

Gospel Talk Bible Study
God With Us
A Study of John's Gospel: "Overcomers"
John 16:29-33

October 21, 2020

"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." – John 16:33

I. Overcomers Follow "The Overcomer"

- a. In this text, Jesus describes His triumphant position. *I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.*
- b. Like young recruits, the disciples had not learned that it is one thing to wear the uniform, and quite another thing to be committed in battle.
- c. Jesus declared *I have overcome...* (v.33). "Overcome" (*nikao*) in the Greek language means "victory or to be victorious." Jesus declared the victory for two reasons.
 1. The Father was with Him, therefore, He had peace as He faced the cross. (v.32).
 2. The devil does not have the last word, God, the Father does. Through his obedience unto death, Jesus won the victory.
- d. When we yield ourselves to Christ *and* trust Him, He enables us to be overcomers. We must claim our spiritual position in Christ and believe Him for victory.
- e. Read verses 31-32, *Now you believe*, may be best understood as *now you believe but a testing time is coming*.
- f. The disciples had faith in the Master, but Jesus was encouraging them to stand on faith, because tough times were coming. **In the times in which we live, how can we put our faith into practice?**

II. Trouble, but Overcoming

- a. *In this world you will have trouble*, but through it all victory and peace will be yours through your personal relationship with Christ who precedes you in the battle.
- b. Spiritual battles often come in two forms personal and public. Some personal battles should be made public and there are some public battles that should be personal.
- c. Jesus was "a man of sorrows." (Isaiah 53:3) He promised, "In the world you will have tribulation" (John 16:33).
- d. We can expect sorrow from the world and redemption from Jesus. He will work even our sorrows for ultimate good. (Romans 8:28)
- e. Faith in Christ strengthens our resolve to overcome. *For you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.* (James 1:3)
- f. The word for temptation in Greek (*peirasmos*) is the same for both testing and tempting. All temptation tests your faith.
- g. Temptations come at us from every angle of life. Don't just think of temptation as immoral behaviors. (2 Corinthians 11:25)
 1. Think of cancer and the devil's temptation to destroy your faith through illness.
 2. Think of an unbearable pain that comes to attack your faith.
 3. Think of the loss of loved ones, the sickness of a child or loved one, financial hardship, marriage tensions, political strife, natural disasters, threatening crime, and mob violence.
- h. Trouble will come, but will you continue to love and to believe? Will you stay on mission?

III. Practical Application*

- a. Jesus encourages us to abide in His love and His truth. How does abiding in Jesus' love and His truth help us to be overcomers? How does His love and truth enable us to overcome temptation?
- b. The Lord promises there will be "times of refreshing."