

# **Beat The System**

Romans 8:37, Mark 10:31, Matthew 10:39

Caught in the undertow being swept downstream  
Going against the flow seems like such a dream  
Trying to hold your ground when you start to slide  
Pressure to compromise comes from every side

## **(Chorus)**

Wise up, rise up  
Wise up, rise up  
You can be more than a conqueror, you will never face defeat  
You can dare to win by losing all, you can  
Face the heat - dare to Beat the System  
Face the heat - dare to Beat the System

On the assembly line trying to break the mold  
Time to throw the wrench that will stop it cold  
Going against the odds being the underdog  
Dare to wield the sword that will slice the fog

## **(Repeat Chorus)**

You can go for it all  
You can go for broke  
You can turn the tide around  
You can aim for the top  
And take the lion's share  
If you dare to hold your ground  
Beat the System

Wise up, rise up  
Wise up, rise up

## **(Repeat Chorus)**

Romans 8:35-37 (NASB)

*Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." (Psalms 44:22) But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

Mark 10:28-31 (NASB)

*Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last, first."*

Matthew 10:35-39 (NASB)

*For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD (Micah 7:6). He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.*

*The songs we have studied so far have all been bible lesson songs. Meaning that each of them was not much more than a series of bible verses reworded slightly and put to music. This one is different than those. It is more of a practical application for the three verses underlined above. Our approach to studying this one will be a little different than past ones.*

*This song is a lesson in living the Christian life. The first thing we must know in order to understand the song is this. What is the "system" we are trying to beat? The answer is very simple. It is the world system. It is anything that brings itself between you and God. The song is divided into three sections. The first verse describes the situation a Christian finds himself in while trying to live the Christian life in the world. The second verse tells us what we must do to overcome the world. The third verse tells us what we can achieve if we will do the things God has told us to do to overcome the world.*

Caught in the undertow being swept downstream  
Going against the flow seems like such a dream

*The first question will probably be what is an undertow? An undertow is an ocean current underneath the water that flows out to sea while the waves on the surface come upon the shore. So anything on the surface of the water will be pushed upon the shore, anything in the undertow will be pulled out to sea.*

*This is a situation we all find ourselves in. You are going through life being swept along by the people and things around you. You may know that some of the things you are doing are not right. But you are not sure what you can do about it. After all everyone else is doing it. You may sit around sometimes and daydream that it would be nice to stop and do what's right. But it's just that a dream.*

Trying to hold your ground when you start to slide  
Pressure to compromise comes from every side

*This is the next step in the progression. First we are going along without giving it any thought. Then we think about it and decide maybe we need to do something. So as with all things we first try without God's help. You are one person going through life, being swept along in a mass of humanity. What happens when you decide to stop? The answer is simple. You will be pushed on along. If you don't walk and you are still standing you will be carried along by the crowd. The more you push back and try to hold your ground the pressure will come at you from every side. This is what he is referring to in the last line of this verse. There will be pressure to compromise. That pressure can come in several forms. Here are just a few examples.*

- *You make a mistake when doing something. Instead of owning up to it you lie so you don't get in trouble.*
- *You do something wrong when you are with friends because everyone else is doing it and you don't want to get laughed at.*
- *You want something so badly that you steal it. After all, farmer Jones has an orchard full of apples. He would never miss just one right?*

On the assembly line trying to break the mold  
Time to throw the wrench that will stop it cold

*So after verse one this is where we find ourselves. We find ourselves on the assembly line of life. An assembly line is a place where something is built. Take a television for instance. It will start at one end of the assembly line with nothing but the empty base. Then as it proceeds down the assembly line parts are added at each stop along the way. Until at the end it comes out looking like every other television from that assembly line. That's the way we are. We are born, and then we start down that assembly line. If you stay on it, the world will mold you to become the same as everyone else going down the line. But you have to stop it at least for a moment to get off. One thing about an assembly line is that everything moves together and works together. That is both the strength and weakness of an assembly line. It is a strength in that it keeps manufacturing moving at a steady rate. But it is a weakness in that if anything goes wrong everything stops. Everything is moved along by a set of motors and gears. If one motor goes out or a gear gets jammed then everything comes to a stop down the entire line. Nothing can move. That is what is meant by throw the wrench that will stop it cold.*

Going against the odds being the underdog

*This is where we need God's help to get off the assembly line. If you decide to stop it and get off you will be the underdog. All those around you will probably pressure you to get back on and start up again.*

Dare to wield the sword that will slice the fog

*This is probably one of the more profound lines in the entire song. But first we must understand the symbology used. First of all what is the sword he sings about? The answer lies in these verses.*

Ephesians 6:17 (NASB)

***And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION (Isaiah 59:17), and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.***

Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)

***For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.***

*Now we know what the sword is. It is the word of God. The word of God has to be what we use to judge all actions, motive and intentions. The word of God is the perfect standard. Now that we know what the sword is now we must understand what the "fog" is that we are supposed to slice.*

*There are two definitions of fog, both of which are applicable here. The first definition is a medical one. It is a state of mental confusion. This basically means you are confused and don't know what's going on around you. This can be caused by illness, injury, alcohol drugs or any other number of things. The second is a weather definition; it's the fog we see sometimes in the early morning. What color is the fog?*

*In the early morning the fog appears as a gray mist. If you look on the mountain when it's covered with fog even the green trees appear as shadowy gray figures on the mountainside. Here is a question for thought. Are those trees really gray?*

*This is the way sin appears in our lives when we are in the middle of it. In reality the sin is as black as the trees on the mountain are green. It's just so obscured by the fog of the lives we are living and the sin around us that it appears to be gray. If it's gray it's easier to accept and justify than if it's black. That's why we have to dare to wield the sword of God's word to slice through the fog and see what's really on the other side. Is it the beauty of a lush green garden or death that waits on the other side of the fog?*

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You can go for it all  
You can go for broke  
You can turn the tide around  
You can aim for the top  
And take the lion's share  
If you dare to hold your ground  
Beat the System

*Now it's decision time. What will we do now that we have wielded the sword and sliced through the fog? Will we act on what we have learned or slip back into the same life again? This is the time to flee from the sin and place our trust in God alone. If we do this we can turn the tide around. This is what Paul says about our reward for beating the system.*

Romans 8:12-17 (NASB)

***So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.***

*One more note about this verse. It says we can take the Lion's share. By definition that means the larger portion of something. In Romans Paul said we will be fellow heirs with Christ. It doesn't get much bigger than that. But in addition to that meaning we also find that in the book of Revelation Jesus is also referred to as the Lion of the Tribe Of Judah.*

Revelation 5:5 (KJV)

***And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.***

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You can dare to win by losing all, you can  
Face the heat - dare to Beat the System  
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*Read carefully the first line leading into the chorus. It says wise up, rise up. The order of these is very important. How can we rise up unless we first wise up? Consider the following verses.*

Hosea 4:6 (NASB)

***My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.***

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

***Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

John 8:31-32 (NASB)

***So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."***

*We can see from these verses that knowing God's word is a key to beating the system. We can see from God's word that if we obey we will be more than conquerors. All of that is great. However, let's take a look at the last three lines of the chorus. It will not come easy and it will not come cheap. The last three lines talk about "losing all" and "facing the heat". Let's back up and look at the bible verses on page two that this song is based on one more time.*