saved through Calvary. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He died for the world.

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world (1 John 2:2).

“Propitiation” means “satisfaction” or “atonement.” Jesus died to satisfy or pay the cost of our sin. Jesus died for the whole world, but many have not accepted what Jesus did on the cross as payment for sin—they have not possessed their spiritual possessions.

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (John 3:18).

The provision has been made, but many have not accepted that which is theirs. God has provided, and we must receive His provision. Once you are saved, the Bible says you have died with Christ and have been symbolically crucified with Christ. When Jesus died, His death had your name on it.

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God...Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil, desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry (Colossians 3:3, 5).

God has provided you a new life in Christ. However, to receive this provision, you must die to yourself. To receive the victorious life God promises, you must die to the things of this world. Dying to yourself shows that you have accepted Christ and hidden your life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament provides an example of the difference between provision and acceptance. When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, the land of bondage; they were going into Canaan, the land of blessing. God told Joshua every place he would walk already belonged to the nation of Israel (see Joshua 1:3). The land was theirs, but they had to possess it. God has given you so much, but you have not yet possessed it. God has made the provision, but you must exercise acceptance.

Consider a real-life, modern example. You probably have many books in your home that you have not yet read. The book is technically yours, but you haven't possessed that possession. You haven't received everything that book has to offer because you haven't opened it up and read it. To receive the knowledge and wisdom from that book, you must not only possess it, but you must also open it, read it, and receive all the wisdom it contains.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- God has made the provision of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world. What obstacles keep people from accepting this provision?
- Have you made the decision to accept Jesus' death on the cross as the atonement for your sins? What does dying to yourself and dying to the things of the world look like in your life?

The reason so many believers are not filled with the Spirit is that they are so full of themselves, there isn't room for the Spirit.

ADRIAN ROGERS

LEARN DYING AND START LIVING

■ PONDER IT

Paul gives a lesson on how to possess your possessions in his letter to the Romans.

Or do you not know...that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is married to another man. Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God (Romans 7:1-4).

On the surface, it may seem like this passage has more to do with marriage than possession of spiritual blessing, but Paul is giving an object lesson to illustrate a spiritual change. Let's explain it a different way.

A woman is married to a man called Mr. Law, who is perfect because the Law of the Lord is perfect, but she is imperfect. She tries to please rigid Mr. Law and do what he tells her to do. But every day, she slips up and fails. He comes home from work and finds she has not met his standards. He is disappointed, and she feels guilty. Every day she tries and fails. Eventually, she decides she wants to marry Mr. Love, but Mr. Law will never die. She knows that she can't legally be married to both Mr. Law and Mr. Love. But then she realizes if she dies, then she will be free to marry Mr. Love.

It sounds strange that death is the way to life, but that's what happens spiritually when we possess and accept the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Because of our sinful nature, each one of us is married to the law. The law makes demands on us that we can never meet, and it demands payment for sin with the penalty of death. But when people die *with* Jesus,

they become dead to the law and are resurrected to new life as the bride of Christ. Jesus Christ's death on the cross becomes the death that pays the price for their sin.

As a believer, you are called to **learn dying and start living**. You can never possess your possessions until you come to the end of yourself. But you also must start living again.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 16:24-25).

When you lose your life for the sake of Jesus and the Gospel, you find it. You tell Jesus that since He died *for* you, you want to die *with* Him. When you learn dying, then you start living.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What have you learned about dying today? What do you need to die to?
- What have you learned about living today? Why is death necessary in order to live?

When you were a kid, you probably heard the phrase, "finders, keepers; losers, weepers." With Jesus, it's "Keepers, weepers; losers, finders."

ADRIAN ROGERS

STOP TRYING

■ PONDER IT

In addition to dying in order to start living, you must also **stop trying and start trusting**. Paul gives his autobiography in the book of Romans and outlines his relationship with the law.

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin (Romans 7:7-14).

Let’s go back to our story from yesterday. The woman who married Mr. Law thought it was going to be a wonderful relationship. But she found that in order to achieve perfection, Mr. Law became very rigid. She decided to “die to self” so that she could marry Mr. Love who was kind and compassionate. However, Mr. Love’s standards were even higher than Mr. Law’s. Mr. Law said go a mile; Mr. Love said to go two miles. Mr. Law said, “An eye for an eye.” Mr. Love said, “Love your enemies” (Matthew 5:44). She discovered that she was also unable to meet Mr. Love’s standards.

The same is true for us: no one can perfectly keep the law of God. You may think that because you walked down an aisle, gave your heart to Jesus,

and got baptized, you won't sin anymore. But then something bad happens, and you wonder where it came from. You repent and promise to never do that again. But then you fail again. You become convicted about your sin and admit that you haven't been the kind of Christian you ought to be. You rededicate your life and promise to do better. But then you fail again.

Many Christians have fallen into this pattern. The devil tries to convince you that maybe you weren't saved at all and maybe you don't have the real thing. He convinces you to stop going to church, so you won't be a hypocrite. You find out that you don't have what it takes, so you just stop trying.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What are the things you do that you don't want to do? What does the war between the law of God and the law of sin look like or sound like in your life?
- What are the things the devil has tried to convince you are true about your sin? What should Christians do when we discover that we can't keep the law perfectly?

