

“HE who OVERCOMES....”

Revelation 21:7

By Philip Shields

Summary: Would you consider yourself “an overcomer”? There’s quite a bit God says about it and it appears to be very important to God. What does it mean to overcome? WHY do we have to overcome? Does scripture explain HOW one overcomes? Does it make any difference in how we end up? I hope you study this topic carefully.

(Note: these notes are an approximate transcript of the video. It will actually contain some material not in the video and vice versa. There are also statements said in the video that won’t make it on to these notes so I recommend you have the notes out with the video running. Plus with the video, all the scriptures and main points will be shown.)

Good morning to all of you SET APART HOLY ones here and in radio land.

I want to cover a topic that’s not often covered as a whole sermon. But I think it has everything to do with our future: Overcoming. As often is the case, I also will be preaching to myself today. I need it too. I preached this sermon at a recent Feast of Tabernacles.

God our Father speaks in Revelation 21, after the thousand year rule of Jesus Christ and after all rebellion at the end of the Millenium, after all death and disobedience are gone, Father rewards those who are victorious over sin.

Revelation 21:6-8 NKJV (God the Father speaking)

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

7 **He who OVERCOMES shall inherit all things**, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

8 But the **cowardly, unbelieving**, abominable, murderers, sexually **immoral**, sorcerers, idolaters, and **all liars** shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the **second death**."

Are you and I overcoming our faults, temptations, our carnal nature, sins, the world’s pull on us, and Satan? Are we overcomers? Or are we really not much different than we were five years ago? ARE we different, and changed from what we used to be?

FIRST, let me be super clear: I’m NOT going to teach today that we have to attain our *own* perfect righteousness. That’s salvation by works. *The kind of righteousness we must have is not something we can work up.* I believe Eph. 2:8-9, we are saved by grace through faith. **Salvation and justification for our sins is God’s job which he does and we believe by faith. But after that, we are to work WITH God for holiness and sanctification. NO ONE who is not holy will see God (Hebrews 12:14). We are called to be holy, coming out of sinful lives.**

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

And I teach God's own righteousness is GIFTED TO US. I have sermons on those. Christ, who committed no sin, is now the righteousness of God in us (**2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:8-11**). I'll post the scriptures.

2 Corinthians 5:21

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Philippians 3:8b-9 (Really focus on these words)

"... that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;"

So we're called, we repent deeply, we receive God's Holy Spirit – but it's clear that *we're expected to overcome*, and not to just stay as we were but to be transformed, to grow, overcome and be victorious over sin and Satan. We speak of people who are "converted" meaning they were called out of the world, given God's spirit, and are growing more and more like God.

The Greek word the Bible uses for "overcomes" is "NIKAO**" --translated various ways like the victor, the one who conquers, to subdue, be victorious. One translation says "he who PREVAILS..."**

NIKAO IS similar to our word NIKE – the female Greek Goddess of Victory in mythology. This is someone who PREVAILS over ongoing sin, someone victorious over the world, over Satan, over sinful temptation.

Let's see how other translations translate "overcomes" in Revelation 21:7.

Revelation 21:7 Holman

"The VICTOR will inherit these things..."

Revelation 21:7 ESV

"The one who CONQUERS will have this heritage..."

Even the name "Israel" we all take as part of the "Israel of God" has a lot to do with prevailing and overcoming. When Jacob wrestled all night with a MAN who really was Jesus Christ (Genesis 32:28**), God gave Jacob the new name **"Israel" which means "OVERCOMER/prevailor/prince with God."** As part of Spiritual Israel, we must be overcomers with God also.**

First, I have a question for you to think about: Do you think JESUS ever have anything to overcome? Ponder that. What do you think?

Today we'll cover the following:

- WHAT are we to overcome?
- WHY we have such a struggle though we have God's spirit in us? We still fail too many times. WHY?
- HOW are we to overcome and prevail according to scripture?
This is SUCH an important topic.

- What HUGE role will Yeshua play in us overcoming all things?

We're not the only ones struggling with sins and Satan's temptations. Everyone struggles with sinful issues. The Bible's big names like King David, Abraham, Samson – though filled with God's spirit, also failed miserably at times but they were still God's people listed in Hebrews 11 the Hall of Fame of Faith.

