

## God’s Conquering Love

*“In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you,” says the Lord. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes.” — Jeremiah 29:12-14*

Few people reading this have ever been physically conquered and carried into captivity. But that is not true concerning our minds and hearts, for every person’s soul has been taken captive to some extent. Far too many people have been conquered by addictions and wrong thinking that captivate and cripple, just assuredly as a physical assault on the body. The truth is that the conquered heart and mind have, in fact, chosen to submit, which defines surrender and is a requisite for being truly conquered. In other words, the essence of being conquered is the choice to surrender and submit, whether forced or voluntary—the heart gives way.

Is it possible to surrender to a conquering force and win freedom? What an odd question to ask in our current world of conquest and repression, but the answer is, yes! Jesus came to set us free from the enemy’s oppression. When we submit and surrender to Jesus, God conquers us with His love. We fall into His arms with gladness of heart because we somehow know that He is for us not against us!—His plans for us are good. He has won our love with His love and our hearts become one with His—We enter an everlasting union bound by love that has no end—we are eternally His—we win!

Throughout history, a child was often known by the father’s reputation. Culturally, there was confidence that the child carried the virtuous traits of the father. One might say, “Oh, you’re Robert’s son; I can trust you.” In the eyes of the community, the child automatically took on the reputation of the father. Unfortunately, that also held true if the father had a bad reputation. If your father was disreputable, no matter how good your disposition as his child, it would often be very difficult to escape the reputation, and therefore suffer the consequences, of the disreputable father. But there is good news for everyone! Jesus came to give you a new, reputable father, a flawless heavenly Father who loves you and wants to conquer your heart with His life-giving love. As a believer, you have a good Father, and as His child, you have all of His traits as a good Father—His character, His faithfulness and His integrity.

Have you been conquered by God’s love? The Apostle James makes this statement, followed by a penetrating question for all of us to consider, “*Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Are you still God’s enemy?*” No matter your answer, lift your hands and your heart; surrender and submit and receive His conquering love today.

 Information and Revelation
 Application and Transformation

*Heavenly Father, thank You for knowing my need for a savior, and sending Your son Jesus to free me from captivity. It is Your conquering love that rescued me from a life without hope or a future. Thank You for drawing me with Your love and goodness so I could see the way to surrender my aching heart to You. LORD, Your Word tells me that “You know the plans You have for me; they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give me a future and a hope.” I receive Your Word for me today by surrendering all my mistakes and failures, as well as my good works. I ask You to set me apart for Your purposes, for Your glory. LORD, help me sift through the intents of my heart and submit to Your conquering love. I want so much to be Your child so others will witness Your character and will be drawn to know You through me. I give You all the glory and ask these petitions in Jesus’ precious name. Amen*