You've got a real buddy in the devil.
If you were in quicksand, he'd pat you
on the head.

ADRIAN ROGERS

START TRUSTING

■ PONDER IT

A lost person cannot keep the law of God, nor can a saved person do so in his or her own strength. Paul explains the war that rages in every believer:

For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good, I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me (Romans 7:15-20).

Every believer has experienced this conflict. We delight in the law of God, but we find another law also present in us, the sin nature. This conflict didn't make Paul a hypocrite; he loved God.

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members (Romans 7:21-23).

The law of Paul's mind was the love that he had for God. But his eyes, his ears, and his tongue, followed the law of sin.

We are all sinners, and the flesh is working in us. Just like the law of gravity, the law of sin is at work all the time, even when we aren't aware of it. When Paul recognized this, he was brokenhearted.

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:24-25a).

We must stop trying to be perfect and start trusting Jesus Christ alone. The way that we live the victorious life is not by trying harder; it's by trusting more. God has already provided a victory, and He gave the victory to Jesus Christ, Mr. Love.

Mr. Love says do this and do this and do this—go two miles instead of one. After the woman dies to herself and marries Mr. Love, she discovers that she has a joint banking account with him. Additionally, everything Mr. Love tells her to do, he turns around and does it with her or for her. When he wants the bed made a certain way, he shows her how to do it, and he also helps her. He puts his hands gently on her hands and guides her through it.

When the law demands a payment for your sin, God takes Jesus' death on the cross as payment for yours. When you throw up your hands and realize how wretched you are, you will find Jesus and His goodness ready to deliver you from evil.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What else are you trusting to make you right with God? Can your good works and efforts to follow the law make you right with God?
- What are the obstacles that keep you from trusting Jesus with your whole life?

Every demand upon your life is a
demand upon Jesus who lives in you.

ADRIAN ROGERS

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

■ PONDER IT

Paul ends Romans 7 by thanking God for sending Jesus. Notice how Romans 8 begins:

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1-2).

In Romans 7, the Spirit is not mentioned at all. But now, in Romans 8, the Spirit is described as being actively at work, setting us free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (Romans 8:3-4).

God sent Jesus to become fully human and fully God so that He could settle our account. Jesus lived the perfect life and fully met the righteous requirements of the Law. When we trust in Him—when we decide to break up with Mr. Law and marry Mr. Love—His account of righteousness before God becomes our account.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness (Romans 8:9-10).

All of us are born under the law of sin and death. As we mature, we understand the law of God, the righteous law of Moses, and the difference between right and wrong. When you understand that you are incapable of keeping God's law, you must come to Jesus and trust Him to be your Lord and Savior. Your ability to follow God's law is powered by the Holy Spirit of God in you.

A commercial airliner sitting on the runway looks too massive to ever get off the ground. How can this huge plane overcome the law of gravity and fly? But there's another law at work: the law of aerodynamics. According to this law, when the wind flows over the wings at just the right speed, the plane lifts off the ground. Even though it weighs a ton, another power, greater than the law of gravity, lifts that airplane off the ground, and it is free to fly.

The downward pull of the law of sin in your life is like gravity, but the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is powerful enough to overcome the law of sin and death. When you stop trying and start trusting, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus makes you free from the law of sin and death.

When you realize all that God has done, you must **quit crying and start praising**. When you understand all that is available to you through Jesus Christ, you have no choice but to worship Him more.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How would it feel to possess the freedom that is offered in Christ? What would it look like to live without condemnation?
- What have you been crying or complaining about in your life? Take a few minutes and spend some time in worship by writing down all the spiritual possessions you have in Christ.

True Worship: All that I am responding
to all that He is in gratitude and praise.

ADRIAN ROGERS

THE LIFE OF VICTORY

■ PRACTICE IT

What would happen if all Christians were to lay hold of their spiritual possessions? What would happen if we stopped bringing the flag back to the regiment, but instead brought the regiment up to the flag? God saved you so that you could experience freedom and victory. He gave all of this to you. By His grace and for His glory, will you possess what He has already given to you?

The life of victory over sin and death is for those who believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins, was buried, and was raised to life on the third day. Those who do not believe in Christ cannot live victorious lives because they don't have the Spirit of God living inside of them. Without this, they have no power to obey the law and do good. You must receive the gift of salvation in order to receive the power the Holy Spirit provides. Jesus will save you today, and He'll keep you saved if you trust Him. You can pray something like this:

Lord Jesus, I need You. I'm tired of struggling and failing. I need to be saved. Thank You, Jesus, that You paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. My sin deserves judgment, but I need mercy. Have mercy on me, forgive my sin, take control of my life; save me. I'll not be ashamed of You because You died for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

■ PROCLAIM IT

If you accepted God's gift of salvation, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to lwf.org/discover-jesus, scrolling down the page and clicking on *I Believe*.

Ask God to give you the opportunity to share what you have learned this week. Tell someone what God has shown you about possessing the spiritual possessions He has provided for you. Then walk in freedom and victory.

We must stop trying to make the
Bible match our lives, and instead
let our lives match the Bible.

ADRIAN ROGERS