

“WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS”

John 16:23-33

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

In John 16:23-33 we see both Jesus’ last words to His disciples, and their last profession of faith in Him before His death. Obviously what He says must be extremely important—He saves these words till last.

Our Lord gives His own finely balanced training; on one hand He shows us that we will do just fine in His absence, for the promised Helper will enable us to be all that we need to be.

However, we must not be over-confident in our position and ability. Overconfidence leads to a poor belief system and poor behavior. We believers still lives in a very hostile world where we face tremendous pressures and afflictions. The task lying before us is not simple.

But, one thing is certain, the Savior is totally victorious, and His victory guarantees our victory.

Therefore, **TAKE COURAGE—WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS.**

I. CHRIST ENABLES US

A. Effective Knowledge (vv. 23, 25)

Jesus had said that He would see the disciples again; here the picture is more that after the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost.

No need to ask Him any question (v. 19)—the Spirit will guide them (vv. 13-15).

Then the confusion will clear up.

No more “figurative language”—dark sayings, parables—in the Spirit He speaks plainly.

B. Effective Prayer (23-24; 26-27)

“Ask” here is asking in prayer—different verb.

1. Prayer is directed to the Father in Jesus’ **name** (23, 26).

2. Answers to such prayers are guaranteed in His name (23).

3. Prior to the resurrection and Pentecost this was not the form of prayer (24).

4. Asking and receiving go together (24).

5. Jesus does not need to pray in our place, or persuade an unwilling Father to listen to us! (26) It isn’t that the Father needs to be convinced by a more merciful Christ in order to listen to a believer’s prayers; such an argument sounds very much like that concerning Mary’s prayers in the place of a stern Jesus! **This statement is not in contradiction with all of the intercession passages about Jesus as our High Priest and advocate (e.g. I Jn. 2:1; Rom. 8:34)**

Moreover, Christ’s priestly work is the very basis of our approach to the Father. That work itself is a perpetual intercession. Jesus does not need to supplement it with further intervention for us.

6. The Father Himself loves us and is glad to help us (27). The Father and the Son are one! He does not need persuasion. Our relation with Jesus is sufficient. His love for us is based upon:
- a. Our Love for the Son—"Have loved"—continuing results.
 - Not that our love merits His love; His love obviously comes first.
 - But, His love is reciprocal; our love for the Son brings a deeper manifestation of His love for us.
 - b. Our faith in the Son—"Have believed"—continued manifestation of faith. Faith that Jesus has a divine origin—*came out from alongside God—from His personal presence.*

C. Fulfilled Joy (24)

One of the intended results of answered prayer in the **fullness of joy!** Yes, we have trials (33), but joy is certain and guaranteed!

D. Deep-Seated Peace (33)

1. In Christ (**Me**—emphatic) versus "in the world"
2. "Peace" versus "tribulation"—pressure, affliction
 Note that we **have tribulation** in the world—no doubt.
 But, we **may have** peace in Christ as His dear ones!

E. Confidence and Courage (33)—"**Be confident, be courageous, be cheerful.**"
No need to be afraid, intimidated, or agitated!

All this is true, yet we believers can gain a false confidence in ourselves, or in the measure of progress we have made; if so we are ripe for a fall!

II. CHRIST CAUTIONS US WHEN WE ARE SELF-CONFIDENT (29-32)

A. Our Misconceptions (29)

We think that we already have all that He promised when we still have a long way to go—even as the early disciples had not made it to Pentecost yet.

B. Our Weak Knowledge and Faith (30-31)

1. We know that He is Omniscient (30)—He answers questions even before He is asked (see v. 19).
2. We know that He is "from" God ($\alpha\pi\omicron$ used here—much weaker meaning than the word Jesus uses). He does have a Divine mission and origin.
3. Jesus points out the genuineness, yet weakness of this faith (31).
 "Do you now believe"—half question, half exclamation.
 He did accept the validity of the faith (see 17:8).
 He knew that this "faith" would not stand the test of coming events.

C. Our Forsaken Loyalty (32)

1. Self Confidence leads to an imminent crash—"An hour is coming and **has already come.**"
2. Self confidence leads to scattering and disunity—"each scattered to his own

- home.”** So much for *loyalty to each other and to the cause!*
3. Self confidence leads to a forsaking of Christ—“and to leave ME alone”

If the Lord depended upon self-confident believers, His cause would be in shambles! Then, how is the **enablement described in the first point possible?**

It Is Possible Because Christ Has Won The Victory For Us!

III. THE VICTORIOUS SAVIOR (28, 32, 33)

A. He is not Forsaken by His Father (32).

1. “I am not alone.”
2. “The Father is with Me” This was constantly true throughout His life and ministry—except for that one awful period on the cross when He became the sin-bearer and cried out, “**My God, My God. Why hast thou Forsaken Me?**”

B. He has Finished His Work (28).

1. His Mission—“*I came forth from the Father.*” Shows his identity with deity.
2. His Incarnation—“*I have come into the world.*”—He stayed with His task until He had fully accomplished it.
3. His Passion—“*I am leaving the world again.*”—After having died and risen.
4. His Ascension and Session—“*I am going to the Father.*”—The Father accepted His perfect and fully completed work.

C. He Has Completely Triumphed (“*I have overcome the world.*”)

What an astounding statement for one who was about to cross the Kidron and go into Gethsemane! THIS SEEMS LIKE A QUITE AUDACIOUS STATEMENT!

For Him, the cross was not a defeat, but a total victory—over the world itself and all it could do to Him and to His followers.

CONCLUSION

Effective Knowledge & Prayer, Joy, Peace, Confidence & Courage—In Christ and through the Spirit, all of this is part of our victorious Christian Life today!

However, we must avoid self confidence and depend totally upon Him! **Otherwise, our knowledge and faith will fail, and our loyalty will disappear as we forsake Him!**

HE IS THE CONQUEROR; HE HAS FINISHED HIS WORK; HE HAS COMPLETELY TRIUMPHED!

In Him, we are more than Conquerors!