

Seven Promises to the One Who Overcomes

Revelation Chapters 2-3

John wrote **Revelation as on the isle of Patmos**, in a cave. The vividness of the descriptions given by John is a testament to the power of God! John says that he was in the Spirit- so the entire book of Revelation (apocalypse, unveiling) was written while John was having a divine out of body experience. He was spoken to directly by Christ, and he recorded the words of Christ.

Chapters 2 and 3 are comprised of letters written to the seven churches of Asia, whom Jesus refers to as the **seven lampstands**. Lamps are intended to give off light, just as the Church that belongs to Christ is intended to be light in a dark world. **Each of these churches got a different description of who Jesus was.** To **Ephesus** he was the one who **holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven lampstands**. To **Smyrna** He was the **first and the last, the one who was dead but has come to life!** To **Pergamum** he was the **One who has the sharp two edged sword** (i.e. his tongue which gave the word which is sharper than any two edged sword). To **Thyatira** he was **“The Son of God who has eyes like flaming fire and feet like burnished bronze”**.

To **Sardis** He was the one who **has the Seven Spirits of God and the seven stars**. To **Philadelphia** He was the one **who is holy and true and the one that has the key of David who opens doors that NO ONE can shut and; who shuts and no one opens**. And finally to **Laodicea** he was the **Amen** (the end of all things and the fulfillment of all things spoken to the churches), the **faithful and true Witness**, the **Beginning of the creation** of God (arche- the Origin- does not denote that Christ was created)

The Seven Churches all located in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey); really meant as a universal appeal to the church (body of Christ) in general:

Ephesus:

Chief concern of Christ: left your first love

Smyrna:

Chief concern of Christ: No issues; this **church was under persecution**; Jesus admonishes them to stand firm and to remain faithful!

Pergamum

Chief concern of Christ: Holding to the teaching of Balaam (i.e. leading God's people astray); Holding to the teaching of the Noclaitans (Gnostic sect founded by Nicholas (one of the seven deacons of Jerusalem (Acts 6:5); characterized by **sensuality, seducing Christians to participate in the idolatrous**

feasts of pagans, and to unchastity.

Hence they are denoted by the names of Balaam and Jezebel, two leading agents of **moral contamination** under the Old Testament dispensation They taught that **in order to understand sensuality and lust you must experience every aspect of it first hand.**

Thyatira (thy-a-tYra)

Chief concern of Christ: Tolerating the woman Jezebel: leading people astray and into immorality!

Sardis

Chief concern of Christ: **Being a dead church but professing to be alive!** Deeds are incomplete...

Philadelphia

Chief concern of Christ: **No issues**;
Had “an open door to heaven” (Rev 3:8)- have a little power, have kept my Word and HAVE NOT DENIED THE NAME OF CHRIST! The oldest of the seven churches and the most reliable

Laodicea (lay-od-i-cea)

Chief concern of Christ: **Complacency- lukewarm!** The church was caught up on its possessions and Jesus says you need to **buy Gold from Me!** Ironic because what Christ gives is FREE! But it will cost you your life (as you know it). Anyone that wants to follow me must deny himself and pick up his cross (**Mark 8:34**)

Overcoming Promises of Christ

All of the churches were given a promise and these promises hold true for us today. **One thing about a promise from God, it is ALWAYS fulfilled.** Not necessarily when we want it either (Hebrews 11:13-16)

*“All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14**For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. **15**And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16**BUT AS IT IS, THEY DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY, THAT IS, A HEAVENLY ONE. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.”*

How many of you want to be **restored**? How many of you know that God CAN restore you? But ask yourself, “what if he doesn’t?” We have to have the attitude of the OLD Saints! **We have to hope in those things that we do not yet see!** We may not get everything we want on this side, but that doesn’t make God any less of a deliverer!

There is **delayed gratification** involved in following God. Yes, he will give us some of the desires of our hearts, but there are some things that we WILL have to wait for!

