

# MORE THAN CONQUERORS

SERMON SERIES



Alfred  
Street  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# I'M ALIVE

ROMANS 8: 10 - 14 (NKJV)  
SEPTEMBER 19 - 20, 2020

A SERMON BY  
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#IMALIVE #MORETHANCONQUERORS

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Preacher: Pastor Howard-John Wesley

Sermon: I'm Alive

Scripture: Romans 8:9-11



# CURRICULUM GUIDE



## Sermon Summary

In part two of Pastor Wesley's "More Than Conquerors" series, we were empowered to know that we are alive in Jesus Christ. Paul empowers us to know that even though we die, the spirit of God calls us back to life.

### Key Points:

To be alive in Jesus Christ means that:

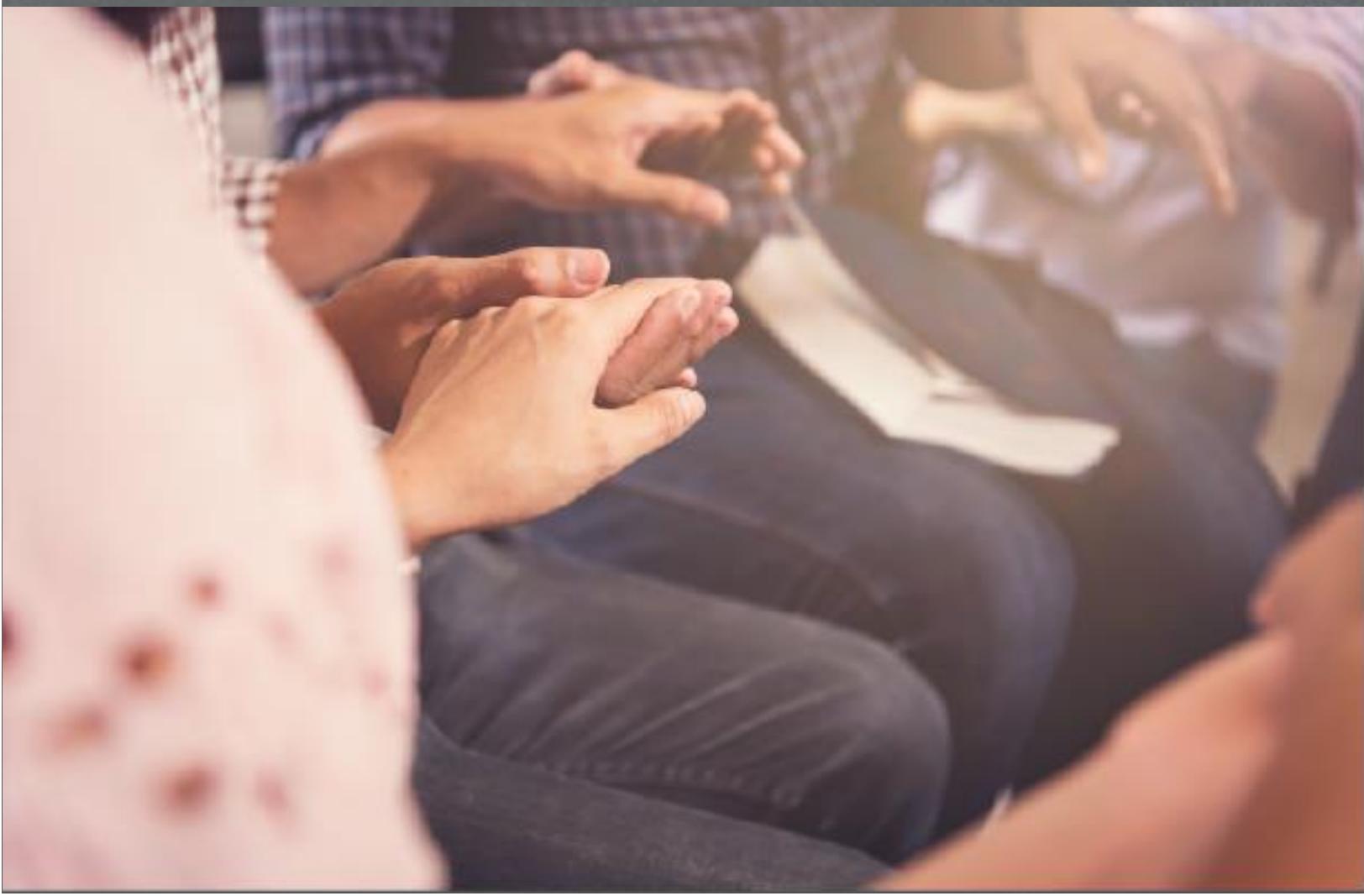
1. We are always on a journey of deepening our faith in the Lord (verse 9)
  - a. We live in the tension between "if" and "since"
  - b. To live in Christ means moving from "if God can work it out" to "since God will work it out"
2. We have to accept the dualities of discipleship (verse 10)
  - a. "I'm being broken and I'm being blessed"
  - b. Too often, we have simplified Christianity so people quit on God as soon as they experience a season of suffering
  - c. We give up on God because we have the wrong expectations of God
  - d. What makes God God is not what God subtracts from your life, but what God adds to your life
  - e. It's not what God keeps us from, but what God enables us to go through
3. We walk with the assurance of our victory (verse 11)
  - a. When you know that death has been defeated it gives you courage to live
  - b. God through the Spirit of Christ has given us new life

