

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, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

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 voice, an outburst in heaven saying...

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

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

We 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.”

- At this point, God stopped listening to the Devil’s accusations towards believers...
- If God isn’t listening to the Devil’s accusations about your past, then neither should we...

When the Devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future...
His time is running out...

- Just the other day in prayer this verse of scripture kept running through my mind - "He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

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.

Up to this point we have talking about the early church overcoming:

1. Temptation, a lukewarm heart, persecution, a jezebel spirit... all the challenges the seven churches of Revelation 2 & 3 faced.

2. The obstacles we face as Christians were wisdom is needed...
3. In this part the text from Revelation 12 is about overcoming the devil...

The Context of Revelation 12 is this:

The Heavens are watching

The great contest of Eternity is taking place

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

This is how they did it:

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. *2 Cor 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.*
- It works because the work of Jesus on the cross for us is the ultimate demonstration of God's love. *Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
- It works because the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute reveals the seriousness of sin.
- It works because the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute purchases us as God's own possession.

Song: Power in the Blood

Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Would you over evil, a victory win?
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
In the blood of the Lamb;
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

There is a wonderful, miraculous, marvelous, Power that the Blood of Jesus has over sin and the devil...

The fact that Vs. 11 says “they overcome by the blood of the lamb” tells us the cost of victory over the devil was beyond us and was given to us as a gift from Jesus...

James 4:7

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Submit:

to arrange under
to yield to one's admonition or advice
to obey

I love the saying “Under the Blood”

Let's make it our goal to stay under the blood...

Here's a good saying...

- Keep short accounts of sin...
- When you sin... Get it under the blood...
- When thoughts, feelings or emotions rise up that are ungodly...

Get it under the blood...

- When you act in a way that is not pleasing to God...
Get it under the blood...

Evangelist Steve Hill use to say, “Wash Me Jesus”

That’s how we submit to God... we remain under his covering...

We first learn to submit before we learn to obey...

- Have you ever seen a wild horse?
It first has to submit before it can obey
- When my German Shepherd went to obedience school...
He first had to learn to submit before he could learn to obey...

James 4:7

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2. They overcame by the word of their Testimony

- The **word of their testimony** overcomes Satan's deception.
- They are reminded of what they have seen and heard and experienced from God. God is true and the Devil is a liar...

3 Reasons why we should share our Testimony

1. People need to hear about what God has done.
2. We need to be reminded of what God has done.
3. Faith rises up (in you and the other person) when we talk about what God has done...

Story: When God spoke to me about having people share their testimonies with the Church - White Chair

3. And they loved not their lives unto death.

Vs. 11 NASB

and they did not love their life *even* when faced with death.

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

- Our Bible College President use to say, "Go preach the gospel to the far reaches of the world, you have nothing to fear, the only thing they can do is kill you."

Revelation 12 tells us

They overcame...

They overcame because of the blood of Jesus...

They overcame because of the testimony of what he did in their lives...

They overcame because they trusting God with their lives...

The Devil is running out of time...

Closing Song: