More than Conquerors: Overcoming Self-Reliance

Proverbs 28:26

I. A Discussion of Self-Reliance

A. Proverbs 28:26

1. The Bible in this verse gives us a clear warning against self-reliance.
2. The word here for trusteth is the word that means to run to for refuge.
3. A refuge is a place of perceived safety.
4. The Bible says if you take refuge in your own heart, you are a fool.

B. This is contrasted in the book of Proverbs in Proverbs 3:5.

1. Here we are admonished to trust the Lord with all our heart.
2. And lean not unto our own understanding.

C. Does this mean we do nothing and simply rely on God to do it all?

1. No, Consider the Israelites at the Red Sea.
2. We have responsibilities to do as people and as Christians.
3. We need to fulfill these responsibilities while trusting in God.

II. Some Depictions of Self-Reliance

A. Adam and Eve relied on their smarts.

B. Sampson relied on his own strength.

C. Saul relied on his own spirituality.

D. The rich fool relied on his own success.

1. It is easy to try to use money to solve problems.
2. What happens when there are problems money cannot solve?

E. Jesus relied on God.

III. Defeating Self-Reliance

A. You are not your own.

B. Relying on God

1. To overcome self-reliance, we need to learn to rely on God.
2. Prayer is the key to relying on God.
3. Faith is the practice of relying on God.

C. Relying on Others

1. You are not an island unto yourself.
2. God has given you two institutions that you are to rely upon.
   a. The family
   b. The church
      i. We are part of another family that is supposed to rely on one another as well.
      ii. You have a duty to rely on your church family.
      iii. It takes humility to rely on others instead of just myself.

D. Being Relied Upon