

More Than Conquerors

Some wonder, “Should God’s people be having kids in this volatile age?” Absolutely! “*Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.*” *Genesis 1:28*. LifeWay Research reports that 70% of young adults who attend church in high school drop out of church. But 2/3 return over the next decade! So don’t stop having kids. And don’t give up on the ones who fall away.

Three Promises That Enable Us to Be More Than Conquerors:

1. God Will Turn Our _____(Trials) into _____(Triumphs).

- a. “*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*” *Romans 8:28*.
Although we are healthier and wealthier than ever, our struggle for spiritual survival is far harder. *Fault Line* by Billy Hallowell details how Hollywood, the university, and the media all actively oppose the Christian worldview.
- b. Teens who stayed in church tended to have: 1) committed Christian parents; 2) at least one adult in church who invested in them; 3) a pastor who preached relevant messages; 4) Christian friends to talk thru daily decisions. Youth Pastor Jon Nielson says teens need to be 1) solidly converted; 2) equipped, not entertained; and 3) have parents who share the Gospel with them.
- c. Proverbs 22:6 is a proverb, a wise saying that is generally true. “*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*”
- d. Every trial is an opportunity to grow. But only if we affirm that God is good...all the time.

2. God Will Bring Our _____(Faith) to the _____(Finish Line).

- a. “*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his son...And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*” *Romans 8:29-30*. Does God “foreknow” first or “predestine” first? Only God can predestine a choice that is truly free.
- b. Genesis 1:1 teaches that God created time, space, and matter. Only God can predict that a man named Cyrus would set the Jewish exiles free to rebuild Jerusalem about one hundred and sixty years before it happened (*Isaiah 45:13*). Cyrus’s parents bore and freely named their child in accordance with what had been predestined by God.
- c. We cannot completely understand the virgin birth or the Trinity or the teaching that Jesus is fully God and fully man at the same time. Nor can we understand how God predestines free choices made by man.
- d. God will not only bring our faith, but also the faith of our loved ones to the finish line. We are living in an age of spiritual unrest as well as spiritual

awakening (Acts 2:17-21). We must pray in accordance with II Peter 3:9 and I Timothy 2:3-4, that God will fan the feeble faith of our loved ones into flaming fire!

3. God Will Never _____(Lose) His _____(Love).

- a. *“Who shall bring a charge against God’s chosen?” Romans 8:33.* God’s chosen are identified in John 3:16: *“Whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”* If a person goes to hell, it is because they reject God and His way of salvation. *“Unbelievers are condemned by their own unbelief, not by God’s predestination.”* (Pastor John MacArthur)
- b. Jason Stelman and Christian Kingery of drunkexpastors.com served as pastors and missionaries before walking away from their faith. It is possible to separate yourself from God’s love by rejecting him. *“How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” I Kings 18:21.*

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?” (Romans 8:35). No circumstances can happen that will ever separate a believer from God’s love, nor can any angelic or demonic power. “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons...nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God.” Romans 8:38-39.

Discussion Questions

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1. Have you encouraged your friends and loved ones to have kids? Why should we keep having children even when times are tough? What command did God give us in Genesis 1:28? Do you think that the research by LifeWay is accurate: that 70% of churching high schoolers drop out of church, and that 2/3 return sometime over the next decade? Why do you agree or not agree with this research? Will you commit to pray for the prodigals, knowing that many will come back to the Lord and his church?
2. Read Romans 8:28-39. Do you believe that God will turn every trial that we face into a triumph if we place our faith in him? Why or why not? What is taught in verse 28? Do you agree that Christians today are facing increasing hostility from Hollywood, the university, and the media? Why or why not? What are the four common factors that teens who stay in church have? What advice does youth pastor Jon Nielson give about teens? Read Proverbs 22:6. Do you believe this is an ironclad promise? Why or why not? Have you personally learned the importance of affirming the goodness of God in the midst of every trial? Can you give an example?
3. What do verses 29-30 teach about God bringing faith to the finish line? Do you believe you have been chosen by God? Do you believe you have also chosen to follow God? Which happened first? Do you believe that God can predestine choices that people freely make? How is Isaiah 45:13 an example of this? See Ezra 1:1-2 for the fulfillment of this prophecy about 160 years later. Do you think Cyrus's parents freely named him? Do you think that God also predestined this? What other mysteries in the Bible are hard to understand? For example, do you completely understand the Trinity? Read Acts 2:17-21. Do you believe this prophecy is being fulfilled today? Are you committed to pray the promises of II Peter 3:9 and I Timothy 2:3-4 over your loved ones?
4. Read verses 31-39. What assurances are given in these verses about the inability of people to separate us from God's love? Why is our own unbelief the only thing that can separate us from God's love? Have you met any people like Jason Stelman and Christian Kingery who were once pastors and missionaries, but walked away from their faith? What is taught in I Kings 18:21? What is taught in Romans 8:35-39 about the inability of circumstances or angelic or demonic powers to separate us from God's love? Will you commit to pray these verses over your loved ones, including the prodigals?