

## More Than Conquerors 2

Walk In The Spirit

*Romans 8:4-17*

*Memory Verses: Romans 8:13*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

We are more than conquerors In Christ! I know that sometimes it doesn't feel that way. Sometimes we feel beat down and overwhelmed... but if we have the right perspective we know that... we have a true and lasting victory in Jesus!

Last week we saw how our victory is tied specifically to our new station; IN CHRIST... and our new position; NOT CONDEMNED. But we need to recognize something else, which is very important to how we will function under this new station; **victory is not only something declared over you, it is something lived through you.** Last we week we saw how our position has changed, this week we will see how our pattern changes.

You see, many believers are prone to celebrate God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace while also ignoring the call to transformation. We saw last week that we are called to this station... but we also are called to walk worthy of it. And so we must devote ourselves to living differently. We must be transformed for righteous works. We must be changed to avoid sinful temptations.

But this isn't done in our own strength and through our own effort. It's done through the Spirit! It's this new power that we discovered last week that gives us the ability to leverage our lives for Christ. If we are determined to make a lasting difference for the Kingdom of Christ and share the Gospel with the lost then we need a new powertrain.

Pierson is becoming a mechanical genius. He is going to use that ability in life to become a mechanical engineer, and probably a car mechanic hobbyist. Because of this ability, and the fact that my Jeep is leaking oil from just about every bolt, we have had many talks about possibly doing a powertrain swap on the Jeep ourselves. Why? Because I love my Jeep. My wife bought me my Jeep. My friends Chris and Chris have helped work on my Jeep with me for 7 years. We've kept it going and it would be a bummer to give up on it. But it can't do what we want it to do if we don't give it a new engine and transmission. We want it to go.. but we can't Flintstone this thing... we need power to make it work.

Listen, my life, your life, we are leaky people. We want to do the right thing... but by the time we get around to doing the right thing... all of that ambition and care has leaked out. We have a leaky soul and heart and we don't need it fixed... we need it completely swapped out. We need a new powertrain in side of us to give us the power to do what God

ha called us to.

So, look with me at **Romans 8:4-17**. The main point today is simple; **Our Victory Isn't Active Without The Power of the Spirit.** Today I want us to see three ways the spirit gives us power to live in victory.

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see today is that... **The Spirit Gives Us Power Over Our Thinking.** We see this in **verses 5-8**. Paul starts where our battles usually begin. Up here. Our mind's the first battlefield. Our attention usually comes before our action, because whatever captures our minds will eventually shape our lives. What we ponder becomes what we practice. **Whatever rules your thoughts will steer your life.**

And Paul let's you know that there are two different types of battlefields of the mind. There is the battlefield set in a worldly / fleshly worldview, and there is the battlefield set in a spiritual / Christ centered worldview. Those who live according to the flesh will set their minds on worldly things; sinful passions, pleasures, idols, selfish pursuits, pride, lust, etc... But those who live according to the spirit will set their minds on godly things; Christ, the church, obedience, righteousness, compassion, mercy, grace, etc... Therefore, the lost will naturally ponder worldly pursuits while the saved will naturally ponder spiritual pursuits. Simple! But how? What causes the saved to naturally pursue spiritual things? The power of the Holy Spirit.

We are called to "set" our minds on spiritual things. Which also means we are to "set" our minds against fleshly things. But we all know how difficult it is to "set" our minds on spiritual things rather than worldly things. It's not as easy as flipping a switch. The flesh resists God, doesn't submit to God, and cannot please God. Left to ourselves we do not drift upward... we crash. And so we need spiritual power to guide us toward spiritual things. We need the Holy Spirit to "set" us on the right path! Which is why every morning should begin with this prayer; Lord, set my mind towards spiritual things, Christ honoring things. **Craig Groeschel, a pastor in Oklahoma, often shares about how negative thoughts can cause someone to spiral downward. He says, "many people wake up already defeated because they've spent their entire waking moments pondering lies, or plotting worldly actions before they've even gotten out of bed. Some people have already lost the battle by 8:15am."** But if we begin with prayer we can truly "set our minds on spiritual things."

