

“OVERCOMING LIFE OF VICTORY IN CHRIST”

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God's Word forewarns 'believers' about the importance of living a victorious, overcoming life of faith on God,... (and the resulting valuable benefits spiritually). Jesus promised us (Rev.2:26) "And to him who overcomes and obeys My commands to the very end,...I will give authority over the nations of the earth."

The benefits of a life of faith on God include a victorious spiritual life, physical and financial victories, or any other way that we need to receive victory by faith through personal dealing with God. There are God's 'easy conditions' to be met to receive from Him, but there are no inconsistent rules when we are dealing with God. We do not have to do anything just for the sake of doing it, but when we (by our choice) meet God's condition of trust, we can receive great things He has provided for anyone who will choose to live by faith on His Promises. It is much the same as when we receive a gift from someone on earth, for if we choose not to believe that they really mean to give something to us, we would not have the faith to take receipt of that item.

Receiving through faith on God is simply believing that what He has promised He will do for us, so there is nothing that we do (or have done) which could be considered as any merit on our part. We are just believing on what someone else, ... Jesus Christ, ... has already done for us (as Peter explained to Cornelius' household), (that Jesus had paid the price for our inheritance in Him through His Father in Heaven). That is the whole substance of living an overcoming Christian life of faith on God for the fulfillment of His promises. (Rev.2:6) "To him who overcomes I will give the privilege of eating the fruit of the Tree of Life, which is in the Paradise of God." (vs. 11) "He who overcomes shall be in no way hurt by the Second Death." These are God's promised rewards for unwavering, overcoming faith and obedience to His commands "to the very end" (as vs.26 tells us).

These verses remind and admonish all of us on the importance of overcoming in the faith, and not to become an 'apostate' (more commonly referred to as a 'backslider') one who falls away from faith on God (to trust on many other plans, policies, or people) instead of keeping their faith on God. (Isaiah 66:23-24) "From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before Me," says the LORD. "And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me;"...and, their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."

One thing very necessary to remember (which is directly involved in our living a victorious and overcoming life of faith) is, that as long as we will tolerate failure, or as long as we permit ourselves to not expect to be victorious, we will never be able to live an over-coming life of faith and victory in Jesus. Whatever things we are willing to tolerate (whether spiritual, physical, or otherwise), Satan will see to it that we get hit with it. If we walk

on an up and down plane, we will have an 'up and down experience'. But, when we meet the issue squarely and settle it in our heart that since God has made full and ample provision for us on that matter, then there is no excuse why we should not take advantage of His Promise and be victorious). A great amount of the hindrance will then have been removed. When we follow the plan and pathway that God already set-up and consecrated (His plan and 'pathway of faith' in line with His Truth), instead of that of (on and off) up and down faith (with up and down experiences), we will then have a life of continuous victory in Christ. It will be indeed, an overcoming life of faith for which Jesus promised, "To him who overcomes I will give the privilege of eating the fruit of the Tree of Life, which is in the Paradise of God.'" (Rev. 2:6)

Another thing in our 'life of victory' that we should always remember is, we do not have one particle of merit of ourselves, nor any power of our own in order to get things within God's will. Things gotten outside of God's will have to be taken away from us (by whatever lessons God uses to teach us that), and He is always seeking to teach us (if we will allow Him to teach us).

We may have realized that some of God's richest blessings have come at times when we felt the least worthy of receiving them. We may have noticed that a great manifestation of God's power has been when we felt that we deserved it the least, and could not have expected it, nor made any claim for it. God will shower His richest blessing upon us when we feel the least deserving, just to teach us that we do not have one speck of merit of our own, and to show us that His gifts are absolutely free and already ours...(everything that we need for time and eternity).

Satan works just the opposite, however, and he always points to our weakness, and suggests how helpless and ignorant we are, how worldly and of little faith we are, and that we are a sad-looking and undeserving person (from a human standpoint). No wonder the devil can fill us with doubt and despair when we listen to the lies that he pictures to our mind.

