

"He that overcometh shall inherit ALL things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the Lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the Second Death." **Revelation 21:7-8 KJV**

In the Middle Ages the Spanish Inquisition routinely tortured and killed those who refused to follow dogma, labeling them heretics and infidels. What intimacy and power did the common housewives and farmers have with their Creator that allowed them to calmly face snarling mobs that put them to death for what they simply professed to believe? I've heard, Muslims yell, "Death to Infidels!" in our day. I wonder if martyrs felt like overcomers while being drowned, roasted alive, beheaded, fed to animals, or drawn and quartered? Could you face being burned alive with calm assurance of faith? These people didn't have movies, cell phones, electricity, or indoor plumbing. They got up early every day to feed the animals, work the fields, wash the clothes, mill the flour, and prepare food. They had little earthly comfort. Their clothes were rough. They rarely had shoes or stockings. Bread, soap, and candles were homemade. We disbelieve God over the most petty discomforts, that it's surprising anyone even goes to Church! We don't have to harness wagons or feed livestock on Sunday, have the luxury of indoor plumbing and instant food, yet still find excuses to avoid God's House. Heaven help us if they start burning Christians! When you doubt or disregard God's Word, you fall into the category of "*unbeliever!*" When you hold your peace in the face of opposition you become one of the "*fearful!*" The power that fuels the sun sustains the proclamation of Truth. To "*overcome*" we must literally learn to be content with what we have and "*pray without ceasing.*" If it must be learned, it isn't natural. We need not teach lying, thievery, grumbling, or covetousness. Thorns and thistles need no cultivation. Cultivate the flowers of prayer and contentment, and fruits of Love, Joy, and Peace in your soul. Walk with God every moment by keeping God's Word in thought and obeying it!

The fearful, unbelieving soul,
Will founder on temptation's shoal,
When faced with death they will recant,
And yield to evil's snarling rant. ~CGP

Intimacy with Eternity's Sovereign requires diligence and discipline. We must "*take up [our] cross*" and follow Truth. Those who picked up the cross were already considered dead. Dying to the impulses of the selfish flesh is not a pleasant endeavor, but the rewards are eternal and priceless. God's gold doesn't rust! Truth is absolute, forever! God said, "*Vengeance is mine! I will repay!*" You can take that to Heaven's Bank! Soon, believers will meet all the martyrs! God told Isaiah;

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My Mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." **Isaiah 55:10-11 KJV**



Martyr Burned Alive



Maria van Monjou 1552

*Images from "Foxe's Book of Martyrs" (Read Free online here: <http://www.thebiblemuse.com/Library/Stories/Book-FoxesBookOfMartyrs.pdf>)