

How We Are Made to Be Overcomers

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I. If anything is clear in the Word of God it is that spending eternity with God in heaven is reserved for those who are overcomers in this life.

A. Not overcomers in the the sense of worldly success and determination in seeking selfish desires and glory, but overcomers of the sin, wickedness, and ungodly philosophies of this world.

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1 John 5:4-5 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;

Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Revelation 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Revelation 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

1 John 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

B. So it is very clear that Jesus came to take away our sin; that is, to forgive our past sins and to take away our sinfulness; to deliver us from the bondage of sin, and

create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us; to make us holy unto God.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

- C. Anyone who says this is all impossible is denying what the Word of God plainly teaches from cover to cover; therefore making God a liar.

II. How are we enabled to overcome the world?

- A. Is it by our own fortitude and determination?
 - 1. Is it really only the survival of the strongest in the kingdom of God?
- B. Is it by some mysterious injection, or infusion of power from God?
 - 1. This is the stumbling block that many stumble at.
 - 2. They are expecting and waiting on something to be given them besides Christ and the Gospel to help them overcome their sin and the world.
 - 3. God doesn't TAKE AWAY our sinful habits — WE give them up for Him.
- C. When we are waiting on some other experience or infusion of power we put forth no real effort of our own to overcome and try to imagine that God has mercy on us because we simply cannot help ourselves.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- 1. But there is no power in a witness that hasn't begun to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil — overcoming PRECEDES this power.

III. We are enabled to overcome all things AFTER we are saved the same way we were able to be saved in the first place – by GRACE through FAITH IN CHRIST.

Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

2 Cor 1:24 ... for by **faith** ye stand.

Romans 5:9-11 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

- A. Many want to do away with faith as the power to overcome sin and wait on God to miraculously deliver them while they sit passively waiting.

- B. Faith actively seeks and looks to Christ — and seeing Him who is invisible gives us the ability to go on and to stand.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- C. Grace is his influence upon us.

John 15:4-5 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

- D. The influence of his presence.

1. His Holy Spirit indwells us and constantly reminds us of his presence.
2. The presence of the lawgiver and judge is a strong deterrent against crime.
3. The presence of one most beloved is a stronger deterrent against crime.

- E. The influence of his example.

Hebrews 12:2 **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

1. He is our forerunner — He blazed the trail for us, all we must do is follow Him.

Hebrews 6:18-20 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

2. He is the Captain of our salvation.

Hebrews 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

3. He is our Prince and Saviour

Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Read this passage backwards and we can see that we have God's promise of strength and help when we simply wait on Him and lean upon Him for it.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

Isaiah 40:29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Isaiah 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

Isaiah 40:27 Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

Colossians 2:6-13 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

- F. So we can clearly see that we are made to be overcomers by exactly the same means that we are made to be children of God:

By grace, through faith, in the finished work of Christ as our Savior, Sacrifice for sin, redeemer, and King.