Jesus told us, however, that the devil is the father of lies, so on the basis of what Jesus told us, the devil's lies should not effect us, (and they need not talk us out of having faith on God), because we did not have any power of our own to begin with, nor any merit. But, God has made full and abundant supply for us to cover every need we may have, and all are for us to claim by faith in abundance, to enjoy for ourselves and family (and to share with others). In fact, God's Word tells us that the weaker and more unaware we are, the more we can make claims

for manifestations of His love to be showered upon us. (2 Cor. 12:9) the Lord spoke to Paul, "And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Paul also explained that the Lord's wisdom becomes greater in our foolishness Cor. 3:18 "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise."

That means, let every man come to the place where he thinks he does not know anything, ... then God can give Him real 'divine wisdom'. If we do not believe that we have any power of our own, then we will not try to use our own, which will give God the opportunity to fulfill that Scripture verse for us (as He did for Jehoshaphat) saying (Psalm 46:10) "Be still, and know that I am God."

When we get our own efforts of the self-life out of the way, we can then be filled with the power of God. Every day we need to consider and meditate on what it means to walk by faith on the Word of God, instead of walking by sight, feelings, and past experiences. Even though we may have had this Truth brought to our attention many times, Satan will always try to get us away from believing the Word of God. Who is always true and faithful to His Word. (Jesus told us that Satan is the 'father of lies'). We must trust God to protect us from being deceived by the devil, for Jesus instructed us to pray to His Father in Heaven each day, to "lead us not into temptation".

The devil tries to get us to put more confidence in what we can see, or in our past experiences, rather than on the Word of God. All experiences, what we see, or how we feel, are to be put aside, and we are to simply base our trust on the bare Word of God. For one to walk by faith, means to believe that we are what the Word of God says we are. It makes no difference how tangled up we have gotten, how many times we have failed, or what kind of a hold the devil has on us, if we will begin again to walk by faith, and take the position which God's Word says we are in, Satan's hold will be broken, and a Divine life, strength, and victory will come into our life.

We will be delivered out of any trouble the devil would try to tempt us to accept, if we choose to believe in faith that we are what God's Word says we are. (Gal.2;20) "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (That is how we are to see ourselves, when we have surrendered our 'life of self', are cleansed by Jesus' Blood, and committed to live by faith on God's Promises). (Vs.21) "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law" (of self-efforts), "then Christ died in vain."

We must settle it in our heart that we will not tolerate sin (and unbelief) in our life. The devil tries to keep some certain sin tagged to a person (if he can), just to defile their conscience and to give him a chance to fight

them with an oppression. However, God's Word tells us that He has made abundant provision for us, and the moment we are willing to sincerely confess and forsake every sin, His Word says that our sins are forgiven, and we are cleansed. We have to see ourselves as forgiven by God who is always faithful to His Word and Promises Heb 10:23.

We should all know of ourselves, whether we are willing to confess and forsake sin. And we should know that the moment we are willing to confess and forsake (1 John 1:9 says), we are forgiven and cleansed from unrighteousness. (Isaiah 55:7 clearly instructs), "Let the wicked forsake his way(old sins), And the unrighteous man his thoughts(wrong desires); Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."

That means every sin is forgiven, but we must also forgive every person for their sins (or trespasses) against us. That is God's condition that we are to adhere to. Just as we deal with our fellowmen, so will God deal with us. If we refuse to forgive somebody (his or her trespasses), and hold a grudge against them, our old sins are marked against us. Not a sin of ours is forgiven if we hold a grudge or keep resentment against anyone who has ever wronged us. (Matt. 6:14-15), "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Therefore, these two things,(to confess and forsake our sins), (and, to forgive those who sin (or trespass) against us, are absolutely necessary conditions for us to have a cleansed heart. The moment we are willing to do these two things, the power of God comes in and enables us to do them. God's Word says we have been forgiven, cleansed, and have a pure heart by God's power, (when we have confessed our sins and forgiven others).

We do not have to see or feel that power of God, but we do have to believe that we have His presence and power within us. Regardless of what kind of feelings, doubts, or fears the devil tries to put in our mind, (or how much he tries to convince us to the contrary of what God's Word tells us), we must settle it that we are going to believe God's Word whatever happens. We are to hold to our steadfast faith on God's faithfulness, whether we see or do not see the results we want, (or feel good experiences or bad experiences).

