

Possessing the Spirit of an Overcomer

Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet called *The American Crisis, No. 1* during the American Revolutionary War in December 1776. The famous opening line reads, “*These are the times that try men’s souls.*” It was written to rally the morale of colonial citizens when the Patriot cause seemed discouraging. Washington’s troops were struggling in their fight against British oppression, facing desertion as their enlistments ended. They needed a rallying cry to persevere in the battle.

There is a spirit that every believer needs to possess in order to be a true witness for Christ & live victoriously in these last days. In this message entitled “**Possessing the Spirit of an Overcomer**,” I’ll share why we need such a spirit and how we stand together when it is part of our makeup.

Let’s begin with the importance of a right focus. **Matt. 6:33-34** **TPT** says, “*So above all, constantly seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness, then all these less important things will be given to you abundantly. 34. Refuse to worry about tomorrow, but deal with each challenge that comes your way, one day at a time. Tomorrow will take care of itself.*” Our focus in life above all else must be on the Kingdom of God and His way of doing and being right. This is the same chapter that speaks about fasting. “*When you fast, don’t look gloomy and pretend to be spiritual. They want everyone to know they’re fasting, so they appear in public looking miserable and disheveled. Believe Me they’ve already received their reward. 17-18. When you fast, don’t let it be obvious, but instead, wash your face (or “put oil on your head”) and groom yourself and realize that your Father in the secret place is the One*

who is watching all that you do in secret and will continue to reward you.” Fasting has a reward!

Our nation is in turmoil as forces of lawlessness wrestle to undermine traditional moral values and replace them with toleration for whatever a person chooses to be truth. This will not lead to the freedom that right behavior and being in right standing with God in Christ bring. **Prov. 14:34** *“Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.”* In this verse, righteousness would be the moral character, ethical behavior and right-standing with God of a nation’s people that brings about national success. In order to overcome, God’s people need to have a different Spirit than that of the world. We need to take a page from Gideon’s story.

The Need for an Overcomer

Because Israel worshiped false Gods and did not listen to God’s prophetic voice, it was constantly besieged by the Midianites, Amalekites and other desert tribes when they planted their crops. They would steal the sheep, cattle & donkeys, leaving the Israelites helpless & impoverished, with nothing to live on. Until **v. 11 TPT**: *“The angel of YAHWEH came to the village of Ophrah and sat down under the oak tree that belonged to Joash, a man of the clan of Abiezer. His son Gideon was secretly threshing some wheat in a winepress so that the Midianites would not see him.”* Are we hiding our God-given gifts out of fear that others might mock us or reject us? **12.** *YAHWEH’s Angel suddenly appeared to Gideon and said, “YAHWEH’s presence goes with you, man of fearless courage!”* Notice the activation of the Spirit of the Overcomer here! **TPT note** says, “God prophesied destiny over Gideon. He would become a fearless warrior. God often speaks things that are not visible and brings them into reality (Rom. 4:17; Heb. 11:1). God called Abraham a father of a

multitude before he even had a child. God called Gideon a brave warrior before he even went into battle.

V. 13 *“Me? Gideon replied. “But sir, if YAHWEH is truly with us, why have all these troubles come to us. Where are all His miracle-wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, “Did not YAHWEH deliver us out of Egypt?” But now YAHWEH has abandoned us & put us under the power of the Midianites.”*

14. *Then YAHWEH Himself faced Gideon directly and said, “Am I not sending you? With My presence you have all you need. Go in the strength that you now have and rescue Israel from Midian’s power!”* Gideon is filled with fear, doubt & unbelief.

15. *Gideon said to Him, “But Lord, how could I ever rescue Israel? Of all the thousands in Manasseh, my clan is the weakest, and I’m the least qualified in my family.”* God wants Gideon (& us) to stop looking at his & our self-limitations & trust Him!

16. *YAHWEH replied, “My presence and My power will be with you.* Believe Me, Gideon, you will crush the Midianites as easily as if they were only one man!”* *The Lord spoke the same encouraging words to Moses in Ex. 3:12 when He sent him to bring deliverance from Egypt to the Israelites!

Here Comes the Holy Spirit

The Devil makes his move again, but God’s presence is greater,

for the Israelites were repentant!

Judges 6:33 TPT *“Now all the Midianites, the Amalekites, and the people of the East formed an army. They crossed the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel to fight against Israel. **34. Then the Spirit of YAHWEH clothed Himself in Gideon and enveloped him (Ampl. “The Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon with Himself and took possession of him”)! Gideon sounded a blast of the shofar to call the men of the clan of Abiezer to follow him.”***

Jesus with His disciples after His resurrection: Luke 24:49

TPT *“And behold, I will send forth upon you what My Father has promised; but remain in the city [Jerusalem] **until you are clothed with power from on high.**”*

Oh, God’s wonderful timing!

Isa. 59:19 NKJV says, *“So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, **the Spirit of the Lord** will lift up a standard against him.”* When sudden, overwhelming, destructive trials, temptations or opposition come against us, God raises a standard or banner, the symbol of His presence, to confront & stop the enemy’s advance on our lives, revealing that He’s ready to fight on our behalf!

The Complete Wholeness of Hearing “You’re Righteousness”

Rom. 4:6-8 TPT “David’s Faith” *“Even King David himself speaks to us regarding the **complete wholeness** (NKJV: “blessedness”) that comes inside a person when God’s powerful declaration of righteousness is heard over our life. Apart from our works, God’s word is enough. 7. Here’s what David says: “What happy fulfillment is ahead for those whose rebellion has been forgiven and whose sins are covered by blood. 8. What happy progress comes to them when they hear the Lord speak over them, “I will never hold your sins against you!”* **TPT note:** “The Greek uses the word *logizomai*, which means to take an inventory and settle accounts. God has taken inventory of the virtue of Christ, and through our faith in Him, His perfect righteousness is now deposited in our account. It is settled; we are declared righteous by faith.”

The Triumph of God’s Love

Read Rom. 8:31-39 TPT

V. 37 NKJV “Yet in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.” **SFLB WW:** “More than conquerors” Gk. *hupernikao*. From *huper* “over and above” and *nikao*, “to conquer.” The word describes one who is super victorious, who wins more than an ordinary victory, but who is overpowering in achieving abundant victory. This is not the language of conceit, but of confidence. Christ’s love conquered death, and because of His love, we are *hupernikao*.” **TPT note:** “The love of God gives us “a glorious hyper-victory,” more than can be described or contained in one word. God’s love and grace has made us hyper-conquerors, empowered to be unrivaled, more than a match for any foe!”