Both King **David** and Samson had terrible issues with their lust. David lusted after a married woman whom he saw bathing and then got her pregnant. Then, even worse, he plotted to hide his sin by murdering the woman's husband, Uriah

Samson also had lust issues, especially with Philistine women. **Abraham** lied twice about his wife and was willing to give her up to a harem to save his own life (as she was a remarkable beauty, even at old age).

Too often we conclude someone who commits atrocious sins to be "**unconverted**" – but then what would you say about King David, Samson, and Abraham and so many others? David believed he still had God's spirit even after all that, and prayed "Take not your spirit from me..." (**Psalm 51:11**). We all still sin so let's not be hasty to decide someone who fails is automatically "unconverted".

Apostle Paul said three times in Romans 7:14-26 that even HE still did things he hated; things he didn't want to do though he was full of God's presence in him by God's spirit. **So being full of God's spirit, being deeply converted, does not mean we won't sin ever again! Sometimes even "big" sins.**

Men, do you struggle with lust? Well, *so many men* in the Bible let their LUST also take over their lives for a while. But this too, has to be overcome.

Overcoming is SO important that **ALL SEVEN churches of Rev 2 and 3 are told to overcome** in order to receive certain rewards; "To him who overcomes, I will...." – see the screen for a few examples. We're told to listen to what's said to all seven churches.

Ephesus – Rev 2:7 – eat of the tree of life

Smyrna Rev 2:11 – won't die the 2nd death (have eternal life)

Thyatira Rev 2:26 – rule the nations

You get the idea. Overcoming is really, really important. We also need to realize much more deeply that **we are in a very real WAR against sin and the Adversary – against spirits in high places**, not just against flesh and blood people (**Ephesians 6:10-16**). *Can you sense you're at war constantly?* I hope so. If you can't, you're in deeper trouble than you may realize.

So overcoming does not mean we never sin again – even huge sins – but it does mean we should be seeing growth. What were repeated problems in the past are being conquered more and more. We need to be changing, growing, converting, transforming.

Remember Revelation 21:7-8 says those not conquering but who remained in their sins, were sent to die the 2nd death in the lake of fire! So this is deathly serious!

Here's another example of how serious it may be: Jesus tells the 6th church in Revelation 3 – **Philadelphia**, that He's COMING quickly but because they obeyed his command to

persevere, He promised them something I think is noteworthy. The last two churches of Revelation 3 definitely seem to apply very much to very end-time people of God.

Revelation 3:10-12

“Because you have kept My command to persevere, ***I also will KEEP YOU from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world***, to test those who dwell on the earth.

11 Behold, I am COMING QUICKLY! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

12 He who OVERCOMES, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God...”

So get this: they’re PROTECTED (V10) from the Tribulation, “the hour of trial coming on the whole world”, if they persevere and OVERCOME. This is not about just being protected here and there for your own individual trials – but from the hour of trial coming upon the whole world. That sure sounds like the coming Tribulation.

Then in Revelation 12:13-17, there is a woman described whom Satan hates, but God protects her and takes her “to HER place” (not places), in the wilderness, where God nourishes and protects her. I believe God can protect us anywhere but here in **Rev. 12 and Rev 3:10, and Dan. 12:1** – there does seem to be an actual place, singular, called “her place” where God promises to protect his faithful from the worst time the world has ever seen.

But there’s another group, the “remnant” of the woman who was taken to the wilderness for safety. They are not in the safe place. Satan successfully goes after these brethren who apparently die in the tribulation after being severely tested.

*They are described in Revelation 12:17 as ones “who keep God’s commandments and have the testimony of Jesus”. That hardly describes the Jews! I say that because many believe Revelation 12 is about protecting Jews in the last days. I believe they are the people who have the attitude of the 7th Church of Rev 3, the Laodiceans, who believe they’re not so bad but Jesus says they’re wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked spiritually – and have to buy from him “gold refined in the fire”. I believe they will go through the Great Tribulation. Look up **1 Peter 1:7 and 1 Cor. 3:10-13** to understand “gold refined in the fire.”*

So God has to wake up Laodiceans by making them go through the Great Tribulation – the fire of purification, gold refined in the fire. God will save them for eternal life, but God first has to chastise them and wake them up. I believe most of them will be martyred.

