

More than Conquerors

This month we want to reflect on the theme
"More than Conquerors."

Through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit we may know that we have overcome this world. This month we are going to look at the topics such as overcoming fear, uncertainty, stress and temptation.

Disappointment

- Philippians 4:6-7
- Romans 8:28
- Jeremiah 29:11

Stress

- Johan 14:27
- Matthew 11:28-30
- Isaiah 41:13

Fear

- Isaiah 41:10
- 1 John 4:18
- John 16:33

Temptation

- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Psalm 119:11
- Matthew 26:41

Uncertainty

- 1 Korinthe 10:13
- Romans 12:2
- James 5:16

Greed

- Luke 12:15
- Ecclesiastes 5:10
- Matthew 6:19-20

Rejection

- Romans 8:28
- Luke 6:22
- Isaiah 53:4-6

The World

- John 16:33
- 1 John 5:4-5
- 2 Corinthians 10:3
- 1 John 2:17

Excess

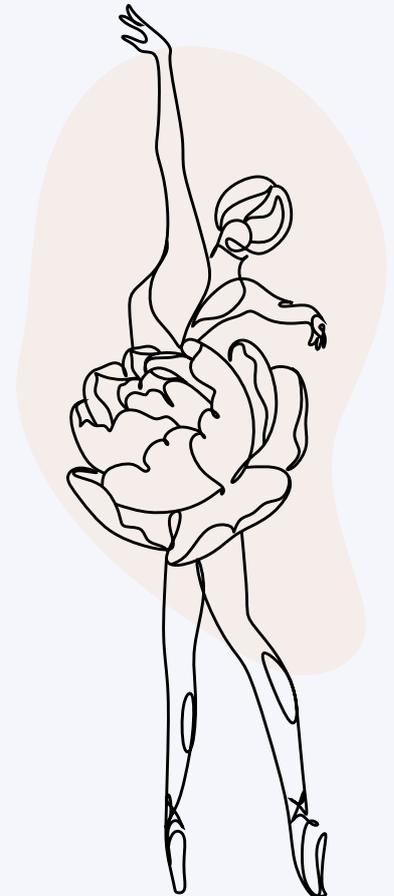
- Philippians 3:19
- Proverbs 23:21
- 1 Peter 5:8

Distraction

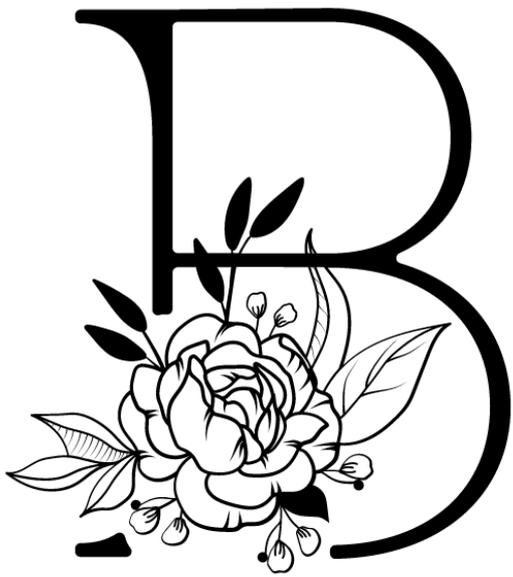
- Hebrews 12:1
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Deuteronomy 13:5

In all these things
we are more than
conquerors
through Him
Who loved us.

Romans 8:37

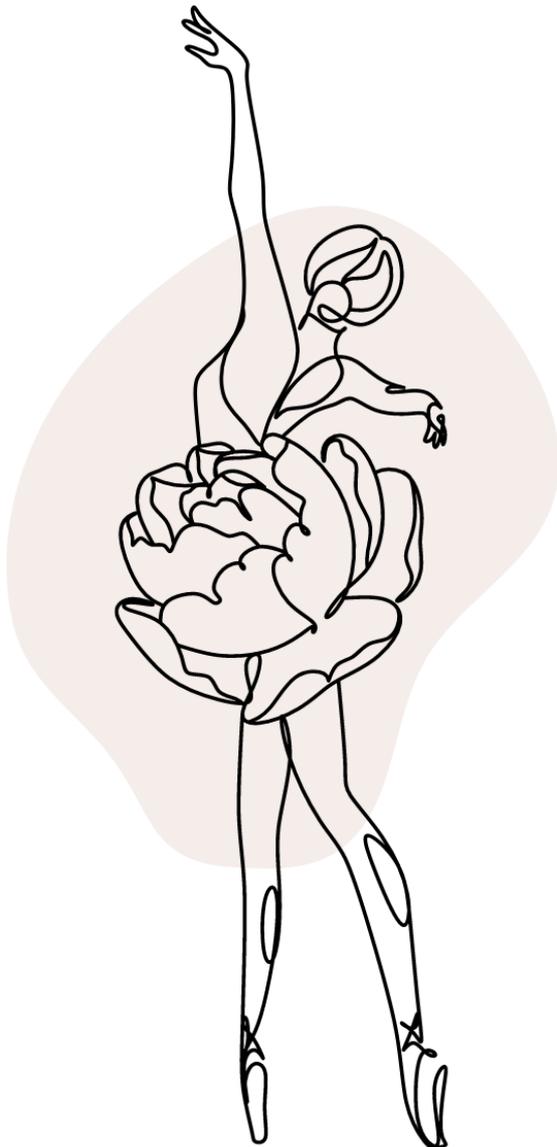


She Rises
to serve



Biblestudy

More than Conquerors



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Triumph over disappointment and fear