The bottom line is this; the Spirit gives power by changing what fills your mind. **So you must ask yourself; what am I feeding my mind daily? What voices shape me the most? What thoughts do I entertain that oppose truth? Am I allowing the Spirit to set my mind or am I allowing my flesh to set my mind? Whatever rules your thoughts will steer your life.** When social media, or the gossip train get more attention than scripture, don't be

shocked when flesh feels stronger than faith. **Our Victory Isn't Active Without The Power of the Spirit.**

The second thing we need to see today is that... **The Spirit Gives Us Power Over Our Actions.** We see this in **verses 9-13.** Paul now moves from mindset to mastery. While our flesh still exists, it no longer owns you... in fact we can have mastery over it! If you are in Christ then the Spirit of God dwells in you. Christianity isn't just following Jesus externally. It is also the Spirit of God moving us internally. It's not just following rules... it's about being led. You aren't just instructed, you are inhabited.

Yes, our flesh is marked for death. And one of the consequences of our sin is physical death. But the Spirit marks our souls for resurrection. So as we carry the death of flesh with us in this life... we are powered by the life of the Spirit... the very power that raised Christ from the dead. We don't have to wait for resurrection power til after we die... no... we have it right now powering our lives today!

And we don't owe our flesh anything. It lied to us, it deceived us, it used us, it condemned us. So stop obeying it... it is the enemy. **The flesh may still speak, but it no longer gets the final say.** Instead we put the deeds of the body to death by the Spirit. Meaning, this is active warfare. This is a battle we could not have won on our own... but with the power of the Spirit fueling us, guiding us, prompting us, pushing us... we kill our fleshly desires and destroy our worldly actions. This is not self-help, nor grit alone, this is spirit-enabled killing of sin! **Again I will use my son as an example.** For years now, Lisa and I have been encouraging him in his pursuit of mechanical engineering. We have prayed for him, supported him, helped him with scholarship applications, college applications, SAT signups. We are buying him a laptop that is all suped up and ready for the rigors of this journey. His grammy and grampa have helped pay for some of it. His family has been the power to propel him towards college. But in the end, he is the one who has to pull the trigger and actually do the work. There is power to do what you couldn't do on your own... but there is still responsibility to act.

John Owen famously wrote, "Be killing sin, or it will be killing you." He understood that sin never stays still. It either grows or is put to death. You now have the power to put sin to death. The Spirit supplies the power, but you still must pull the trigger. So what flesh needs to be put to death? Lust, anger, pride, laziness, drunkenness, gossip, self-pity? Let the Spirit empower you to swing the death blow today! **Our Victory Isn't Active Without The Power of the Spirit.**

The last thing we need to see today is that... **The Spirit Gives Us Power To Live As Family.** We see this in **verses 14-17.** Paul reminds

us that the Spirit doesn't merely make you disciplined in your walk, it actually secures you to his kingdom. If you are "led" by the Spirit... you are His. If you are not a "slave" to sin and fear... you are His. If you feel the Spirit speaking to you, leading you, guiding you, empowering you... you are His. The Spirit reassures believers internally that they are children of God and that he is their Abba Father. They can be assured that they are heirs of the kingdom of God, because they already have the greatest treasure of God living in their soul.

**Do you know how Pierson knows he's my son? Because no one fights harder for him! No one believes greater in him! No one is willing to do more for him than me! And you know you belong to God... because he has fought for you... believes in you... and is empowering you through his Spirit!**

J.I. Packer wrote that adoption is the highest privilege of the gospel, higher even than justification in terms of relationship. Because many people know what it means to be legally forgiven, but fewer know what it means to be deeply loved. **True victory is knowing where you belong.** If you are empowered by the Spirit... you are not a visitor to God's house, you are **family!** You can have assurance of salvation if you know the Spirit is empowering you to overcome the flesh. **Our Victory Isn't Active Without The Power of the Spirit.**

### Application

So what do we do with this? Stop trying to live the Christian life in your own strength. You cannot out think the flesh, out fight temptation, or out earn sonship by willpower alone. Daily surrender your mind to the Spirit in prayer and through the word. Daily put sinful patterns to death through obedience. And daily approach God as a loved child instead of a fearful servant. The question today is simple: am I depending on the power of the Spirit to work through me for victory!

### Conclusion

Some of you are still living like you are in a race car at the CocaCola 600 stuck at the starting line. The other race cars have taken off and are zooming around the track, but you are still pondering... do I have what it takes to win this race? You are wondering.. are the tires good enough, the fuel powerful enough... does the powertrain have enough horses to get me there? You're saved but stagnant, forgiven but frustrated, indwelt but inactive! Paul's message is clear... the spirit of God has moved in and victory is assured... just race the car! You don't have to be ruled by the thoughts of the flesh anymore. You don't have to bow to the actions of the flesh anymore. You don't have to wonder if you are His anymore! Stop being afraid to live... and let the Spirit live within you. **Our victory isn't active without the power of the Spirit.** So rise to the station, and live by the spirit!