Rev. 3: 14-21 – the Laodiceans think they are OK... NOTE that. They didn’t think they were all that bad. But Yeshua said they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. Let’s jump to v. 18. Note Jesus/Yeshua is already at their door, knocking. He’s HERE.

Revelation 3:18-21

“I counsel you to buy from Me GOLD REFINED in the FIRE...”

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. **Therefore be zealous and repent.**

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me”.

WHY is Jesus outside the house of God? Why is Jesus, who IS the Door, knocking on their door to let Him in? Why do Laodiceans not have their door already open to Him?

(v 21) Earlier I asked you if Jesus had to overcome. Here's *His* answer v 21.

Revelation 3:21

"To him who OVERCOMES I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, *as I ALSO overcame* and sat down with My Father on His throne."

My point in saying all I just did, is that it could be much better for us to be zealous and overcoming and hopefully be spared the Great Tribulation. So that's another possible great reason to be zealously overcoming.

And did you catch **Rev 3:21**? *Jesus says "AS I ALSO overcame."* **Jesus had to also overcome. If Jesus had to, certainly so do we!**

We ALL still struggle with sin and wrong. Paul did, everyone does.

I'm covering this, as I saw times in my own life especially 35-45 years ago when I tolerated certain sins in my life. *I had made compromises and accepted what I should never have allowed. I don't think I hated certain sins enough AND SO I was not overcoming.*

God's people are supposed to HATE what God hates. Or do you cuddle up to some sins?

Psalms 97:10a *"You who love Yehovah, HATE EVIL !..."*

*Compare **Romans 12:9; Proverbs 3:7** that we must hate evil.*

We will NOT be strong overcomers of evil if there are certain kinds of sins that we still cuddle up to and accept in our lives without eradicating them. Paul said the sins he still committed were things he HATED – "that which I hate I do" (**Romans 7:15**) – so we'll still sin, but at least should hate sins that still pop up in our lives.

JESUS ALSO HAD TO OVERCOME

But did you get that Rev. 3:21 says the SON OF GOD says HE ALSO HAD TO OVERCOME, AND DID! *But overcome WHAT? He never sinned! It was temptations from Satan and this world that Jesus had to overcome.*

Hebrews 4:15-16

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace TO HELP in time of need."

"In all points" means even Jesus, as hard as it is to imagine, was tempted to lie, tempted to lust, tempted to give up, tempted to kill and steal, to commit fornication, to get drunk and many more. Remember "in all points", it says.

Satan and his demons had only to get Jesus to sin ONE TIME, to give in to ONE temptation to SIN – and He would have had to die for His own sin.

SO imagine the pressure they surely put on Jesus and the number of temptations of all kinds that he was presented with day after day.

Did Satan, whom Jesus called “the ruler of this world”, ever get to Christ? Here’s what Yeshua/Jesus said.

John 14:30-31

“I will no longer talk much with you, for the **ruler of this world** is coming, and **he has NOTHING in Me.**

31 But that the world may know that **I LOVE the Father**, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.”

So clearly Jesus overcame Satan, largely due to his intense LOVE and obedience for Father. Love for our Father is tied to overcoming. Sin is against God. If and when we DEEPLY LOVE our Father, we would hate to disappoint him, to anger him, or to sadden Him. *LOVE for God and His law is a big part of conquering sin.*

This is also Satan’s world, so Jesus also had to overcome the world. Did he?

John 16:33

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but **be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**”

You and I in Christ can also defeat Satan and overcome the world.

1 John 5:3-5

“For this is the love of God, that we **keep His commandments**. And His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God **overcomes the world**. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our FAITH.

5 **Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**”

1 John 2:14b

“.... I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and **the word of God abides in you**, And you **have overcome the wicked one.**”

So scripture is clear. We MUST overcome, and WE WILL overcome by the blood of Jesus, by faith in HIM, and asking him to be our LIFE again, to come into our lives. We can’t postpone overcoming! See **Revelation 12:10-11**.

In fact, we cannot just profess to know Christ and profess we love Him without overcoming and obeying God totally, or else we’ll be cast out. We never ever want to hear the King saying to us, “Depart from me, I never knew you.”

Remember Matthew 7:21-23? It’s not enough to claim to know Christ, but also to seek our Father’s will, to OBEY him, to overcome the areas still not surrendered in our lives.

