

Above all We Can Ask or Think

From: Overcoming the Overwhelming:
A 40-Day Journey toward Rediscovering Faith in God

Taken from Day 40: Above All We Can Ask or Think
by C. D. Hildebrand

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

This verse was spoken to Jesus' closest followers immediately prior to His arrest and crucifixion. He knew how heartbroken they would be after His death. He knew that after the joy they would experience after His resurrection, they would be persecuted and rejected by their own. For a normal human being, such rejection is overwhelming, but Jesus promised them that instead of turmoil, they would have peace in Him.

The reason we can be of good cheer and experience this peace is because Jesus has overcome the world. Even though He was God, He lived on earth as a man. He experienced those things that are common to all. He knew both joy and sorrow. Imagine the joy it was for Him to walk among those He'd created—to hold and be held by us, to converse face to face with us, to laugh and to cry with us, to teach us and to heal us, and to demonstrate to us by His words and deeds the will of His Father.

What pleasure it must have given Jesus to see the faces of those who believed in Him, and what grief He surely felt when the ones He came to save refused to believe.

He was and is mankind's only hope of salvation. We were dead in sin and bullied by darkness. Yet His immense love for us led Him to the cross and kept Him there to suffer and die in our place so that we could be set free.

Down from His Glory

*What condescension, bringing us redemption
That in the dead of night, not one faint hope in sight
God, gracious, tender, laid aside His splendor
Stooping to woo, to win, to save my soul.*

*O how I love Him, how I adore Him
My breath, my sunshine, my all in all
The great Creator became my Savior
And all God's fullness dwelleth in Him.¹*

None of us will ever fully fathom the intensity of the sacrifice He made for us. He overcame the world so that all of those who believe in Him might also overcome..

1 John 5:4-5

*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.
And this is the victory that has overcome the
world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the
world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of
God?*

By the simple fact that we have put our faith in the One who has overcome the world, we have also overcome. A closer look at the meaning of the word “overcome” reveals that overcoming is not simply enduring, but means “to subdue, to conquer, prevail, to get the victory”. While certainly enduring is part of the process of overcoming, our position is that of conquerors even while we are enduring.

Though the world may be spinning out of control all around us, we live above it all as victors. Through rejections, persecutions, struggles, and even in death—we win.

1 Corinthians 15:54-55

*So when this corruptible has put on incorruption,
and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall
be brought to pass the saying that is written:*

¹ From “Down from His Glory”, William E. Booth-Clibborn, Public Domain

*"Death is swallowed up in victory."
⁵⁵ "O Death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory?"*

Perhaps my biggest frustration as an author is that of knowing there is so much more to be said, but being constrained by time and space. Who could ever fully declare the glories of His majesty?

John 21:25

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

There is so much more left for us to discover, understand, and enjoy. His abiding presence, His unending love, His unlimited power in us and through us—who has the words to proclaim this? May the Lord open our eyes so that we may know and experience everything that He died and rose to give us!

Ephesians 1:15-23

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²²And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be

head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Believing in Him brings Him joy, and it gives us victory. As we learn of the hope of His calling, begin to benefit from the riches of the glory of His inheritance, and experience the greatness of His power toward us who believe in Him, how can we possibly not overcome anything and everything that seeks to overtake us? How can we not be filled and overflowing with the joy and peace of believing in Him (Rom 15:13)? This demonstration of His love toward us will continue throughout the ages to come.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

How my heart has longed to share with you the victory that is ours in Christ because of His amazing grace toward us and His power within us. He is rich in mercy. His love for us is great. He has made us alive, raised us up, and seated us in heavenly places with Himself. We have overcome because we have faith in Him.

The exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us who believe in Him will be proclaimed in all the ages to come. We who are the object of His grace, who have put our trust in Him, are His glory and joy. What He has done in us through the gift of His Son will glorify His name forevermore.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

Let these words sink into your heart. God is able to do exceedingly—abundantly—above—all—that we ask or think. We are still to ask, but God can do even more by the power that works in us.

I pray that this journey has encouraged and inspired you to believe that God will do in you, for you, and through you wonderful things that you cannot yet imagine or dream.

So Much More²

*Lord, I place my life before You
As a living sacrifice
Not knowing what the future has in store.
But there's one thing You've taught me
As I've traveled through this life
Your plans for me are always so much more.*

*More than I ask
More than I need
More than my mind can ever think
Far above anything I can dream
So much love
Abounding grace
Endless power in my life
Your plans for me
Are always so much more.*

*Now, Lord, I come before You
With confidence and joy
Knowing that Your promises are true
Amazed at all You're doing
And all that You have done
And all the things that You still have in store.*

*Plans of hope
Plans of peace
Plans to prosper all I do
Far beyond anything I can dream*

² By. C. D. Hildebrand, 2009, as we embarked on our new ministry, Studies in Grace and Faith

*So much love
Abounding grace
Endless power in my life
Your plans for me are always so much more.*

*So much more
So much more
More than I could ever ask
Or even dream
So much more
So much more
Your plans for me are always so much more.*

*More than I ask
More than I need
More than my mind could ever think
Far beyond anything I could dream
So much love
Abounding grace
Endless power in my life
Your plans for me are always so much more
Because Your love for me is always so much more.
Your plans for me are always so much more.*

Grace and peace be with you all with love, and may the Lord richly bless you exceedingly abundantly above all that you can ask or think.

