

Introduction:

- Tracy Elliot Reap - Photographer. Taking pictures of wildlife in Africa. She was told by her guides that—"if while photographing Elephants that a leopard came out and crouched down towards her, she was not to run away. If you run away the leopard will attack and kill you. You must run at the animal. If you do it will run away." **Application:** Believers need to understand that illustration when the adversary the devil comes crouching down towards you. We are to run at him. He is more scared of us than we know.
- *In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade.* 2 Cor 2:14 Message Bible.

I. In Christ Is the Victory!

A. In Christ is the victory! Why?

1. *"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."* (Colossians 2:15, ESV) ...on the cross!
 - a) disarmed - **apekdýō**. dyo means to arm. apek means exactly the opposite. In the NT this word occurs only in Col. 3:9, where it has the strong sense "fully to put off" with no possible return to the old state. Jesus disarmed spiritual rulers and authorities in high places.
 - b) The cross is the place of victory. "In Christ" is more than just a theology! It is to be a reality in the life of the believer.
 - c) To shame: **deigmatízō**. This rare word means "to exhibit," "make public," "bring to public notice." In Mt. 1:19 Joseph does not want to expose Mary by having her appear publicly. In Col. 2:15 Christ makes a public exhibition of the vanquished forces, not just by proclamation, but by public display, as in a triumphal procession.¹ I.e. This is all the more reason to believe for visible, viable supernatural healings and miracles that testify of Jesus Christ and defeat the powers of darkness.
2. In Him the promises live. 2 Cor 1:20 *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.* NLT

B. 'In Him' is not a magic phrase! Acts 17:28-29 *For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'* ²⁹ And since this is true, *we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.* NLT. I have to meditate on this truth until I possess it in my heart and not just my head. We have to work this like Joshua did in Joshua 1:1-ff.

C. A side note of being 'in Him' is praise! When you are truly walking in the revelation of being (in Him) you naturally are a praiser! You actually walk like you are in a perpetual victory parade. The more I know of Him the more I praise and worship. I

¹ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

adore Him. My adoration naturally leads me to praise Him.

1. Ps 63:1-3 *"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you."* (Psalm 63:1-3, ESV)
2. Ps 76:1-3 *God is honored in Judah [praise]; his name is great in Israel. ² Jerusalem [Peace] is where he lives; Mount Zion is his home. ³ There he has broken the fiery arrows of the enemy, the shields and swords and weapons of war.* NLT When we praise, God inhabits that praise and we are 'in Him'! Firey darts get stopped, enemy swords and shields get shattered.
3. 2 Chron 20:3, 15. The battle is God's, when we are in Him.

II. It Is Christ Who Leads Us

- A. The word translated triumph, literally means to be lead in triumph. Therefore it is God's way of leading His people...in triumph! There is no other way for God to lead those who are in Christ. If you do not quit you win!!!
- B. Our topic is spiritual warfare and those who wish to enlist in the Lord's army do not want to fight this fight on your own. You want to be lead by the Spirit of God. "In Messiah, in Christ"...under His leadership we go from place to place in one perpetual victory parade.
- C. We are lead by His Word.
 1. His word is Spirit and it is Life - Jn 6:63; it is also the Sword of Spirit which is the Word of God. Eph. 6:17
 2. *His word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.* Ps 119:105. 1 Chron 14:8-ff. David is looking for the Lord's leadership in fighting the Philistines. David speaks of God of having broken through like a wall of water. 2 Chron 20:3, 15 Jehosophat calls on the Lord before doing battle. He ends up putting the singers in front of the army. The Ammonites and Moabites end up killing each other.
 - a) We need the light of the Word because men love darkness because their deeds are evil. (Jn 3:19)
 - b) Most horror movies happen in the darkness. Why? Because evil is associated with the darkness. Jesus throws unholy men into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 3. His word will not return void - Is. 55:11 *It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.* NLT
 4. Proverbs 6:22 speaks of being lead by the word of God. It will lead, keep and speak to you... David to Solomon.
- D. We are lead by God. Ps 23 The Lord is my Shepherd/He leads

1. nahal – to lead with care.
- E. We are led by the Spirit. Ro 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.* NKJV (see also vs 16). Sons of God gives me identity! It matters whose 'kid' you are. Zechariah 2:8 says that I am the apple of His eye.