Matthew 7:21-23

"NOT everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 MANY will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

(Let me add another powerful scripture about having to OBEY all TEN commandments in order to say we know Christ. Also John 14:15.)

1 John 2:3-6

"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 *He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.* 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

6 *He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."*

So obeying, overcoming, winning over sin and Satan is very real and goes beyond just claiming we accept Jesus and love him.

So Jesus also had to face sin, Satan, and face temptation – and prevail.

In fact: I believe that NOBODY faced as many temptations to SIN – as Jesus did. WHY? Again, because if Satan could get him to sin even just ONCE, Jesus could not have been our Savior who could die for US. He'd have to die for his own sins. All it would take was to make him sin ONE time! No doubt Satan and his demons tried repeatedly.

Hebrews 4:15-16

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly *(confidently) to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace TO HELP in time of need."

Imagine being tempted in everything, over and over. That's what our Savior went through for us.

Keep in mind that **TEMPTATIONS are NOT the SIN** – unless we give in to them. Jesus was tempted in all things but without sinning.

- For example: We might be tempted not to forgive someone who badly hurt us. THAT must be overcome. Jesus MIGHT have been tempted not to forgive those crucifying him. He overcame that – when he said instead: "Father, forgive them..."
- Jesus, as an unmarried young man, with all the urges and physical needs that especially young men have, just imagine all the temptations Satan

laid before Him to LUST and commit fornication. Yes, Jesus was tempted to LUST. He understands us men who have to fight this too. We men have eyes so we *notice* every scantily clad woman, and there are so many. That's the temptation – but we must not DEVELOP it into sin! Our biggest battle field is our minds! We must control our thoughts.

Daughters of God, look up an article written by other women of God about how you can help the men in the church. There should be no immodesty being displayed by God's women. I mean low cut tops, very short skirts, or itsy-bitsy bikinis among many other items in the article on immodesty. I recommend every woman over 14 years should read it. <https://www.lightontherock.org/index.php/blog/entry/why-immodesty-is-a-problem?highlight=WyJpbW1vZGVzdHkiXQ==>

We men especially – must stop the endless scrolling on our iphone late at night. That's feeding the fleshly nature.

Stop watching movies that make us lust. Stop TikTok, even some of the Reels on Facebook, or things on Instagram. "Come OUT of her, my people" Rev. 18:4. And how do any of us have TIME for that? Fair enough, not everything on TikTok or Instagram s are bad, but enough can be to create lust that we should be on guard. Remember the forbidden tree in the garden was "good AND evil."

- **Do you feel REJECTION from loved ones? Jesus' whole TRIBE of Judah rejected him.** Imagine his sense of betrayal from those of his own tribe. Even His betrayer's name was **JUDAS**, which is the Greek form of Yehudah – the tribe of Judah. That's not coincidence. His betrayer was named "Judah".
- **Jesus Christ was ALSO tempted to be severely discouraged and depressed.** He'll understand your discouragement at times. Yes, he was. But without sin. At Gethsemane look at what Jesus said! (Gethsemane = "Olive press" where all the oil from the olives was pressed out by mighty stones).

Matthew 26:36-38

"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to DEATH. Stay here and watch with Me."

No one wants to die alone. Jesus started out so stressed that He sweat drops of BLOOD (**Luke 22:44**). Gethsemane (meaning "Olive press") was a real TEST. So what did He do? He prayed all that time. At the end of a nighttime of praying, He overcame the temptation to be distressed but approached boldly and calmly those coming to illegally arrest him.

Matthew 26:39-41

"He went a little farther and fell on His face, and PRAYED, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, *let this cup pass from Me*; nevertheless, **not as I will, but as You will."**

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "**What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?**"

41 Watch and PRAY, LEST you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but **the flesh is weak.**"

So Jesus gives us a HUGE KEY on overcoming temptation. PRAY much more. MUCH more than you are. Times in my life when I did my worst were times I was not praying so much. But when I am praying a lot, I don't feel nearly as many temptations. PRAY – lest you enter into temptation", Jesus tells us. DO you pray absolutely every day?