Disappointment. We all encounter it. But how do you deal with it the right way? The Bible gives us various examples of people who keep being confronted with the fact that their dreams or expectations don't become reality. Just think of Abram and Sarai, who have to wait years for their prayers to be answered: to receive a child from the Lord.

The life of Elijah the prophet knew incredible highs, but also very deep lows. This month, we also read words of the apostle Paul, who had to deal with a lot of setbacks. The Holy Spirit prevented him from proclaiming the gospel in Asia and he endured heavy persecution and had to suffer much for his faith. But it is precisely Paul who gives us words of encouragement, words that can be of influence in our entire lives.

In **Romans 8:28**, he writes: *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

I hope that these words encourage you when you encounter disappointment and struggles in your life. The Lord God sees you, He knows what you're going through, and what it does with your emotions. He is also aware of the impact that it has on your faith.

The Father who created and loves you, longs for you to share your heart with Him. If it's hard to pray in the midst of obstacles and the pain that comes with that, or if the things that worry you are too heavy for you, think of **Philippians 4:6-7**: *“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”*

The Lord also gives you His promises, His peace and a listening ear. He wants to be near and take care of you. He wants to carry your burdens and go with you. His path for you is set, and He never abandons the works of His hands:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” **Jeremiah 29:11**

*So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

Triumph over insecurity and rejection

Because of all the outside influences, we are quick to feel insecure or rejected. Are we good enough? Is the Lord strong enough, close enough, alert? Maybe you still feel the sting of the rejections you've experienced, and because of that, you still feel insecure.

1 Corinthians 10:13 says: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

Even if I doubt God, even if I feel insecure about myself, His words are printed in black and white! We can trust in Him, for the Lord does not lie (**Numbers 23:19**).

He will never leave us or reject us, we are His (**Isaiah 49:15**).

Maybe you know what it is to be rejected, because your faith makes you different. We all know stories of people who are persecuted because of their faith. They are ostracized, humiliated or even killed because they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. Perhaps you have also experienced something like this at one time or another. Through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit, God wants to separate us from the earthly and turn our gaze to Him: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (**Romans 12:2**)

This means that we don't have to worry what others think of us, all that really matters is how our Father looks at us. And the love He gives us, we in turn are called to pass on to others. This doesn't mean that this life will be without suffering or pain, but that God is at work in our lives. Paul, a man who suffered much for the sake of his faith, holds on to the following conviction: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." (**Romans 8:18**)

Triumph over excess, temptation and stress

What do you live for? If we are to believe the media, a fulfilling life is mostly about working hard and enjoying yourself. In the time of King Solomon there were already many who lived only for pleasure and earthly things: *“Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.”* (**Proverbs 23:20- 21**)

Philippians goes a step further. People who live to fill their bellies, are focused on their own honor and think only of earthly things, are labeled as people who ‘live as enemies of the cross of Christ.’

Does that mean we should not enjoy life? No, I don't believe it does.

In **Psalm 34: 9-10,13-14** we read the following: *“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.”*

What could be better than enjoying the goodness of God? When we live close to Him, pursue what He asks of us, He provides us with everything we need! We receive more than earthly joy when we believe in the Lord Jesus: *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* (**Romans 15:13**)

However, we also face many influences that threaten to keep us away from the Lord God. Daily we face stress and temptations that keep our attention away from Him. How often are we stressed and busy, instead of trusting God to lead us, to provide all that we need? Think about how much time you spend with God each day. Shouldn't that be more? So often we choose things that break us down spiritually, rather than build us up.

Psalm 119 is a song that sings the praises of the law and the ways of the Lord God. In verse 11 we read: *“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”*

That means we are to carry the promises of God with us so that we are protected from what grieves Him! The Lord God wants to give us His peace, a peace we cannot find in earthly things (**John 14:27**). The burden He places on us is light, and with Jesus we actually find rest (**Matthew 11:28-30**). It is His desire that we remain close to Him so that we may find rest in this chaotic world.

