

To Him Who Overcomes

Revelation 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

Revelation 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." '

Revelation 2:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." '

Revelation 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

Revelation 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

These are some great promises given to believers by Jesus Himself through the apostle John in the book of Revelations. There were issues in the churches that were addressed, then these promises were made. They are made for us today as well because, "**We have issues too don't we?**" **Are we overcome by our issues or are we overcomers? Are we the conquered or are we conquerors?**

Are there instructions in Scripture on how to overcome? Of course there are. God never tells us to do something without giving us the information and the enabling power to do it. He gave the churches in Revelations specific things to do to be overcomers. In addition believers were then and even now are facing life threatening persecutions. And it is going to get worse. **How do we overcome the times of persecution now and in the future?** From his future vantage point John is told how we did it in **Revelation 12:11**, 'And they overcame him **by the blood of the Lamb** and **by the word of their testimony**, and **they did not love their lives to the death.**' To "**overcome**" means to defeat, prevail, overpower, overwhelm, to gain the superiority, to win, to succeed in dealing with or controlling a problem that has been preventing you from achieving something. In some translations, such as the ESV, our text is aptly translated "**to him who conquers.**" As I said before, we have issues don't we? Even without external persecution we face internal battles that threaten to overwhelm and overcome us.

Two things to remember:

1. _____ That is born out in the book of Revelation. Sin and death and hell and every enemy of God will end up in the Lake of Fire. **Revelation 20:14-15** says, "Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire; this is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Then **Revelation 21:4** says "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." And **Revelation 22:3** "And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him."
2. _____ We **are** overcomers in Jesus Christ, we share in His overcoming victory. Jesus says in John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but **be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**" Then In First John there are several statements affirming believers ability to overcome such as **1 John 2:13** "I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, **Because you have overcome the wicked one.** I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father." He repeats himself in the next verse, **1 John 2:14** I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, **And you have overcome the wicked one.** Speaking to all of us in **1 John 4:4** he says "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." So our overcoming is on the basis of Jesus' victory and the strength of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

And **this is the key** according to John,

1 John 5:4 "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

To be a biblical "overcomer" here are four things to do.

1. _____ **Get God's perspective** on ourselves, our sins, and our situation. We have only one reliable source for that, God's Word. **2 Timothy 3:16** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Use a topical index to find scripture verses that address the issue or related principle to guide you. Pray for wisdom **James 1:5** "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." Part of knowing our problem is knowing who your enemy is. (The **World** the **Flesh** and the **Devil**) **Eph 2:2-3** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to **the course of this world**, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves **in the lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others." All three conspire to bring us down
2. _____ That last verse included, if you missed it, **Eph 2:2** "And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **in which you once walked**" Here is a great promise from **Jude 1:24** "Glory to God. Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." God is able brothers and sisters Amen? Eph 3:20-21 "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
3. _____ We need to lay aside destructive thoughts and habits and instead put on biblical patterns **Romans 6:10-12** "For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. Ephesians gives a great **three step process**. **Eph 4:22-24** that **you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, and that you **put on the new man which was created according to God**, in true righteousness and holiness. **Put Off. Renew. Put On**. It all starts with the thoughts **2 Cor 10:4-5** "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**,
4. _____ Do athletes train just by studying their sport? Or do Doctors go to school to just know about medicine? What good is that? We Christians also need to put into practice all these vital truths God has given us to be overcomers. It is often the missing piece of 2 Tim 3:16. the last of those four things God's Word was profitable for? Doctrine, reproof, instruction, **AND training in righteousness**. We are going to wrap this up by going back to Ephesians 4 where we had the three steps to change biblically. Paul gives some very clear directions for putting what he is teaching into practice. **Eph 4:25-32** "Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands, which is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary [h]edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Here is a closing thought: You can not truly be an overcomer until you learn to love!