So understand this: Jesus knows full well what it's like to be tempted by Satan – over and over and over. By the end of his evening praying in Gethsemane, we sense a deep calm and peace had come over Jesus after all that praying with God his Father.

WHY WE STRUGGLE AGAINST TEMPTATION AND SIN SO MUCH

At some point you repented, were immersed into Christ in baptism, and received God's Holy Spirit. Realize that the Holy Spirit is the very PRESENCE of God the Father and Jesus – who come make their ABODE, their HOME, in us – making us the TEMPLE of God's presence. I recommend you **study my two sermons** on "Who or What is the Holy Spirit?".

First notice Romans 8:10 showing God's spirit in us is actually Christ in us.

Romans 8:9-10

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed **the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Now if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he is not His. **10 and IF Christ IS IN YOU**, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**"

Remember, "For the LORD IS the spirit" – 2 Cor. 3:17. GOD lives in you and me by their SPIRIT. The Holy Spirit is the PRESENCE of God and Christ inside us.

If God himself is IN us by the Spirit WHY do we still struggle so much?

Because God is in us, what I watch, GOD sees. What I speak, God hears. Where I go, God is aware. Are you as aware of that as you should be?

Would we watch what we watch on TV and internet – if we were more aware that we're making Jesus your Messiah see and hear everything we see and hear? WHY do we do that?

Psalms 101:3

"I will set nothing wicked before my eyes".

Now Paul gives us a huge BLOCKBUSTER KEY to understand what's going on – and how we can resist giving in to temptation but have victory.

This next one is a hugely IMPORTANT KEY scripture.

Galatians 5:16-17 Holman

*"I say then, **walk by the SPIRIT and you will not carry out the desire of the FLESH.***

*17 For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; **these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want**".*

We all have TWO natures now, almost like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde! There's a WAR going on inside us, constantly. Two natures against each other. This was probably what Rebekah felt with the 2 fetuses of Jacob and Esau inside her—they were at war in her womb (READ GEN 25:21-27).

When God gave us His nature by the spirit, He did not remove the fleshly nature we also still have. He wants us to fight and conquer that old nature. Many brethren don't seem to feel or even be aware of any real fight going on. So Satan tries to use our carnal nature and desires to weaken the Spirit's desires.

The NATURE we FEED, the nature we FOCUS on and spend time with – wins.

Right there in black and white is why we still struggle so much: Because **when God gave you His SPIRIT and a NEW BEAUTIFUL HEART – we were still left with the OPPOSING NATURE**, the carnal human nature. We also still had the carnal HEART that was enmity against God (**Romans 8:7**) and desperately wicked as **Jeremiah 17:9** says.

These two natures constantly fight each other. The nature we focus on, spend more time on, listen to – wins. We will overcome much more once we fully grasp this. We must also become much more aware of any temptation beginning – and fight it.

All of that is repeated by Apostle Paul again in **Romans 7:14-26. I hope you study it.** There Paul also talks about having a fleshly nature in which there is nothing good, he says (**Rom 7:18**). And three times he says he still finds himself doing things which he hates. Here's another scripture:

James 1:14

"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."

THERE has to be a sense of a war going on that we take seriously. Paul adds that he didn't want to just be shadow boxing but fighting for real, lest he end up a castaway or disqualified from God's kingdom. Be serious about overcoming!

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 HOLMAN

"Therefore I do not run like one who runs aimlessly, or box like one who beats the air.

27 Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”

The nature we focus on and FEED will WIN the battle. The nature we strengthen will WIN. SO which nature are you and I feeding? When you feel a temptation, you must immediately turn to God, walk by HIS SPIRIT – and Gal. 6:16 says if we do that, we will not carry out the desires of the flesh. And Jesus said if we are praying a lot, we will not face so many temptations. WOW. Crystal clear.

STARVE YOUR carnal nature. Remember Jesus said our spirit is willing, but our flesh is WEAK. We must never toy around with our temptations, especially the ones we don’t quite hate enough yet. So EXAMINE what ways you’re feeding your carnal nature. Who do you hang out with? What are you listening to in songs and movies and internet and TikTok? That’s what you’re feeding to your carnal nature.

Our STORY OF NETFLIX – we had to cancel it. It was WAY too full of SIN. WAY too many F-words, adulteries, some nudity we saw, WAY too much violence and murder and hate and lies. Why would we want that?

