

## The Overcomers

### I. What does it mean by “overcoming” in the Bible?

#### 1. Overcome God’s enemy Satan

##### A. God’s heart is to have man representing Him to rule over the land.

Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

##### B. God’s heart is to gain an eternal counterpart.

2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

##### C. God’s counterpart is the Body of Christ – Church, the ministry of Christ is to build up his Church.

Eph. 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church, because we are members of His Body. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh. This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

Eph. 4: 11-12 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ.

##### D. Satan is God’s enemy, his adversary, his work is to stop and frustrate God’s work. Therefore, overcoming is to overcome the enemy.

Luk.10:19 Behold, I have given you the authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Rev. 17:12-14 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom but receive authority as kings for one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and they give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, will also overcome them.

#### 2. Overcome the world.

1 Joh. 5:4-5 For everything that has been begotten of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory which has overcome the world-our faith. And who is he who overcomes the world except he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

#### 3. Overcome the environment.

Rom. 8:35-37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we have been accounted as sheep for slaughter." But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.

#### 4. Deny one’s self and do not love his soul-life.

Mat.16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

#### 5. Overcome the fall of the worldly church – the fallen churches in Revelation: Ephesus (lost the first love), Pergamos (worldly church, holding the teaching of Balaam for idol worshiping and the teaching of Nicolaitans - religious hierarchy), Tyatira (apostate church, tolerating Jezebel who commit idol worshiping and spiritual fornication), Sardis (unable to keep what are received from the Lord), Laodicea (complacent and lukewarm).

## II. Overcomers – the Corporate Aspect

### 1. Seed of Woman – Manchild.

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity / Between you and the woman / And between your seed and her seed; / He will bruise you on the head, / But you will bruise him on the heel.

Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

### 2. Zion in the City of Jerusalem typifies the corporate overcomers in the heavenly Jerusalem, the Church, that is, the perfected matured God-men.

Heb. 12:22 But you have come forward to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem; and to myriads of angels, to the universal gathering;

Rev. 14:1-5 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice out of heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harp-singers playing on their harps. 3 And they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been purchased from the earth. 4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth no lie was found; they are without blemish.

### 3. The parables of the reward and punishment of the servants who conduct business for the Lord. It refers to the matters of the works in the church. Mat. 25 : 14-30

## III. Overcomers – the individual aspect

### 1. Witnesses of the Lord, Martyrs.

Act. 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Rom.16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

Rev. 6:9 And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and because of the testimony which they had.

### 2. Overcome the world, the environment. Deny self, not loving soul-life, no idol worshiping.

### 3. Individuals who overcome the fall of the fallen churches.

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

Pergamos: 17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.

Tyatira: 26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; 27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;

Sardis: 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Laodicea: 21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

#### IV. How to become Overcomers

1. **Take the lamp and prepare the oil in the vessel - Lamp refers to the human spirit, vessel refers to the soul, and the oil refers to the life-giving spirit (Holy Spirit). Our soul is transformed and renewed then it will be filled with Spirit, that is, to grow in life and to be filled with oil.** Mat. 25 : 1-10

1 Cor.15:45-46 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. But the spiritual is not first but the soulish, then the spiritual:

Joh. 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

Eph.4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

2. **How to prepare the oil in the vessel? We need to pay a price to buy it.**

Zec.4:2-3 And he said to me, What do you see? And I said, I see that there is a lampstand all of gold, with its bowl on top of it and its seven lamps upon it, with seven pipes for each of the lamps on top of it; And there are two olive trees beside it, one to the right of the bowl and one to the left.

**The two olive trees here represent Zerubbabel and Joshua, typifying the kingship and priesthood of Christ. That is, we need to pay a price to enter into the kingship of Christ, to honour Him as King and totally submit to Him. Also we need to enter into the priesthood of Christ - serving God and bringing people into God through Him in the church. Hence we must remain in the church life then we can buy oil, all the self-efforts are futile.**

3. **Put on spiritual armament to be God's warrior - Individuals cannot put it on, only in the Body we can put it on.**

Eph.6:13-18 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness. And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace; Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints.

#### V. The reward of the overcomers

1. **Put on white garments and qualify the wedding banquet of the Lamb**

Rev. 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments,

**There are two white garments in the Bible. The first one is the Christ that we receive becomes our righteousness objectively.**

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

**The second white garments is the approvedness for our acceptance, signifying Christ, the Christ whom we live out, as our subjective righteousness, that is required for the wedding feast in the Kingdom described in Matthew 22:1-14**

Phi. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phi. 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith.

**2. To be co-king having authority with the Lord**

Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Rev. 19:14-15 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

**VI. Rapture of the overcomers during the Lord's second coming: before the great tribulation**

**1. The martyred, overcoming saints of past generations are resurrected and raptured to the throne of God Rev. 12:5**

Phi.3:10-11 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

**2. The first-ripe, overcoming believers living in this age are raptured to the heavenly Mount Zion Rev. 14:1-5**

**3. The rest of the overcoming believers in this age are raptured to Christ's presence**

Rev. 3:10 Because you have kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you out of the hour of trial, which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth.

Luke. 21:36 But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.

Mat. 24:40 At that time two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left.

**VII. Rapture of the overcomers during the Lord's second coming, the judgement before the Judgement Seat, and the Wedding Feast of the Lamb: after the great tribulation**

**1. The majority of the saints, who died in the previous generations are raised up, including those martyred in the great tribulation Mat. 25:1-12**

1 Thes. 4:15-17 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are living, who are left remaining unto the coming of the Lord, shall by no means precede those who have fallen asleep; Because the Lord Himself, with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are living, who are left remaining, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will be always with the Lord.

1 Cor. 15: 51-53 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

Rev.20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshiped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

**2. Majority of the living saints living in this age are raptured to meet with the Lord in the air. The majority of God's harvest becomes ripe and is reaped.**

Rev. 14:14-16 And I saw, and behold, there was a white cloud, and on the cloud One like the Son of Man sitting, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, Send forth Your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come because the harvest of the earth is ripe. And He who sat on the cloud thrust His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped.

**3. The judgement before the Judgement Seat of Christ**

Mat. 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, Collect first the tares and bind them into bundles to burn them up, but the wheat gather into my barn.

2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

1 Cor.4:5 So then do not judge anything before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and make manifest the counsels of the hearts, and then there will be praise to each from God.

Mat. 25:19 Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

**4. The overcoming saints are called to the marriage dinner and the failed ones are put in the darkness weeping and gnashing the teeth Mat. 22:1-14, 25:1-12**

Rev. 19:7-9 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.