The apostle Paul was very aware of the troubles and imprisonments that were in front of him. But he also knew that real victory is not when God does everything you would like. Real victory is not when God changes all your negative circumstances and fixes all the people who get on your nerves.

Real victory is when all that happens, but it doesn't bother you anymore. You have grown to the point where you don't need to have all that to be happy. You are content while God is working right where you are, knowing that He is given you grace, not just for the good times, but grace for the tribulations. When there is pressure, when people betray your trust, when doors won't open etc., your attitude is: "I am going to keep running my race with joy despite what is coming against me. Yes, there is a lot of pressure, but I am still going to give God praise. I am on a road that I didn't choose, but God is ordering my steps. I will not let what I would like to get in the way of where God is taking me."

Acts 20:23-24 "…the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy…."