Why feed that into our weak flesh? The nature we feed – wins! So after two movies we looked at each other and we both said, “We can’t keep Netflix. Let’s cancel it.” And we did. Besides the News and the game show Jeopardy, my wife and I watch very little TV now.

GOD’S CHILDREN, led by God’s spirit, DO NOT ENJOY WATCHING SINNERS SIN. But let’s be honest: for many of us our sinful nature DOES enjoy watching some “action movies” with some murder, some lying, some sexual sins – but my SPIRIT screams out to me, “NO, Philip” to that ...and so the nature I listen to – WINS. Are you getting it? I’ve had to preach to myself.

I suggest you watch this video more than once, as overcoming is so very, very important to your future.

Examine the people you spend a lot of time with. The places you go. The thoughts you’re putting into your mind by what we listen to and watch. And again, never go even part way into temptation. Don’t toy around. This overcoming business is deadly serious.

- *If **alcohol** is a weakness – get rid of it.*
- *If certain women or men make you tempted to sin, STOP being around them.*
- *Don’t let your mind **rehash old sins** - especially those of sinful pleasures.*
- *Do you enjoy listening to **gossip**? You’re feeding that sin and causing discord.*

Make a LIST of your weak areas – and then one by one **SURRENDER EACH weakness to God** your father in prayer. Ask God out loud, in prayer, to help you give it up, one at a time, in heartfelt soul-searching prayer if you really want to OVERCOME and be RID of the things of this flesh, the sins of Satan, and the lure of his world. Surrender each weak area to God, each one. You will have to do this many times in this life because our old dead self has a way of popping back up into our life.

WALK IN The SPIRIT, NOT IN The FLESH

So Gal 5:16-17 says if we walk in the spirit – seeking spiritual answers – we will not cave in to the desires of the flesh. Again, this is a key passage for this sermon.

So how did Jesus the Messiah walk in the spirit? Let's look at 2 main ways.

1 – Jesus PRAYED A LOT, sometimes all night long, like **Luke 6** before selecting the 12. **IF JESUS NEEDED so much prayer, surely we do too!** DO you and I even pray absolutely every single day with our face down, while we're on our knees – plus the constant contact also?

2 – JESUS used God's word to combat Satan's temptations – “IT IS WRITTEN” over and over as in **Matthew 4 and Luke 4**. To do that you have to also know God's word.

(We're giving Bibles to our brethren in Tanzania and Kenya – would you help us? When helping “the least of these my brethren, you're doing it unto Me”, Jesus said in **Matthew 25:41. V 31-46**. We're helping HIM, He said.)

Learn to also LISTEN FOR GOD's answers. Usually they'll come through various sources in the succeeding days. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice” in **John 10:27**.

Jesus, our HIGH PRIEST, does ALL the WORK of atoning for us. WE must often let Christ in, open the door to our hearts (**Eph. 3:17**) and lives, and we let him Work. We actively INVITE his presence. We TELL him we NEED him and love Him.

For example, on the day of Atonement, GOD commanded several times in Leviticus 16, that NOBODY was to do ANY work at all. NOTHING. NO WORK on the day about being atoned. ONLY ONE could work: ONLY the high priest. Atoning work is the work of the High Priest and that High Priest for us is Jesus Christ!

Overcoming is the natural result of remaining in Christ. Review **John 15:1-8**. “He who abides in Me, shall bear much fruit”, Jesus said. Our faith is in HIM to bear the fruit that we display. The fruit we bear is the fruit of the Vine, who is Christ. It is fruit of the Spirit – who is Christ – not our fruit but HIS fruit in us. So we have to fill our minds with constant contact with Yeshua our Salvation and our heavenly Father.

So **PRAYER is point #1 that Jesus did. HE PRAYED A LOT**, focusing on the spiritual nature – EVEN all night before picking the 12 (Luke 6). He prayed MUCH of the night in Gethsemane when he felt was so distressed, “even unto **death**”. By the end of several hours, he had great peace, calm and strength. But get this: EVEN JESUS had to pray when he was so distressed.

IF the very son of God realized He needed to pray to WIN and overcome His temptations from Satan – how much more should we follow His great example.

“Pray without ceasing” 1 Thess 5:17 -- constant contact ...

