More Than Conquerors Over The Curse



"It doesn't matter."

(Seems like resolution, but is really escapism and gloom)

Everyone struggles against:

"The world shouldn't be this way."

We are "subjected to futility, and enslaved to decay" (Romans 8:20 - 21)

IThe Curse"

2 recognitions:

- 1. The world shouldn't be this way!
- 2. It won't always be this way.

Gloom

When we think the Curse's word of futility and decay are final.

Pain without purpose, suffering without hope, trial without help.

Dangeri

People in pain often reject every answer to their groaning as a dishonor to their loss. Every answer is either too trite or too severe.

Without humility, God's answer will sound like both.

Romans 8:15 - 18

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Romans 8:15 - 18

Now if we are children, then we are heirs heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. For, I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

The way of overcoming:

The Promise is the path.

1. The Spirit cultivates our hope in glory

...in the face of the Curse's gloom.

False solutions...

1. Pain is an illusion

2. God will protect his faithful from hurt

The antidote to gloom is the hope of glory.

Romans 8:18

"consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Hope in Glory

2 key properties:

- 1. It's very glorious
- 2. Hope is *by definition* future

Romans 8:19 - 21

"For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:18 "The glory that will be revealed *in us*."

Lit Translation: vs 19 "For the anxiously watching creation is eagerly expecting the revelation of the sons of God."

AHOPE

Romans 8:23 - 25

"...we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.

AHOPE

Romans 8:23 - 25

"...But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

2. The Spirit is our help

...against the Curse's weakness and confusion.

Romans 8:26 - 27

"in the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

The Spirit intercedes for us

- 1. To Help us in our weakness of expression for comfort
 - 2. Align our heart with God's will in his working for our glory

Romans 8:28

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God forknew, he predestined to be conformed to the image of his son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called, those he called, he also Justified, and those he justified he also glorified."

"Please slap me so I won't do something petty."

("Now can I have a hug?")

How do we do it?

- 1. Believe in God's Christ
 - 2. Believe in the gift of the Spirit like an Heir
 - 3. Seek the Mind of the Spirit
 - 4. Embrace the dynamic of: "Groan inwardly while waiting expectantly."

Romans 5:1 - 5 NIBO

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1 - 5 NIBO

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.