

## Overwhelming Trials vs. Overwhelming Love

There are times when I feel I'm succumbing to regression in terms of my development as a person. Like in Psychology, one of the common defense mechanisms is *Regression*, which can be defined as "*a defense mechanism where one reverts to a previous stage in development*". What am I talking about? For example, I have reduced my vocabulary at times to "*baby talk*". AND I guess since I never really had the chance to go through the **ANGST-Y TEEN** stage I am now going through it. It's either that or I am just affected by the song that I listen to, just as "*...faith cometh by hearing, and by hearing the Word of God*" (Romans 10:17, KJV), I believe that whatever I hear takes root in my heart and then I begin to profess it. Like this poem that I wrote:

### **"Have-To Life"**

Got to keep my smiling face on  
Even if I feel so used and alone  
Got to keep the sunshine in my life  
Even if I'm guilt-ridden with strife  
Got to keep the pace I'm moving  
Even if I feel like drowning  
Got to keep my best behavior  
Even if I fail every endeavor  
Got to keep them all entertained  
Even if I'm stuck in pouring rain  
Got to keep being this alive

**WELCOME TO MY HAVE-TO-GOTTA-BE-SOMEBODY-OTHER-THAN-ME-LIFE**

I wrote this poem when the conditions and situation that I was in were less than perfect. I was facing challenges at every aspect of my life. I really felt that my life was all about the "Have-To", it was not really a sweet time for me. I knew that writing it was wrong, but because I was so resentful and bitter of everything that happened, I just felt the need to put it on paper. Then I asked God to show me what the truth was. Wouldn't you know it?

The first thing I got was an affirmation of the poem! Let's look at **John 16:33** in different versions. The affirmation I put in italics.

New Living Translation (NLT)

I have told you this so that you may have peace in me. *Here on earth, you will have **many** trials and sorrows* . But take heart because I have overcome the world.

King James Version (KJV)

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. *In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

Basic Bible English (BBE)

John 16:33 I have said all these things to you so that in me you may have peace. *In the world you have trouble: but take heart! I have overcome the world.*

Message (MSG)

John 16:33 I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. *In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties.* But take heart! I've conquered the world.

So it is true, Jesus said so Himself that I will, we will, have **MANY TRIALS AND SORROWS** . Jesus did not say that everything will be smooth sailing from now on, now that you've accepted Him as the Lord of your life. While we are still in this world, in this world system, we'd still be facing setbacks, failures, mistakes, pressures, sadness, grief, temptation, yes it is all true. But then let us look at what Jesus said before that, in the Message, it is written that:

*I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace.*

Despite the fact that we are going to face trials in the present and near future, we will have PEACE or in Greek *eirene* , quietness, prosperity or rest. Think about that. So how is that possible?

***Philippians 4:6-7***

*Don't worry about anything but **PRAY** about everything. With thankful hearts offer up*

*your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control what you think and feel. (CEV)*

I wrote in bold another keyword: **Prayer**, our intimate connection with God. Our peace comes from abiding in the True Vine (John 15), Jesus, through prayer, putting on the whole armor of God everyday, obeying Him and walking in Love.

In Greek, the phrase "*be anxious for nothing*" is translated as *meden merimnate*. Which according to Dake's Reference Bible means, "*Do not tolerate anxiety or worry for it will injure your souls. God alone can help you and He will do it for you if you will pray about everything that happens and give thanks for everything*".

God then will give you His peace, not your peace which can be easily swayed by circumstances, but **HIS PEACE**, which is "*...far more wonderful than the human mind can understand...*". And this peace will keep, guard, control your mind (what you think) and your heart (what you feel). Prayer with thanksgiving prevents us from worrying and fussing over the situation, it keeps our focus on God's promises, some of which are the fact that: *He will never leave us nor forsake us* (Hebrews 13:5), "*All things work together for good to them that love God, and to them who are called according to His purpose*" (Romans 8:28) and that He'd provide for our EVERY need (Philippians 4:19).

But wait... there's more! Not only will God give us **peace**, but since He overcame, conquered (Greek *nikao*) the world, we share in this because "*In everything we have won more than a victory because of **Christ** who loves us*" Romans 8:37. As it is written, "*Every child of God can defeat the world, and our faith is what gives us victory. No one can defeat the world without having faith in **JESUS** as the Son of God.*" I John 5:4-5.

So you see, the poem is scrapped, life is not have-to anymore, because I know in Christ I have more than enough, I am equipped to face the world. I won't have to worry about anything because, "*Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world.*"