The SECOND thing Jesus did that made him victorious: He fought temptation with SCRIPTURE. He was victorious over temptation by using GOD'S WORD. **Each time, His response to Satan was: “IT IS WRITTEN...”**

And remember **2 Cor. 10:4-5** says we are to “bring EVERY thought into captivity to the obedience to Christ.”

Make your LIST of weaknesses and sins and areas you’re tempted in.

Are we lacking in prayer? Lacking in Bible study? Do you have a weak marriage? Do you gossip or listen to gossip? Hot temper? Impatience? Lack of forgiveness? LUST? Sex sins and thoughts? These all have to be overcome!

Then bring that list to your Father and to JESUS Christ IN PRAYER – then surrender each one, one by one. Really DO speak out loud your surrender of these weaknesses to God. SURRENDER is key. You’ll have to do this more than ONCE. I hope you really do this.

Now do what Jesus did: fight those areas with SCRIPTURE. STUDY each topic in the Bible. Buy a concordance to help you find key words or use Bible Hub.

Gossiping? Study verses on the power of the tongue. Have those ready. That’s what Jesus did. But this requires you and me really coming to know God’s word so JESUS can work in us – whether we’re fighting selfishness, self-centeredness, whatever!

NEXT: Big point #3 in overcoming: ASK GOD to really help you HATE all evil. Hate it! Anything that is not in the IMAGE OF Christ, we must HATE. ALL temptations to sin – we must come to HATE. TOO many of us frankly still enjoy certain of our ungodly weaknesses too much. Like gossiping, or drinking too much. I may have 4-5 drinks for one entire year anymore. Or we might enjoy sexual fantasies in our minds or flirting or any number of sins. Look, I have to fight sin like anyone else.

Paul SAID in Romans 7:14-15 he still sometimes did things he hates.

Romans 7:14 -15

“For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am fleshly [or carnal], sold into bondage to sin. 15 For I do not understand what I am doing; for I am NOT practicing what I WANT to do, but I do the very thing I HATE.”

Sound familiar? Carefully study this passage to the end of Ch 7 and the first 8 or 9 verses of Romans 8.

BACK to hating sin. We have to be honest with ourselves. When we give in to actions not in the image of Christ – do we hate what we’re doing? DO we feel terrible afterwards as we pour out our hearts to God in deep repentance like David did in Psalm 51?

Carole AND I have been married 50 years but there were many times each of us had to work hard at it. We remembered our vows with each other and with God and SURRENDERED our marriage to God. Now I love her more than at ANY time in my life. But it took SURRENDER, prayer and sometimes lots of work. Now 50 years into our marriage, I love her and being with her more than ever. Remember God says he hates divorce (Malachi 2:10).

More is said on the video about marriage.
Paul ends Romans 7 with: “O Wretched man that I am. **Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God, it is through Jesus Christ my Lord.**”

And therefore – if we are in Christ, THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION ON US as Romans 8:1 says, for he is now our life. HE delivers us.

So overcoming is a process. Focus on constant improvement rather than total perfection. God will gift us with his perfect righteousness and we need to be improving in how we respond to that. It's very easy for us to see ourselves as constantly failing and falling short and that can be discouraging. But remember even Paul said he still did the things he hated too often. Paul said that!

Even Jacob – Israel -- summarized his life this way to Pharaoh in Egypt:

Genesis 47:8-9

Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?" 9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "**The days of the years of my pilgrimage** are one hundred and thirty years; ***few and EVIL have been the days of the years of my life.***"

BEING TOTALLY TRANSFORMED OVER TIME

We've been called to be TRANSFORMED into something we were not before.

That's not just that we keep sabbath and holydays now – but everything about us is becoming DIFFERENT, NEW. We're converting. Overcoming. Prevailing. In 2 Cor. 5:17— we're in fact called a NEW CREATION in Christ!

Romans 12:2

“And *do not be conformed* to this world, *but be TRANSFORMED* by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

The Greek word used for “be transformed” is virtually identical to our word “**metamorphosis**” – like a **caterpillar** changing into a gorgeous butterfly, something totally unlike its former self.

