

"Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us." (Rom 8:37 AMP)

As I was reflecting on the internal issues military parents are challenged with, Romans 8:37 came to mind. Most military parents with children in a combat zone don't feel as if they are conquering their circumstances. Here are a few words I believe accurately describe how they feel: helpless, fearful, anxious, on edge, and really don't have a resemblance of peace in their heart.

Now let's take a look at some of the things Paul had been through and was referring to in the previous verses before verse 37. Paul had been in prison, was beaten on multiple occasions, he was stoned, starved and had gone with hardly any food for two weeks. He had been shipwrecked. Verse 36 states, "For Your sake we are killed all the day long. We are like sheep on their way to be butchered." None of us have seen the depravity of suffering Paul had, but despite his trials and those around him, he clearly states that we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory.

Just like your children who are in combat, you have several choices with your internal struggles. 1) You can accept defeat; 2) you can live defeated by not having the mind of Christ and applying His word and the proper principals; 3) you can get by; or 4) you can conqueror and live victoriously.

For me, I see two major roadblocks in conquering these tough issues parents face. 1) Taking every thought captive into the obedience of Christ as 2 Cor 10:5 says and immediately replacing every negative thought and emotion with a positive Christ centered thought through the renewing of your mind; (Rom 12:2) and 2) applying Heb 11:11, like Sarah, who 'received strength because she judged God as faithful.' If you see God as faithful over your circumstances and your children, peace will rule and reign in your heart because sometimes conquering means letting your children go and letting God be God.

To conclude, conquering doesn't mean you won't struggle. You will have to fight the good fight of faith just like your kids in battle; however, you know they wouldn't accept defeat in war. Why should you? Bullets and IEDs will come as attacks on your mind and possibly through people close to you. Conquering means continually rising above, putting on your armor, having the mind of Christ, and conquering through his love for you.

Shawn Spitzer