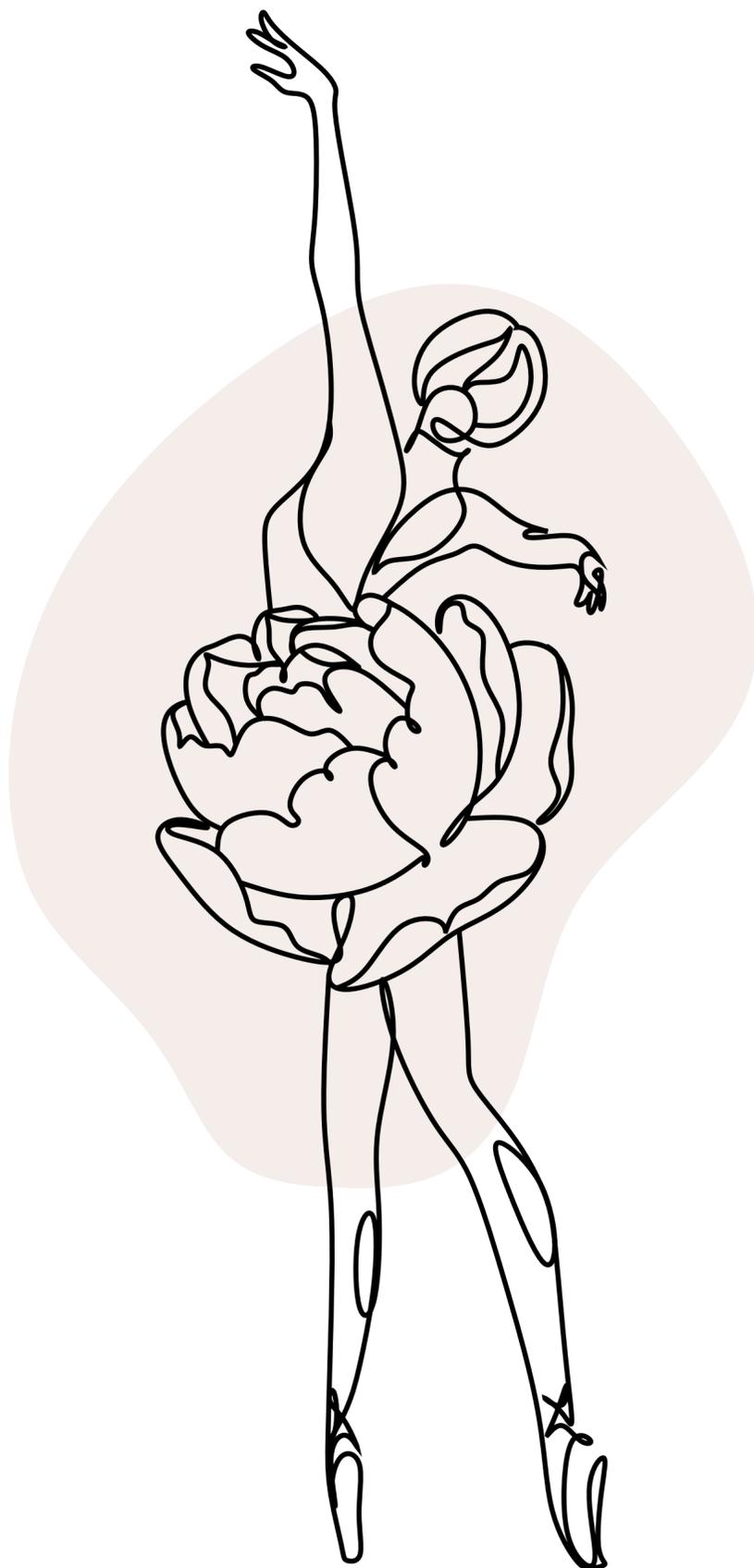
Triumph over greed, the world and distractions

How many temptations try to lure us in a world full of splendor! The world plays on our greed, the desire for more that is never satisfied. The Lord Jesus warns against people's greed several times. Among other things, He tells the story of the rich fool (**Luke 12:13-21**), warns the rich young man that it is very difficult for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven (**Matthew 19:16-26**), and chases away the merchants who try to make their profits in the temple (**John 2:13-26**). Perhaps Jesus warns against greed so often because He knows how we are put together. If we look at the world with a perspective that is focused on eternity, what value do earthly treasures have (**Luke 12:15**)?

We are allowed to enjoy everything that we receive from God's hand, He wants us to be happy with His blessings, but we must guard against literally and figuratively putting our heart and soul in our possessions. We have a battle to fight against our earthly nature, greed and everything that prevents our way of living with the Lord God, but we do not have to fight that battle ourselves. The Holy Spirit gives us a heavenly armor, and a great multitude of believers who are examples to us (**Hebrews 12:1**). If we stay focused on Him, His will is our top priority, and we involve Him in all aspects of our lives, He will lead us and walk with us (**Proverbs 3:5-6**).

In all these things we are more
than conquerors through Him
Who loved us.

Romans 8:37



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