

The Benefits of Salvation Series

Promises Given to an Overcomer Part One

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An overcomer has difficulties in life but prevails, conquers, and gets the victory over those difficulties. An overcomer does not see himself or herself as a victim but as one who doesn't think it strange concerning the fiery trials that life brings. Rather, they rejoice.

From 1 Peter 4: ¹Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves with the same resolve, because anyone who has suffered in his body is done with sin.

²Consequently, he does not live out his remaining time on earth for human passions, but for the will of God...¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial that has come upon you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed at the revelation of His glory.

¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵Indeed, none of you should suffer as a murderer or thief or wrongdoer, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶But if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but glorify God that you bear that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹So then, those who suffer according to God's will should entrust their souls to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:1, 2, 13-19 Berean

If we suffer with Christ, we shall also reign with Him. And remember this:

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35-39 KJV

Who is an overcomer? 1 John 5:4 “Whoever is born of God overcomes the world.” In order to be an overcomer one must be born again. John 3:3 says “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

One who overcomes is someone who is born of God; an overcomer overcomes difficulties and prevails against the World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

A.) The World: 1 John 5:4 “For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, [even] our faith.” 1st John 2:15 says “Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” James 4:4 says “whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” To be an overcomer we must prevail against the world. Jesus overcame the world.

B.) The Flesh: This is not a reference to our physical fleshly body; it is dust and returning back to dust. The body reacts to input from the spirit and soul. So we’re talking about what controls the body, what influences the body; who controls us. Thus our minds need to be renewed. Ephesians 4:17-32, for example.

In Ephesians 6 we learn that **we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, and the rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places.** This battle is not against the flesh of any kind. Romans 8:4-8 says “That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

A person who overcomes the flesh has a transformed mind, a spiritual mind. In Matthew 16, Peter was thinking like a man and not the way God thinks; Jesus rebuked Peter as a Satan, an adversary. One who overcomes is being changed in the spirit of his mind.

Romans 12:1, 2: ¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [or worshipful service]. ²Do not be conformed to this world [or, to the pattern of this world], but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ESV

C.) The Devil: We overcome the devil by the Word of God. When Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights He was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tested. Every time the devil tempted Jesus, Jesus replied, “It is written.” The Rhema word is the spoken word of God Himself. It is a living Word.

Let’s review Luke 4:1-13. In the office of Surety, Mediator and Messenger of the New Covenant, and Messiah, Jesus was doing what we cannot do. He fulfilled the Law of God in an obedience that was voluntary and with a willing heart, an obedience that was perfect, personal, and perpetual. **Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Jesus’ mission had a purpose.** He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to fast for 40 days, eating nothing. After the end of those 40 days, Jesus was hungry. It was at this point that the devil comes to Him to tempt Him.

Jesus faced the devil himself. Let’s look.

“And the devil said unto Him, if you are the Son of God,

command this stone that it be made bread.” Luke 4:3

The devil knew who Jesus is. The Father had already declared, **“This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.”** Satan was not asking Jesus to prove He is the Son of God; he was tempting Jesus to sin. He was challenging Jesus to misuse His divine power and position. It is, rather, “Since you are...” Israel had failed in the wilderness. Jesus succeeds. Jesus overcomes.

*“And Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written,
That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” Luke 4:4*

Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy 8:3.

God holds the power of life and death. Jesus’ Name is Word of God. Jesus will voluntarily lay down His life and take it up again according to the commandment given to Him by the Father. Only the Holy Spirit gives life. Life is in Christ, by the Spirit of Christ.

What was at stake was Source...**the Source of Life, the Source of satisfaction, the Source of destiny.**

Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. By the word of God we live or die (cf John 12:46), not food to the flesh. We cannot separate the physical from the spiritual. God must be first in everything. What sustains? **God is Source and Sustainer of Life. Therefore, subjection to the Word is required. We misuse position and power for personal preservation. We are not to question God’s goodness and love.**

“And the devil, taking Him up into a high mountain, showed unto Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto Him, All this power will I give You, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If You therefore will worship me, all shall be Yours.” Luke 4:5-7

Wow. You do know that the devil is a liar. The temptation is that Jesus should not have to walk the Servant’s role in order to win the right to govern the kingdoms of the world. Skip the crucifixion and get right to it, right now. Why suffer as Messiah on behalf of a people? Why bear their sin and curse when You Yourself are the Son of God? But it was necessary that the Christ should suffer; and we know that Jesus died, but also rose again. (Luke 24)

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get behind Me, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.” Luke 4:8

Again, Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy, this time from Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20.

Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world and authority and glory in exchange for worship. **“Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”** But the Father had already promised to give the Son all the kingdoms of the world (Psalm 2:7, 8), only first the Son had to suffer and die (Luke 24:25-27). A onetime worship of Satan would eliminate the necessity of the cross (cf Matthew 16:21-23). Why? Well, Jesus would no longer qualify, for one reason. We must remember that Satan seeks worshipers. He wants to take God’s place and receive what is rightfully God’s. (Isaiah 14) Even if

Satan's offer was valid, the terms were unacceptable. Jesus answered and said to him "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, **'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'**"

What brings satisfaction? In serving the Source, all that is His is mine (Matthew 28:18). God gave humanity dominion over creation, the kingdoms and their glory, as an honor. It is an honor to serve the Creator with our worship and our caring for the creation. **God is the Source of satisfaction, power, throne, authority, and dominion** (cf Revelation 13), not Satan, that dragon. **Therefore, submission to the worship of God is required.**

Being living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God is our reasonable service, our spiritual worship. (Romans 12.1) Whatever we worship, we will serve. **We misuse position and power for personal promotion and profit.** Satan would have us start with glory and end with suffering, desiring that we sacrifice the eternal for the temporary and take the path of least resistance, especially resistance against him! **We are not to question God's promise, His hope, or His ways.**

"And he brought Him to Jerusalem and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple and said unto Him, If [since] You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down from hence: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge over You, to keep You; and in their hands they shall bear You up, lest at any time You dash Your foot against a stone." Luke 4:9-11

The devil fires back with some scripture himself. He quotes Psalm 91:11. He tempts Jesus to tempt God. But Jesus is God in flesh. Jesus answers with a rebuke.

"And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, You shall not tempt the Lord your God." Luke 4:12

Jesus again quoted from Deuteronomy, this time Deuteronomy 6:16. This stopped the devil.

"And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from Him for a season." Luke 4:13

God is the Source of destiny. Submission to the will of God is required. Therefore, we are to live a life of self-denial (humility). We misuse power and position for personal protection and self-assertion. Neither Satan nor "self" determines our destiny. God does. **To do otherwise, is to tempt God, to put Him to the test. We must not question the Father's faithfulness by forcing the proving of a promise. Putting God to the test occurs when He is tempted to go against His nature and ways, to go outside of who He is in Himself. It is, therefore, tempting God to do evil. For example, we do this when we want God to approve our ways and nature rather than to submit to His ways and nature.**

It comes down to this. Whose Word do we hear and obey? To whose will do we submit? To submit to, to serve, to assert any spiritual authority other than the One true and living God is idolatry, witchcraft, anti-Christ, counterfeit spiritual authority. Had Jesus "fallen" for Satan's temptations, He would have lost authority not gained it. **In the**

temptations of Word, Worship, and Will, spiritual authority...true spiritual authority...was at stake.

In the wilderness, Israel failed the test. They looked to other sources for life, for satisfaction, for destiny. The first Adam failed the test, too. His unbelief, his turning to hear and obey, to give obeisance to another word, another will, and another wisdom, cut the umbilical cord to life in God. In serving the words of the serpent, he took the name of the Lord as empty of power, as untrue. In unbelief, in believing the lie, he worshipped the Liar. Humanity plunged into the estate of sin and misery, spiritually dead, unable to save himself.

Had Jesus fallen to the temptation, His inward integrity would have been shattered. The devil failed to shake Christ at His core, to lead Him outside of who He is and what He came to do on behalf of His own.

Jesus came out in the power of the Spirit. Jesus quoted Scripture and overcame, even when the Devil also quoted Scripture. Jesus is God, fully God and fully Man. As such the devil had it backwards. The creature owes the Creator obedience. It was not Jesus who should bow down and worship the devil; it was the devil who should bow down and worship and serve the Creator.

We will face the same tests, and we will fail them. That's why Jesus came...the Beloved Son of God...to be our Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One. He was sent by the Father to save. That salvation is in Christ alone.

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