

“We Are: The Overcomers”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer
Calvary Baptist Church

August 14th, 2022

Scripture

1 John 2:12-17

“I am writing to you, **little children**, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. I am writing to you, **fathers**, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, **young men**, because **you have overcome the evil one**. I have written to you, **children**, because you know the Father.

I have written to you, **fathers**, because you know Him who has been 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 evil one**.

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

Overcoming

“To succeed in dealing with (a problem or difficulty)”

“To be (of an emotion) overpowered or overwhelmed”

“To defeat (an opponent); prevail”

Greek Word is *Nikao* -> “**conquer** (overcome); " 'to carry off the victory, come off victorious.'
The verb implies a battle”

Nike => “Just Do It”

Conquering

A Quiet Conquering...?

Athletes are usually loud when they win and conquer an opponent -> they have a shout of joyous victory

“Victory in Jesus” -> Our shout of Joyous victory...

Most victories require determination, many hours of preparation, patiently working on a skill or craft

What about the Christian life?

Do we need preparation and determination to be victorious?

After that GREAT chapter -> **Hebrews 11** -> “The Hall of Faith”

Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and **has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**”

Paul wrote to Timothy, nearing the end of his life:

2 Timothy 4:6-8

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith**; in the future there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, **but also to all who have loved His appearing.**”

Paul says that his keeping of the faith is the success of his life -> “**Abide in Me and I in You**” -> remain faithful

So, is our race or an individual battle or a team competition?

Ephesians 6:12

“For **our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Some sports teams have a STAR player -> they lead the TEAM to victory with others having small roles.

There’s no “I” in TEAM? -> All of the “**One Another**” passages

Who is our STAR player?

Romans 8:31-39

“**If God is for us, who is against us?** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? **Who will bring a charge against God's elect?** God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

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."

37But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

God was always there to deliver His people

Jeremiah 1:18-19

“Now behold, **I have made you today as a fortified city** and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests and to the people of the land. “**They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you,**” declares the LORD.”

There are **TWO families** on the Earth: **God's family** and the **devil's family**...

Jesus to the Jews: "You are of your father, the devil!" (John 8:44)

Which family or **TEAM** are you a part of?

Jesus Overcame the Evil One

John 1:5

"The Light shines in the darkness, and **the darkness has not overcome it**"

Jesus came **AS the Light of the World**

John 8:12

"I am the Light of the world; **he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness** but will have the Light of life."

John 3:16-21

"**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.** "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19"This is the judgment, that **the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.** "For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. "**But he who practices the truth comes to the Light,** so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Doesn't light always conquer the darkness?

The adversary's family runs from the light...**deeper** into the darkness.

But some are rescued from the adversary's family:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

"**Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. **Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.**"

But...

Colossians 1:13

"**For He rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.**"

We were rescued from the darkness...

Jesus -> "the gates of Hades will not overpower it." -> Matthew 16:18

In short, Jesus overcame the world...

And **The Light** triumphed over the darkness...

John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble.** But take heart! **I have overcome the world.**"

Jesus was leaving the remaining Eleven disciples...

In this world, you will have "trouble" He said. It is true. We will.

"Trouble" or "Tribulation" means "internal pressure" or "feeling like you have no way out"

But we should "take heart" which means "*radiate warm confidence and courage*"

Why? Because He HAS overcome...

That scene in Heaven where John is up in the throne room of God and **he is absolutely despondent** in his vision

Revelation 5:1-5

"I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "**Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?**" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. **Then I began to weep greatly** because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders said to me, "**Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.**"

John was weeping...who is able to take the book and open it.

Sometimes we weep, unnecessarily in life. Sometimes we need someone to remind us that He HAS Overcome and so shall we.

So, how do we Overcome...when we feel like there's no way out of our situation?

Overcoming the Evil One

Romans 12:18-21

"**If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.** Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." **Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.**"

Paul says that when evil is attacking you, you do not respond with evil.

We overcome by NOT letting evil move us from following Jesus

We do not let evil attacks change us.

We rise above the evil presented to us and continue to hold to what is good.

