

Called to Overcome Part 3

Revelation 12

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

11 **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**

12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!

In Revelation 2 & 3 God says to each church, to him who overcomes there will be a reward...

There is as an Obstacle before them...

There is a Challenge from the Lord...

There is a Calling to be an Overcomer...

It's in the trial and the difficulty that we grow and get stronger...

These things give us the ability to Persevere or “remain under it” ...

To overcome we need to ask God for Wisdom...

We have to have a Determined Heart...

A Double minded man is unstable in all his ways and will receive nothing from the Lord...

Vs. 10

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now **salvation**, and **strength**, and **the kingdom of our God**, and the **power of His Christ** have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

The Scripture indicates there was a loud sudden interruption, an outburst in heaven...

“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven...”

Commentators believe this loud voice is representative of redeemed humanity - not an angel or God - because the voice says, the **accuser of our brethren.**

I hear in this a thunderous declaration of a sudden breakthrough...

Something big has just happened...

There has been a shift, a game Changer...

The Game Changer is This:

Now Salvation

Strength

The Kingdom of God

The Power of Christ have come

“...for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”

- God stopped listening to the Devil’s accusations about your past...
- Maybe we should do the same thing...

When the Devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.

When he questions your credibility remind him who you belong to.

Vs. 11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

The Heavens are looking down

The great contest of Eternity is taking place

The Heavens witness and they declare this; **And They Overcame...**

This tells us three keys to the saint's victory over Satan.

1. They overcame by the Blood of the Lamb (God's Part)

The **blood** overcomes Satan's accusations. Those accusations mean nothing because the blood of Jesus has been applied to the believer. Jesus has already paid the price and the penalty our sins deserved.

? How does **the blood of the Lamb** conquer Satan in the life of the believer?

- It works first because *His victory is our victory*.
- It works because the work of Jesus on the cross for us is the ultimate demonstration of God's love. Romans 5:8
- It works because the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute reveals the true nature of sin, and this makes us want to avoid sin.
- It works because the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute purchases us as God's personal property

2. They overcame by the word of their Testimony (Your Part)

- The **word of their testimony** overcomes Satan's deception.
- Remembering the work of God *in their life* protects them against Satan's deceptions.
- They are reminded of what they have seen and heard and experienced from God. God is true and the Devil is a liar...

2 Reasons why you should share your Testimony

1. People need to hear about what God has done in your life.
2. You need to hear about what God has done in your life.
Your going to be amazed... Your going to walk away and say wow!
Remind the Devil he lost you and he's not getting you back...

3. And they loved not their lives unto the death. (Your Offering to God)

Loving **not their lives** overcomes Satan's ultimate act of control... Satan controls through Fear... If you cast off fear he loses control... If they do not cling to their own earthly lives, then there really is no threat Satan can bring against them.

The early church believed like the Apostle Paul believed, *to live is Christ, and to die is gain* ([Philippians 1:21](#)).

Paul and Peter

Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified, upside down at his request, since he did not feel he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

Andrew

went to the "land of the man-eaters," in what is now the Soviet Union. Christians there claim him as the first to bring the gospel to their land. He also preached in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, and in Greece, where he is said to have been crucified.

Thomas

was probably most active in the area east of Syria. Tradition has him preaching as far east as India, where the ancient Marthoma Christians revere him as their founder. They claim that he died there when pierced through with the spears of four soldiers.

Philip

Is said to have a ministry in North Africa and then in Asia Minor, where he converted the wife of a Roman proconsul. In retaliation the proconsul had Philip arrested and cruelly put to death.

Matthew

the tax collector and writer of a Gospel, ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Some of the oldest reports say he was not martyred, while others say he was stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

Bartholomew

had widespread missionary travels attributed to him by tradition: to India with Thomas, back to Armenia, and also to Ethiopia and Southern Arabia. There are various accounts of how he met his death as a martyr for the gospel.

James

the son of Alphaeus, ministered in Syria. The Jewish historian Josephus reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death.

Simon the Zealot

ministered in Persia and was killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

Matthais

Tradition says went to Syria with Andrew and put to death by burning.

John

is the only one of the company generally thought to have died a natural death from old age. He was the leader of the church in the Ephesus. During Domitian's persecution in the middle 90's, he was exiled to the island of Patmos. There he is credited with writing the last book of the New Testament--the Revelation.

An early Latin tradition has him escaping unhurt after being cast into boiling oil at Rome.

- It is not so important how the apostles died. What is important is the fact that they were all willing to die for their faith. If Jesus had not been resurrected, the disciples would have known it. People will not die for something they know to be a lie.

“they loved not their lives unto the death”

Love:

- to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly.
- to be pleased with or content.

They loved something else more...

They loved God more than their own lives...

They lived to entertain the presence of God...
They were fond of Jesus...
They loved Him dearly...
They were content in Christ and pleased with Him...

Closing:

They Overcame by:
The Blood of the Lamb
The Word of their Testimony
They Loved not their lives even unto Death