

Being an Overcomer #11

Rev. 12:10-11 – And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

By the Blood of the Lamb

How can we overcome “by the Blood”? We need to understand its significance, and then apply it to our lives.

- a. We are **forgiven** by Jesus’ Blood having been shed for us. (His sacrifice is the fulfillment of all the OT sacrifices) Eph. 1:7, 1 Jn. 1:7
- b. We are entered into **covenant** with God, and the Blood is the sign of the covenant. Lk. 22:20, 1 Cor. 10:16
- c. He was the divine “scapegoat”, and was thus “the Lamb that **taketh [carries, or bears] away the sin** of the world”. Jn. 1:29
- d. “**The life is in the blood.**” Lev. 17:11 The significance in this is shown when we drink the communion wine. Jesus is the Life of the world. He has life “in Himself”. It is not merely that he “has life”, but that he is himself the life. (Jn. 1:4, 5:26)
- e. He is **our Passover**, and as in the Exodus the destroyer was not allowed to kill the firstborn in houses that were marked with the blood of the Passover lamb, so when we “cover ourselves with the blood of the Lamb”, we are protected by God from the destructions of the enemy.
- f. We have **access to God** through the Blood. Heb. 10:19-22
- g. His blood purges (cleanses) our **conscience**. Heb. 9:7-14

By the word of their testimony.

- a. Mt. 10:32-33 – If we confess him before men, he will confess us before the Father. If we deny him, he will deny us. Those who deny Christ either have never known him, or they are too embarrassed to admit being a Christian. That is, they either value the respect of people more than that of God, or the fear the consequences of confessing Christ (loss of job, ridicule, persecution, etc.) more than they fear God.
- b. Rom. 10:9-10 – Confession is actually part of being saved. “if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Jesus said that “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” If you cannot bring yourself to say to others “I am a Christian; I am a believer in Jesus Christ”, then you do not have a genuine salvation experience. That confession is a major part of the significance of water baptism.

They loved not their lives unto the death

Remember the church of Smyrna, Rev. 2:10. “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer ... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” Overcomers love Christ and our promises of everlasting reward more than maintaining our physical lives in this world. We look beyond this life to heaven and to being with Christ. This is what has strengthened martyrs throughout church history to accept ignominious tortures and death with strength and dignity and even forgiveness, like Steven in Ac. 7.

Rev. 21:6-8 – And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Shall inherit all things. “The meek shall inherit the earth.”

He will be our God, we will be His sons

Overcome 8 specific sins:

1. Fear – those who deny God, or to do right because of fear
2. Unbelief Heb. 3:12-19 warns of “an evil heart of unbelief”
3. The abominable (sins and activities that are so bad they shouldn’t even be mentioned)
4. Murder (including hate)
5. Whore mongering (all forms of sexual uncleanness)
6. Sorcery (all forms of occult participation)
7. Idolatry (including covetousness)
8. Lying (all forms of untruth, lies, deceptions, etc.)

Does this mean that people who have done any of things are necessarily lost, and hopeless? No! 1 Cor. 6:9-11 He gives a list similar to Rev. 21:8, and says none of these shall inherit the kingdom of God. But then he goes on to say “And such WERE some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” Christians are people who USED TO BE characterized by such sins, but now are different – forgiven, washed, changed, and no longer under the condemnation of those former sins.

Review of How to Be an Overcomer

1. General Lessons, mostly from 1 John

- a. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ – 1 Jn. 5:5
- b. By the new birth, as evidenced by loving God and the brethren, and keeping His commandments – 1 Jn. 5:1-4
- c. By faith, and the Word of God abiding in us – 1 Jn. 5:4, 2:14
- d. By overcoming the natural allurements and temptations of this present physical world – 1 Jn. 2:15-17
- e. By recognizing and rejecting false prophets and false doctrine – 1 Jn. 4:1-4
- f. By doing good, even to our opposers – Rom. 12:21
- g. By crucifying the flesh – Lk. 9:23-26, 14:26-33

2. Lessons from Rev. 2-3 (the churches of Asia)

- a. Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7) – Continue in, or go **back to, your first love**.
- b. Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11) – **Do not fear persecution, but be faithful unto death.**
- c. Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17) –
 - i. **Beware of the sin of Balaam**, that is, listening to those who would encourage us to pollute ourselves with unclean and idolatrous practices, or using the church for monetary gain.
 - ii. Also, **reject the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes**, which is an unscriptural distinction between clergy and laity. Recognize that God has given gifts to all members of the body, not just the leaders.
- d. Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29) –
 - i. **Reject those who would ensnare you with sexual sins**
 - ii. **Hold fast what you have to the end**
- e. Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6) –
 - i. **Be watchful, strengthen the things that remain**
 - ii. **Remember how you received the gospel, get back to that** (if necessary)
- f. Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13) –
 - i. **Use what strength you have** (whether little or much)
 - ii. **Keep the word of his endurance**
 - iii. **Do not deny his name**
- g. Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22) –

- i. **Repent of your lukewarmness and being satisfied with this world**
- ii. **Recognize your spiritual poverty**
- iii. **Seek the true riches and righteousness**
- iv. **Respond to God's chastening**
- v. **Seek personal fellowship with Christ by spending time with him**