

The Christian in Complete Armor



You march in the midst of gallant spirits, your fellow soldiers every one the son of a Prince. Behold, some, enduring with you here below a great flight of afflictions and temptation, take heaven by storm and force. Others you may see, after many assaults, repulses, and rallyings of their faith and patience, have gotten upon the walls of heaven, **conquerors**. From there they look down, as it were, and call you, their fellow brethren on earth, to march up the hill after them, crying aloud:

“Press on, and the city is your own, as it is now ours, who for a few days' conflict are now crowned with heaven's glory, one moment's enjoyment of which has dried up all our tears, healed all our wounds, and made us forget the sharpness of the fight, with the joy of our present victory.”

In a word, Christians, God and angels are spectators, observing how you acquit yourselves like children of the Most High. Every exploit your faith does against sin and Satan causes a shout in heaven. While you valiantly fell this temptation, scale that difficulty, regain the other ground, you are even now lost out of your enemies' hands.

Your dear Savior stands by with a reserve for your relief at a pinch. His very heart leaps for joy within him to see the proof of your love for him and zeal for him in all your combats. And he will not forget all the faithful service you have done in his wars on earth. But when you come out of the field, he will receive you with the same joy with which he was entertained himself at his return to the heaven of his Father.¹

William Gurnall

Even so, from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven is forcefully seized, and forceful men lay hold of it. *Matthew 11:12.*

¹ William Gurnall, *The Christian in Complete Armour* (Ed. J.C. Ryle, 1914) Vol I, Part 1, First & Second Branches, p. 10 originally written 1655-1662. Source: <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/gurnall/armour/files/armour.html>