

What if satan's greatest victory isn't getting Christians to stop believing in Jesus, but getting Christians to stop believing what Jesus says about them?

We don't overcome because we become stronger than satan

We overcome because we belong to the One who has already defeated satan

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 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. 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. Revelation 12:9-11 NKJV

Revelation 12 tells us **how the enemy attacks**. Romans 8 tells us why the attack will not ultimately defeat us **Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors** through Him who loved us Romans 8:37 NKJV

Deceived - satan wants us to believe something that isn't True

Revelation 12:9 describes satan as the **one who deceives the whole world**

The Greek word translated deceives is “planaō” (plan-now); it has the meaning of leading astray, causing someone to wander, or leading someone away from truth

That has been satan's strategy from Genesis onward. **Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said... Genesis 3:1 NKJV**

(JM) Notice where the attack begins: **it's not with Eve's behavior, but with Eve's belief**

Satan attacks what we believe because what we believe eventually affects how we live

The enemy **doesn't need you to believe a huge lie**; sometimes he only needs you to believe a slightly distorted truth

Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. Genesis 3:4 NKJV

For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:4 NKJV

One of the most dangerous things about deception is that deceived people rarely know they are deceived. **satan did not tell Eve to stop believing in God. He simply distorted what God had said.** The deception was close enough to the truth that it sounded reasonable

And the same thing can happen to us

We can **talk** and **dress** like Christians, **attend**, know the **songs**, **quote** Scripture, **serve** in ministry, and use all the right **Christian language**, while our hearts are hard and slowly drifting from the truth of God's Word

Deception doesn't **normally begin with someone saying, I don't believe God anymore**, most of the time, it begins so much more subtly

I know what the Bible says, **but...** that little **but** can become the beginning of a very long journey

We begin **allowing culture to reinterpret Scripture**. We allow our **feelings** to determine truth. We excuse what God calls sin. We justify attitudes we once would have repented of

Or... we can even become so **wounded or offended** by another Christian that we begin **justifying bitterness, withholding forgiveness, avoiding reconciliation**, and allowing our hearts to become hard toward a brother or sister in Christ **1 Corinthians 11:27-30**: the warning before communion

We convince ourselves that because we were hurt, **our response is justified**. We become **comfortable with compromises**

And because we still **look like a Christian on the outside**, we may not recognize how far we have drifted on the inside

That is what makes deception so dangerous

A small deviation from truth, **followed long enough**, can lead to a completely different destination in our lives

The question, then, isn't merely: Do I look like a Christian? The deeper question is...

Is my life still being shaped by the truth of God's Word? Or am I separating from God

That's exactly where **Romans 8** becomes so powerful

Paul asks an extraordinary question: **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Romans 8:35 NKJV**

Then Paul begins listing **seven situations** where believers might feel abandoned by God

**"Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"
Romans 8:35 NKJV**

Notice something important: **Paul doesn't say Christians won't experience these things**

But Paul says this: **don't interpret God's love through your circumstances**. Interpret your circumstances through God's love

That's a major mind shift. When life becomes difficult, don't immediately ask

Why doesn't God love me? Instead ask: **How can I trust the God who loves me while I walk through this season of life**

Paul in **Romans 8** never promises that nothing painful will happen in life; **it promises that nothing painful can separate you from Christ**

Accused - satan wants your **failure to become your Identity**

Revelation 12:9-10 moves from deception to accusation. **Revelation 12:10** says he accused them day and night

Deception says: **believe this lie**; Accusation says: **now let that lie define who you are**

You failed, you are a failure - you sinned, you are worthless - you struggled - you must not really be a Christian, your marriage struggled - you're a terrible spouse, your children made choices - you're a terrible parent, your ministry went through difficulty - God can't use you anymore

See what happened? **The enemy took something that happened and turned it into something you are**

Accusation and conviction are different; this distinction is crucial for the Church body

Conviction leads us to repentance and draws us toward Christ, while accusation produces shame, which leads us away from Christ

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1 NKJV

However, the accuser's case **collapses at the Cross**

Revelation 12:11 tells us how believers overcome satan's accusation

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb... Revelation 12:11 NKJV

This is enormously important. **They didn't overcome** because **they could prove satan wrong**

Sometimes satan's accusation **contains uncomfortable truths about what we've done or said**

We did fail, sin; we did say that; we did make that decision

But true Christianity doesn't require us to pretend that those failures did not occur

Paul asks: Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Romans 8:33 NKJV

Think about that! If the Judge of the entire universe has declared you justified because of what Christ has done, what authority does the accuser have to overturn His verdict? **None!**

The Cross doesn't deny our guilt. **It declares that our guilt has been paid for**

Overcomers

Revelation 12:11 says: they overcame him

And Romans 8 takes it even further: Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37 NKJV

The Greek word “conqueror” is hypernikaō. Hyper — beyond, exceedingly. Nikaō — conquer, overcome, prevail

Paul isn't merely saying: You'll survive, He's saying through Christ “we are more than conquerors”

But notice something extremely important: “through Him who loved us”

Overcoming is not produced by our **strength, determination, intelligence, religious performance,** or our **ability to hold everything together**

We overcome through Christ, “through Him who loved us”

We read Romans 8:37 and imagine a Christian who never struggles – “more than conquerors through Him who loved us”

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? “Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword” Romans 8:35 NKJV

The conqueror **isn't someone who never enters the battle;** the conqueror is someone whom the battle cannot separate from the love of Jesus. **Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ**

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come... Romans 8:38 NKJV

nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39 NKJV

Consider **Revelation 12** - Paul specifically includes **angels...principalities...powers**

In other words, **no spiritual power has the authority to separate the believer from Christ**

satan can deceive, accuse, tempt, attack, and intimidate

But there is something he cannot do, satan **cannot separate you from the love of Jesus Christ**

That's why believers can and will overcome

How do we stand when the enemy attacks? **S.T.A.N.D.**

S- Spot the Lie- Ask yourself: What am I believing right now that contradicts what God has said? Don't simply ask, How do I feel? Ask, **Is it true?**

T- Turn away from the Accusation- There is a difference between conviction and condemnation. When you sin, confess it. Don't carry an accusation; Christ has already dealt with it. **1 John 1:9**

A- Apply the Blood- Remember that your standing before God rests on Christ's finished work, **not today's performance.** **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb... Revelation 12:11 NKJV**

N- Name what is True- Replace the enemy's definition of you with **God's declaration over you**

Not: I am my failure, I am what someone said about me, I am what happened to me

Instead say: **I am who God says I am**

D- Declare your identity- Declare what cannot be taken from you

When circumstances become difficult, remind yourself: **I am loved, I am forgiven, I belong to Christ, I am not condemned, I cannot be separated from His love, I am more than a conqueror through Him who loved me**