Through our 'believing' on the plain Word of God, Satan's power will then be broken over our lives, and we will not die, spiritually. It is wholly a matter of choice on our part (the late Pastor said).

When we have confessed and forsaken every sin that we know of, and have forgiven everyone who has sinned against us, then we are in a position to receive the 'Holy Spirit' to lead and guide us on the 'pathway of righteousness', (and lead us to victory in every situation as 1 John 3:19-22 assures us), "And in this way we shall

come to know that we are loyal to the truth, and shall satisfy our consciences in His presence, in whatever matters our hearts condemn us--because God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have perfect confidence toward God; and whatever we ask for we obtain from Him, because we obey His commands and do the things which are pleasing in His sight." (When we have made sincere corrections where God has shown us to make them, we are then to believe that we are forgiven and have confidence for victory).

God is more delighted to give us the Holy Spirit than we are to give good things to our children. Suppose our child really wanted to do good, and that we could put a good spirit in the child to make them good, ...wouldn't we be delighted to do that for them? (Luke 11:13)"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give the 'Holy Spirit' to those who ask Him!" Also (Matt. 5:6)"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be completely satisfied."

The Holy Spirit of God is a free gift for a truly repentant 'believer'. After the Holy Spirit came to earth (as we are told Acts chapter 2), He took possession of His Church of 'true believers', and began to minister His Spirit into their hearts. He inspired apostle Peter to give his first message to the Jews (who had murdered Jesus Christ, the Son of God). Peter told the Jews (Acts 2:32) "This Jesus, God has raised to life- a fact to which all of us testify."(36)"There-fore let the whole House of Israel know beyond all doubt that God has made Him both LORD and CHRIST--this Jesus whom you crucified."

When the Jews asked Peter and the other apostles, "what are we to do?"; The apostle replied (vs.38-39) "Repent", "and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, with a view to the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For to you belongs the promise, and to your children, and to all who are far off, whoever the Lord our God may call."

The Holy Spirit was sent to this earth with a definite purpose. He came to comfort, console, encourage, and give us all the spiritual light and strength we would need. He is to become the unseen Teacher and Developer of a Christian character in our heart, like a Master Workman who will sculpt or mold us into the image of Jesus Christ, if (we will surrender self-efforts and allow God to mold our character.)

The Holy Spirit will also make us wise unto all the Truth of God's Word, because He was sent to give us that understanding. John 16:13 promises of the Spirit, that "He will guide you into all the Truth." (14)"He will glorify me"(Jesus said), "because He will take of what is mine and will make it known to you."

It is the Holy Spirit alone (as a Master Workman), who can enable a person to live “an overcoming life of victory” (which is title of this message). We must all realize, however, that the condition for our divine Workman to accomplish a perfect work, is for Him to be given possession of our life, entirely, just as a sculptor must have the piece to carve and sculpt to the shape that he wants it to be.

In our case, the work can't all be accomplished in our heart in one day (and God doesn't ask nor expect us to change our own nature), ... rather, we are to submit our life to Him so that He can make those necessary changes in our heart. The very moment we are willing to use our God-given ‘power of choice’, to say ‘yes’ to having the will of God done in our heart, ...the Holy Spirit is waiting to take possession of our life, and to begin teaching and training us until we are made more and more into the image of Jesus Christ.

That is the way God makes it possible for “an overcoming life of victory’, in the life of any repentant, truly surrendered ‘believer’ on the Son of God (Who gave His life for ours), so that we may be victorious in an overcoming Christian life. Again, His Promise, (Rev.2:6) “To him who overcomes I will give the privilege of eating the fruit of the ‘Tree of Life’, which is in the Paradise of God!” &&&

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2... God gave us 'easy conditions' to meet to receive from Him, and there are no inconsistent rules when we are dealing with God. We do not have to do anything in our own strength, nor just for the sake of doing it, but when we (by our choice) meet God's 'condition of trust', we can receive great things He has provided for anyone who will choose to live by faith on His Promises.

3... We must settle it in our heart, that we will not tolerate sin (and unbelief) in our life. The devil tries to keep some sin tagged to a person if he can, (to defile their conscience and destroy their faith). But, if we walk on an 'up and down plane' of faith on God, we will have an 'up and down experience'.