Pain, suffering, hurt, death are all a part of the process...thanks to Adam!! But through all of that, God is STILL IN CONTROL! I don't know about you but my citizenship is in heaven! These **light afflictions**, which are but for a moment worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight in glory! **True and COMPLETE restoration happens in Glory!**

Let's look at these overcoming promises:

1. Ephesus: Rev 2:7 "...To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' **How many know that we were tricked from the beginning?! Satan tricked Adam** into eating from the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil- and thus brought death into the world! Adam was NEVER told not to eat from the tree of life which would have granted eternal life!

2. Smyrna: Rev 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.’

Rev 26:14 “Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

This is the **second death, the lake of fire.**”

Jesus makes a promise that IF WE OVERCOME, **we will have NOTHING to fear in the life to come!** The verse before this one says this, Rev

2:10”**BE FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE CROWN OF LIFE!!**”

3. Pergamum: Rev. 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.’

4. Thyatira: **Rev 2:26** “He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE **AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS**; [27](#)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; [28](#)and I will give him the morning star. [29](#)‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

2 Tim 2:12 says that if we ENDURE, we will reign with Him!

5. Sardis: Rev 3:5 “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.”

****I don't know about you but I want my robe and my crown! I WANT TO HEAR THE MASTER SAY “WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT”****

6. Philadelphia: **Rev 3:12** “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....” **Stay steadfast and I will put my stamp on you, and make you a citizen of a New city!**

7. Laodicea: “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...”

Jesus sat down at God's right hand after his work was finished! We get that same rest, if we overcome!! **Hebrews 4:9-10** ⁹ There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. ¹⁰ For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.”

NONE OF THESE PROMISES ARE FULFILLED IN THE EARTHLY REALM, RATHER THEY ARE THE REWARD FOR A HARD FOUGHT LIFE OF CHRISTIAN SERVITUDE, SUFFERING, REPENTANCE AND LOVE FOR GOD!

The word **overcome** comes from the Greek word **nikao** (ni-kah-o) which implies to be victorious...in battle. There is **no object to the verb** so Jesus is saying **to those that would endure and overcome WHATEVER obstacle they face**, these are the **gifts** that I will give you!

HOW DO WE OVERCOME?

1. Christ must be our Savior...there is no overcoming without salvation!

1 John 5:5 “Who is he that overcomes, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will [\[d\]](#) have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

1 John 4:4 “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.”

John 15:4 ““Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.”

IF Chris abides in US and IF He is greater than the one in the world and IF he has overcome the world THEN

WE ARE ALSO OVERCOMES THROUGH HIM!! It begins and

ends with Jesus!!

a. Savior = Shed Blood

In reference to having an **object** i.e. Satan, Turn to **Revelation 12:7-14**- We **need the blood of the Lamb to cover us from the accusations of Satan** (the accuser/ adversary)- **so we overcome Satan** and whatever he throws at us through the **shed blood** of Christ but also through our **witness**- when we testify of Christ and testify that we belong to Christ and **WHAT THE SHED BLOOD DID FOR US**, then we are saying that we are willing to undergo trials, persecutions, trouble all of the sake of the gospel and for the sake of Christ!

2. **We must endure until the end. Eccl 9:11**

“The race is not given to the swift nor the strong but the one who endures until the end” **Matthew 24:13** “but he who endures to the end will be saved...

a. **Prodigal son mentality**. Many have a “Kingdom Now” mentality- as if God is **obligated to GIVE them EVERYTHING** that they ask for...I want my STUFF NOW!!

It is **God's prerogative** and whatever He gives us is for us to use to glorify HIM.

3. **Live a life of repentance**- each of the churches was admonished to repent!

Metanoia ("change of mind") Does this mean that we do not sin? No, it means that we **change our perception of sin and realize that sin is not of God!**

Repentance occurs when we **hear the truth of God** and make a **conscious decision to change our thinking** in that particular area- **no longer** do we seek to **glorify self**, we seek to **glorify God!** When I hear the **truth**, my **feelings shouldn't be hurt**, we **should be even more resolute** to follow the truth! All truth comes from God and all truth is the path that the Spirit of God puts us on!!

If you are ready to live an overcoming life, give God some glory right now! He's given us everything we need to overcome. We have the Spirit of God to guide us on this journey! Someone ought to just tell God **"thank you for your overcoming power"**! This is not a gospel that people want to hear, but it is THE gospel- the same one that Christ preached, the same one that the disciples preached.