So we CAN'T STAY the way we are. We have to changing, growing, overcoming, prevailing, conquering. **IF YOU BELIEVE and have faith, God gives you HIS very own righteousness!** That's a separate great topic. Ultimately it's all about what God does as a gift for us – whether it's His righteousness given to us, or whether it's TRUE OVERCOMING. **But WE must live a life of obedience** to God and His law as evidence we have been saved. We must repent of lukewarmness and become zealous instead.

If Jesus is outside your life, trying to get your attention as He knocks on your door, and you're lukewarm – you'll go through some very rough times in the Great Tribulation ahead.

LET Jesus' LIFE BE YOUR LIFE

A lot of this overcoming comes from having a beloved relationship with Jesus. I mean much more than most of us probably have been doing right now. We're not just learning ABOUT Jesus – but ***KNOWING*** him personally.

Tell Jesus in prayer: “I don’t want you outside my heart anymore. I want you ACTIVELY living as my new life. Replace my old self with YOU, Master. Please talk to me. Let me hear your voice, as one of your sheep. Please change me, convert me, transform me, Jesus.”

Yes, come to know the word of God. But BETTER YET come to the AUTHOR. Jesus our Savior, intimately. ***ASK him if you can be his FRIEND.***

ASK Jesus in prayer, personally, if you can call him “BELOVED” as in Song of Solomon – “My beloved is MINE and I am HIS” (Song of Solomon 2:14). Say the words. Make it real! ***ASK HIM to be your FRIEND and that He sees you as His friend, as he did Abraham and the disciples.***

Do you pray like that. And sometimes just be quiet and ask him to speak to YOU. (More in the video). Check out my sermons on “Hearing God’s voice”.

Jesus in the next text says Bible study is great – but search for HIM, himself.

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of ME.

40 But you are not willing to come to ME that you may have life”.

John 10:26-28

“But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

27 MY sheep HEAR MY VOICE, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

Then ask him to BE YOUR life from now on, and YOU WILL overcome, because it will be JESUS living in you now. As 1 John 2:6 says, we must now walk as HE walked.

Colossians 3:3-4

“For **YOU DIED**, and your life is hidden **with Christ in God**.

4 When Christ OUR LIFE appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

Christ is now our life. Now look at the things Paul says to the Colossians, whom he had called “Saints”. He told them to get rid of sinful conduct and thoughts.

Paul goes on – PUT TO DEATH these ungodly things in our lives.

Colossians 3:5, 8 CJB

“Therefore, **PUT TO DEATH** the earthly parts of your nature – sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed (which is a form of idolatry (Jump to verse 8)

8 but now, put them all away – anger, exasperation, meanness, slander and obscene talk.”

Here's ENCOURAGEMENT: God promises to FINISH what He started

Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you WILL COMPLETE IT until the day of Jesus Christ”

God gave us His Holy Spirit, the very presence of God and Christ in us, as a GUARANTEE of His promise to see us to the end (Ephesians 1:14; 2 Cor. 1:22).

Look at the way God wants to see us today:

Hebrews 10:14

“For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”

Will we *EVER* be *RID* of sinful temptations from our *fleshly* nature? *YES*. Once we are changed to spirit, the corruption of the flesh in us will forever be gone. We won't be tempted to sin anymore!

1 Corinthians 15:50, 53-54, 57

50 For flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

53 “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

57 But thanks be to GOD, the One who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 16: . Apply this sermon right away. Hear it again, until you know you are well on your way to total victory and being an overcomer. 20

“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”

Jude 24-25 NASU

“Now to Him who is able to KEEP you from STUMBLING, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory BLAMELESS with great joy, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Wow, I hope you believe God is able to keep you from stumbling and to stand blameless before Him. Hallelujah. Amen.

So – by the grace of God, the time is coming at the resurrection when we will never ever sin again. Through faith and opening our hearts and doors to Jesus Christ to be our life now, we will be overcomers and conquerors. But don't just let this topic lay there

And please share this sermon with others. Let's wake up any Laodiceanism going on.

And could you help me provide life-saving water filters and Bibles in Kenya and Tanzania as they are so poor? They want to overcome too. Over 3,000 meet each sabbath over there with Light on the Rock. They need help. Thank you in advance.

Through belief in Jesus Christ and constant contact with him, YOU also can be an OVERCOMER and inherit ALL THINGS from God.

CLOSING PRAYER.