

Called to Overcome

“God is setting you up for Victory”

Revelation 3

Laodicea

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.

Ephesus

7 To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

Smyrna

11 He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death...

Pergamum

17 To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

Thyatira

26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations.

Sardis

5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Philadelphia

12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 *I will write on him* My new name.

In every letter there is a Challenge...
The Enemy is trying to hinder the Church...

There is a Temptation...

There is a Persecution...

There is a Jezebel, a manipulating - controlling Spirit...

There is something to Overcome...

But guess, if they overcame... So Can You...

And with the Challenge there is a Reward for Overcoming...

James 1

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Vs. 2

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

- He said **whenever**, not **if ever** you fall into various trials.
- James is saying this is not a time to quit, this is a time for joy...
- Trials of many kinds, that means all shapes and sizes...

Consider it Pure Joy:

- If difficulties are received in unbelief and grumbling, trials can produce bitterness and discouragement. This is why James exhorted us to count it all joy... Joy is faith's response to trials.

Vs. 3

because you know that the **testing of your faith** produces **perseverance**.

The NIV uses perseverance

The NKJV uses patience

Greek word used here *is hupomone*:

it does not describe a passive waiting but an *active endurance*.

It isn't so much a quality that helps you sit quietly in the doctor's waiting room, as it is the quality that helps you finish a marathon.

The greek root word means to "*remain under*".

It has the picture of someone under a heavy load and choosing to stay there instead of trying to escape.

- Trials don't produce faith, but when trials are received with faith, it produces something called perseverance.

Vs. 4

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature** and complete, not lacking anything.

There was an experiment done in the desert called the biodome. They created a living environment for humans, plants and animal life. A huge glass dome was constructed to house an artificial controlled environment with purified air and water, healthy soil and filtered light. The intent was to afford perfect growing conditions for trees, fruits and vegetables, as well as humans.

People lived in the biodome, for many months at a time, and everything seemed to do well with one exception. When the trees grew to a certain height, they would topple over. It baffled scientists until they realized they forgot to include the natural element of wind. Trees need wind to blow against them because it causes their root systems to grow deeper, which supports the tree as it grows taller.

The wind has a purpose...

The winds challenge the trees big and small...

The winds cause the trees to grow strong...

- The Things that Challenge you are the things that Change you...
- The Challenge is meant to Strengthen You...
- Your Made Better by your Obedience...

Have you ever thought about this: God by design made you to grow through difficulty?

- Difficulty is not necessarily a bad thing...
- The Things that Challenge you are the things that Change you...
- You don't grow physically, mentally or spiritually when you do nothing...
- You Grow in a challenging environment...
- A man with a strong grip didn't get that from playing xbox all day.
- Your muscles grow when placed under resistance.
- It's called resistance training.

The same is true of your faith...

It's resistance training...

It causes your roots to grow deeper...

Your either going deep in God's Word and in his Presence and in your Faith; or your getting blown over...

When the Army is given the task of taking a young man and turning him into a soldier what do they do? They make them do hard things...

When the Navy is given the task of taking a soldier and turning that soldier into a special forces Navy Seal, what do they do? They make them do harder things...

Those soldiers end up doing things they never thought they could do...
God is calling you to Overcome, that means as you walk with Him you will do things you never thought you could do...

...so that you may be **mature** and complete, not lacking anything.

Pain has a Purpose?...

Pain will change you...

Jacob - Joseph - David - The Prodigal Son

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.

1 John 5

4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.