Philippians 4:8

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **dwell on these things.**"

1 John 4:1-4

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. **You are from God, little children, and have overcome them;** because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

When we **do NOT listen** to the antichrist's words, we overcome the evil one...

1 John 5:1-5

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God - that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. **For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.** **Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”**

When we **faithfully** observe God's commandments, we overcome the evil one.

Faith in Jesus as the Son of God as God come in the flesh to us -> this is the core strength of the Overcomer
John writes about this, OUR victory, in Revelation 12.

We covered this yesterday in the Men's Bible Study: "Revealing the End Times"

Revelation 12 is the story of the most important events in the world, from beginning to end.

When Satan is thrown out of Heaven and careens toward the Earth, without access to Heaven, he's pretty steamed.

He will rage at God's people in the future and seek to kill them.

Revelation 12:11

“**They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death**”

But God's people will overcome Satan, even at the point of death.

Why?

1. Because of the Blood of the Lamb -> Jesus's sacrifice for us on the cross made forgiveness of sin possible!
2. Because those who believe in Jesus have a testimony of Jesus's rescue of us from the domain of darkness!

“We were Redeemed! We were Ransomed! We were Rescued! We were saved!”

When that is your testimony and you wholeheartedly sing “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine...”

Even when you are faced with death...when you didn't love your life on earth more than you love the Saviour!

YOU HAVE OVERCOME!

What do the Overcomers Receive?

So, if you're an overcomer, what do you get for that?

Is it just the satisfaction of knowing the story of Jesus and telling it to your children?

Final Words of Jesus to the Churches

Church at Ephesus:

Revelation 2:7

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.**"

1. You get to return to the Paradise of God:

Jesus told the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me, where?" In Paradise...

Where was the tree of life at again? The Garden of Eden...paradise...

Church at Smyrna:

Revelation 2:11

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.**"

2. You will not face the second death:

The second death was the eternal separation from God.

Revelation 20:6

"**Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.**"

Church at Pergamum:

Revelation 2:17

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.**"

3. You will be given hidden manna and a white stone and a new name on the stone:

Manna was special food from God in the Wilderness. Jesus said He was the Bread of Life.

Overcomers get JESUS!

A white stone was a gift received by an athlete who won a competition.

A new name is a personal message from Jesus written on the stone.

Jesus is going to engrave something special and specific to you on your stone when you come into glory.

Church at Thyatira:

Revelation 2:25-29

“Nevertheless, what you have, hold fast until I come. **He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

4. You will have a role and receive authority to execute the role in the Kingdom and receive the Morning Star!

You will fully experience Jesus’s presence in your life. He IS the bright and morning star (Revelation 22:16).

You will be entrusted for a role in the kingdom.

Church at Sardis:

Revelation 3:5-6

“**He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

5. You will get clothed in white garments and will not be erased out of the Book of Life. Jesus will confess your name before the Father and His angels

There will be a ceremony for all those who arrive in Heaven:

You will be dressed in white signifying purity and holiness.

Your name will be read out from the Book of Life.

Jesus will confess your name to everyone in attendance!

Can you imagine what that ceremony will be like...?

Talk about the most impactful graduation ceremony you have ever witnessed with people from all nations!

Church at Philadelphia:

Revelation 3:12-13

“**He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

6. You will be a pillar in the temple and will never leave God’s presence.

You will be branded with God’s name, God’s city, and Jesus’s new name.

You will have an eternal access pass between Heaven and the new holy city of Jerusalem on the Earth

Church at Laodicea:

Revelation 3:20-22

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. **He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

7. You will sit down on the throne with Jesus

We will share in the reign of Christ on the Earth and rule with Him.

This is YOUR future if you are an Overcomer

Are you an overcomer?

You listening on YouTube right now, have you overcome the evil one because of your faith in Jesus?

Summary of the We Are Series

So, we're at the end of our “We Are” series for the Summer

What did we learn?

We are:

- Citizens of Heaven
- Adopted by God
- Chosen, Holy, and Beloved
- The Redeemed
- Ambassadors for Christ
- Faithful Saints
- Overcomers

Prayer

Benediction