

Sermon 5/ 6/2018 I John 5:1-8 We are Over Comers!

Dear Overcomers:

Do you feel like an overcomer?

- with the issues facing you right now
- with the challenges you are dealing with right now
- with the choices you have to make – some easy, some tough

Life is a challenge

Charles Swindoll says: “Life is a challenge. Life is tough....Life is sickness and terminal illness. Life is brokenness --- broken hearts, broken marriages, broken relationships. Life is not enough food and not enough hope. Life is discouragement and depression, times of bewilderment and uncertainty. Life is deterioration, disappointment, and ragged-edge reality.”

Do you feel like an overcome when life is a challenge?

- Oh, we have our good days, our good weeks, our good months. Then it isn't hard to feel like an overcomer.
- But what about those days when things aren't going so well?

The Bible uses many words to describe you and me as believers....We are called...

- friends
- brothers and sisters
- sheep
- saints
- soldiers
- witnesses

OVERCOMER

Here, John adds another word...He says we are OVERCOMERS. V4

What does this word mean? Who are the overcomers?

“All who believe that Jesus is God's Son – True God and True Man – Savior. Overcomers are Believers. I John 2:13

The word means...

- to conquer

- to have victory
- to have superiority
- to have conquering power
- to have a genuine superiority that leads to overwhelming success
- to overthrow an enemy so that the victory is seen by all.

Jesus uses this word in John 16:33 “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

We are united with Christ. We, too, participate in His victory.

- Romans 8:37 We are more than conquerors through Him
- II Corinthians 2:14 Who leads us in triumphal procession

We – In Christ – have a continual victory over the world.

We need to be reminded that we have this victory over the world, because the world can be tough on us. It can be down right depressing to think what is going on in the world in relation to what God’s will is and what His Word says.

Yes, its easy to get down. But, we in Christ are winning...We have already won.

This is what we need to remember.

This is what we need to teach our children as they grow up in a world that is increasingly becoming more and more pagan (unbelieving)

One organization monitors TV shows...children’s TV shows and found out that these TV shows made for children promote arrogance, violence and profanity.

Children are the single most important population group that we minister to.

- Help children understand that the Bible contains absolute truth
- Use opportunities to talk about Jesus with our children in day to day life
- Remind them that God is for them not against them

Who is the Overcomer?

V1 Whoever believes.... “That Jesus is the Christ”

Saving Faith is the 1st mark of an Overcomer.

- believes means to continue in faith
- John 15 Remain in me...Abide – dwell in Christ – Stay with Him – Rest in Him
- It’s not so much what we do, but what Christ has done for us

- we have been brought to faith
- we have been kept in the faith

As we remain in Christ we will be victorious.

What is the Object of our faith - Jesus Christ...

- promised Messiah
- Anointed One
- Savior from sin

Whoever places FAITH in Jesus Christ as the ONLY Savior has been born again and is an overcomer.

V2 Whoever loves... “Loving God”

Love is the 2nd mark of the Overcomer. The Overcomer...

- believes in God
- loves both God and fellow believers
- John says: “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” I John 3:18

V3 Obedience is the 3rd mark of an overcomer.

This is love for God: to obey His commands

Faith – Love – Obedience are all weaved together in these verses.

- Obedience is the proof of a believers love
- Love is the proof of a believer’s faith

We are to “keep” God’s commands...

- John 8:31-32 “Hold to my teachings”
- John 14:15, 21 “Love Me and obey my commandments”
- John 15:10 “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love...”

V3 His commands are not burdensome.

- man-made regulations are a burden Matthew 23:4
- Jesus’ yoke is easy and the burden is light
 - he carries it for us
 - he is our righteousness

Matthew 11:30 Two oxen – the older one carries the load for the younger one

- keeping God’s commands are not a burden for his children who love him

- serving Christ is no burden to those who love him
- Christ carries the burden for us

v4-5 The World - Satan's worldwide system of deception and wickedness

I John 2:15 “Do not love the world or anything in the world.”

We must not love the world.= spiritual system of evil

- no affection for the antichristian system
- no devotion for that which is against God and His Word
- no yearning for antichristian philosophy or wisdom

II Corinthians 10:3-5 “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

3 things make up the world which we are not to love

- the lust of the flesh
- the lust of the eyes
- the pride of life – money, position and power

Only the truth of God's Word can defeat Satan's system of deception

- not human ingenuity
- not worldly wisdom
- not clever methodologies

For our battle is against Satan's lie - Therefore, we need God's Word – Hebrews 4:12 “Living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword.”

“Thoughts, ideas, speculations, reasonings, philosophies and false religions are the ideological forts in which men barricade themselves against God and the gospel.”

I Corinthians 3:20 “Thoughts of the world are futile.”

Through Christ we are victors over the invisible system of demonic and human evil that Satan operates to capture men's souls for hell. John says 3 times that we are overcomers to drive the point home.

We are Overcomers in Christ and we have God's testimony to remind us of just who Jesus Christ is.

Vv6-8 God's testimony concerning the deity of Jesus

- The One we believe in is true God
- We have God's own testimony

V6 water and blood

- water – Jesus' baptism
- blood – Jesus' death

Some false prophets taught that “Christ-spirit” departed from the man Jesus prior to His death on the cross. Jesus is True God and True Man. The testimony by God was seen at Jesus...

- baptism
- death

Vv7-8 In the Old Testament the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses were needed to establish the truth of a matter.

- At the baptism of Jesus the Father and the Spirit testified to the Son
- At the death of Jesus we also have a witness to His person as True God/Man Hebrews 9:14

The Holy Spirit testified throughout Jesus' life as to His identity – Mk 1:12; Luke 1:35; Acts 10:38

We are Overcomers through faith in the God-Man Jesus Christ.

We are Overcomers because He has us in the palm of our hands.

Yes, there are times when we may find it hard to believe that our circumstance is truly in His hands.

- I have prayed for healing, but healing hasn't come
- I prayed for relief and relief hasn't come
- But the Lord has not forgotten you – you are an overcomer

Isaiah 49:14 “Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands, your walls are continually before Me.”

- Look at your hands a few moments. Pick a line.
- You know those lines better than anyone else on earth
- Just as you know the lines in your hand, God knows your ways, your responses, your experiences, your reactions, your calamities, your dead ends, your impossible situations.

Charles Swindoll says: “God has yesterday’s failures, today’s challenges, tomorrow’s surprises right there in His hands....He has inscribed you and me on His palms.”

You are an Overcomer!

“For this world in its present form is passing away.” I Corinthians 7

“Nothing...will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:39