

## Paralympics

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.—  
Romans 8:37

When I was in London last week, I had the privilege of being immersed in the Paralympics. It was a thrill to see the torch carried through the streets and then to talk to some of the athletes.

The Paralympics began in 1948 when Dr. Guttman held wheelchair archery competition for World War II soldiers with spinal cord injuries. Prior to this competition, most of the soldiers with this type of injury gave up. Their new desire to be victorious strengthened them and gave them hope.

Today there are athletes like Bettina Eistel, an excellent horsewoman. Bettina rides without arms. She holds the reins in her mouth and has cutouts in her riding boots to hold the bottom rein with her feet. She is quite remarkable.

People who overcome great obstacles are conquerors. The verse says we can be MORE than conquerors. What does it mean to be more than a conqueror? I think it would be enough to conquer the limitations, hardships and troubles we face. How can we be more than a conqueror?

Joni Eareckson Tada tells of a young Christian woman with two artificial legs who made this statement. "Just as I began to believe that I had conquered this thing called 'disability,' I learned that it was not a thing to be conquered. Rather, it was something to accept."

God expects us to go beyond conquering our limitations; He wants us to accept our trials with joy. James tells us to count it all joy in the midst of our trials.

At one time or another, we have all been hurt, disappointed, challenged, and overwhelmed by our situation. We can let our trials cause our joy to fade or they can become a source of great joy.