III. In Him I Am A Winner

On July 31, 1838 on the Island of Jamaica, a man named William Knibbs, gathered 10,000 slaves for a great praise gathering. They were celebrating the New Emancipation Proclamation Act that would abolish slavery on the island. They had built an immense coffin and into it were placed whips, branding irons, chains, fetters of all kinds, slave garments and all the things that represented the terrible slavery system that was now coming to a welcome end.

At the first stroke of the midnight bell, Knibbs shouted out, "The monster is dying." At each stroke of the bell that followed this cry was repeated and the great crowd began to join in the cry. At the twelfth stroke 10,000 voices cried out, "The monster is dead, the monster is dead, let us bury him." They then screwed the coffin lid down and lowered it into a huge grave and covered it up. That night, every heart rejoiced and 10,000 voices grew hoarse, shouting and crying with joy. Once they were in bondage to slavery, but now they were free. Yet many who never got the news or did not believe the news remained as slaves to their masters.

The message of the cross is this: Satan has been defeated and sin's penalty has been paid. We no longer have to surrender to sin or be controlled by Satan. We can belong to Jesus and live to please God. *In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade.* 2 Cor 2:14

- A. If you are going to stand up to hell you have to know who you are, whose you are, and where you stand. (In Him)
- B. A winner gets a new identity! To the winner go the spoils of victory. We are winners in Christ Jesus. People see winners differently than losers. And devil sees those who know who they are in Christ differently too. The identities shift as the man shifts to trusting in God. The more you trust in God the more your identity will shift. Name speaks of identity.
 1. Abram to Abraham - Noble father to father of many
 2. Jacob to Israel - supplanter (one who wrongfully takes the place of another) to One who prevails with God
 3. Simon to Petros (large piece of rock) Upon this rock (huge bolder)
 4. In Revelation to the overcomer is given a new name on a white stone.

- C. More than a conquerors: Romans 8:37 *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.* NKJV
- D. Conquer – hypernikao = nikao is a conqueror. Put the prefix hyper in front of it and you have a hyper-conqueror! More than just a conqueror. The idea appears to be that this is an *absolute* conquest. We are not just defeating tribulation as we might defeat a boxer, only to have to go another round with them later. It means we are overwhelmingly victorious.
 - 1. What does it mean to be more than a conqueror?
 - a) Kings and Priests! Position gives identity.
 - b) Rev 1:6; 5:10 He has made us Kings and Priest to Our God.
 - 2. To be more than a conqueror is to know on your inside that even before the problem arrives you have overcome in Christ Jesus. You live with confidence that God loves you no matter what and He will never leave you nor forsake you.
- E. The OT equivalent is Ez 3:8-9. *But look, I have made you as obstinate and hard-hearted as they are. ⁹I have made your forehead as hard as the hardest rock! So don't be afraid of them or fear their angry looks, even though they are rebels."* NLT God is saying you are more fierce than they!
- F. He is an overcomer; who believes that Jesus is the Son of God! That is the victory that has overcome the world.
 - 1. 1 Jn 5:4-5 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?* NKJV
 - 2. Remember Jesus Christ the greatest overcomer. Jesus said, "*In this world you have tribulations, but be of good cheer because I have overcome the world.*" (John 16:33) *I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world."* Message
 - 3. Whenever you feel like giving in to your subjective feelings of discouragement, hate or apathy, remember that Christ paved the way for you to overcome any problem 100% of the time. Just as Christ conquered sin, through the power of the Holy Spirit you are able to fight the good fight of faith and come out a champ.
- G. *But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ.* Amplified Bible 2 Cor 15:57

Conclusion:

- With those scriptures, let us join the perpetual victory parade.