# Notes for Facilitators:

This week, please be sure to save time for everyone in your Village to complete the opening survey. Also, if you have not thoroughly reviewed the Village covenant take a moment to discuss that document with your group.

## Getting To Know You Questions:

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
2. In the Key Points listed above, there were three overarching statements that explain what it means to be alive in Jesus Christ. Of these three statements, which one resonates with you the most? Also, which one is the most challenging to accept, due to experiences in your life?
3. In your current faith journey, are you closer to an “if” belief or “since” belief? What is the reason for your answer?
4. Pastor discusses how discipleship involves dualities. What dualities have you experienced in 2020 while adjusting to quarantine/social distancing life?



# Into The Bible Questions:

1. Read Romans 8:9-11 in NRSV and again in either the translation that you typically use or a translation other than NRSV, such as the Contemporary English Version (CEV). Thinking about Pastor's teaching on decisions pertaining to translation, how does it inform your approach to the Bible? If you already were a reader of multiple translations, what other differences do you see in this Romans 8 passage? If you typically read a particular translation, are you more likely to expand your reading?
2. Within the sermon, Pastor pointed out that Paul's writings about sin and the law begin in Romans 7. Specifically, in Romans 7:14-25, Paul shares the inner struggles man has in dealing with sin, the law, and our flesh. After reading this passage, how do you feel about individuals and actions that have occurred during the racial injustice events of 2020? Do you feel as if sinful natures that can dwell within man/woman lead to this? Can certain actions be justified as flesh being a slave to the law of sin?
3. Pastor states that sin is mentioned more frequently in Romans 7:1-8:11 than in any other passage of the Bible. When sin is mentioned, how is it used and how does it compare to your personal understanding of sin?

# Life Application Questions:

1. Pastor Wesley argued that we experience God in what God adds in our life and not what God takes away. Thinking about your current reality in this political climate and in pandemic, what has God added to your life that enables you to better handle the adversities that you've experienced this year?
2. This sermon suggested that many Christians give up on God because of the prevalence of doctrines that set the wrong expectations for God. How has your understanding of God evolved in your faith journey and what are your expectations of God now, as a result of that growth?
3. When talking about the differences in "if" and "since" faith, Pastor emphasized how a "since" faith encourages activity while an "if" faith encourages idleness. What is a time in your life when you've experienced either and how does it inform how you view faith now?
4. What does it mean to you to "walk with the assurance of victory"? How does Christian confidence manifest itself in your lifestyle?
5. Pastor emphasized that there is a duality of discipleship throughout our life. Can you pinpoint times in your life where you were progressing and struggling in life simultaneously?



## "Can I Push It?"

Pastor closes the sermon by pressing on us that we should be walking in spiritual confidence because we know we have ultimate victory in Christ. What actions should a "since" faith exhibit in a time when things feel more uncertain than ever? With so much on the line in 2020, what do you feel like you're being called to do to press towards progress and change?

## Activity:

A Spirit-filled life leads to Spirit-filled actions. Those who yield to the Spirit have their character transformed so that the Fruit of the Spirit shines through in their lives. As a group, reflect on the Fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Have members share examples of how at least ONE of these virtues is evident in their life.



## Spirit Work:

1. Pastor pointed out that life in Christ moves between “if” and “since.” We hover between doubt and declarations. Reflect on your life during this month. Think about those times when circumstances or situations caused you to wrestle with unbelief in God. Pray about one or two of them by asking God to deepen your faith to grow from doubting to trusting Him for the victory.
2. This sermon argued that Romans 8:10 requires us to accept the dualities of discipleship and that God may not remove us from hardship, but rather pour into our spirit to further develop us. When praying this week, make note of the number of requests for circumstantial changes compared with requests for internal growth/Godly additions. After doing an inventory of your prayer requests, prayerfully consider if God is pressing on you to make an adjustment in your daily petitions.

Readings for This Week:

<b>Monday, September 21st</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 12:1-10</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 22nd</b>	<b>Philippians 4:10-14</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 23rd</b>	<b>Genesis 32:22-31</b>
<b>Thursday, September 24th</b>	<b>Job 14:14-22</b>
<b>Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Romans 8:37-39</b>

Further Study: Learn More About Koine Greek