



OVERCOMERS

1. Definition

- To overcome sin in our lives

2. Process of overcoming

- Paul describes his daily battle with himself overcoming sin, calling himself a "**wretched man**" - Rom 7.
- Paul explains that since the "**wages of sin is death**" - Rom 6:23, we "**die**" daily because we sin daily.
- Overcoming requires true repentance of sin and turning away from the sin that ensnares us - Rom 2:4.
- The only way to win this battle is to have an unconditional surrender to let Christ direct our lives.
- Although Paul says we may sin daily, he is not talking about going out daily and committing the physical acts of adultery or murder.
- Paul is talking about the condition of our hearts (our thoughts), and how our thoughts are not completely pure – Jer 17: 9.
- In this physical life, we still battle daily against thoughts of coveting, lusting, and hate.
- As we overcome, our sinful thoughts and sinful acts should become fewer and farther between because we will grow in Christ's righteousness and He will give us the strength to overcome.
- Paul knew the "mystery" of the power of Christ in him.
- The Apostle Paul is talking about Christ delivering him from being a slave of sin!
- **This is the true meaning of overcoming!** Paul understood that Christ is "**the beginning and finisher**" of our salvation – Rev 1:5, and joyfully thanked Jesus Christ for His help in overcoming

3. Rewards for overcomers

- To be clothed in white garments - Rev. 3:5
 - a. White garments are not the same as the free gift of righteousness. Justification is a gift by faith based on Jesus' worthiness, not ours (Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:4-7). Our garments begin with the gift of righteousness that is imputed to us by faith (2 Cor. 5:21). However, these garments express each believer's dedication. They differ with each believer according to their life in this age.

- To buy white garments - Rev. 3:18
 - a. To be naked or shamed in eternity is to be devoid of the reward of heavenly garments. All believers have the robe of righteousness, yet Jesus warns us of the shame of nakedness or “lacking the reward of clothing” that reveals one’s commitment to Jesus in this age.
- To receive the crown of life - Rev. 2:10
 - a. This is not the same as the gift of eternal life that all born again believers automatically receive by faith. This crown is not related to salvation but to our place of function in His Kingdom (government/infrastructure). God will only give this crown to believers worthy of it. This reward includes the increased capacity to experience and impart God’s life or glory in the age-to-come.
- To be given power over the nations - Rev. 2:26-27
 - a. This refers to reigning in the Millennial Kingdom (Lk. 19:11 -27; 2 Tim. 2:12 ; Rev. 3:21). Some will receive greater authority than others (2 Cor. 5:10). The reward for faithfulness in resisting immorality is to reign with Christ in His earthly kingdom. Not all believers will reign in the Millennial Kingdom .
- Expressing Jesus’ authority - Rev. 3:21
 - a. This promise is offered to all Christians in the Millennium (Rev. 5:10; 11:15 ; 20:4). Jesus promised the apostles that they would sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Mt. 19:28; Lk. 22:29-30).
- To be a pillar in God’s temple - Rev. 3:12
 - a. Jesus’ zeal is seen in giving us positions of authority as pillars in His government. To be a pillar is a position of governmental authority and honor in the Millennial Kingdom . All believers are part of God’s spiritual temple (Eph. 2:21 -22), but some will be pillars who hold a position of authority, responsibility and honor in the Millennium.
- To be given a white stone with a new name written on it - Rev. 2:17
 - a. Precious stones were given as awards to honor those who offered valiant service to the community or in battle. Those receiving these stones were also given special privileges like receiving a gold medal. A white stone with one's name on it gave them admission to special events, including the games and feasts hosted by the government of the Roman Empire .

- To be given the morning star - Rev. 2:28
 - a. The Morning Star is a reference to Jesus (Num 24:17-19). A deep relationship with Jesus is promised. Jesus as the Morning Star is an expression of His face being like the sun (Rev. 1:16).

- To be given some hidden manna - Rev. 2:17
 - a. Hidden manna speaks of having an increased capacity to be fed by revelation of the Word in this age and in the age-to-come. This manna will be given to us in fullness at the Marriage Supper. In the Tribulation, God's people may receive natural "manna" in the wilderness (Rev. 12:6, 14).

- To not blot out our name but confess it before the Father - Rev. 3:5
 - a. I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life does refer to losing one's salvation.

- To be vindicated before our persecutors - Rev. 3:9
 - a. I will make them...to know that I have loved you – the Father will reveal to the nations the fact that He loves His people. On the last day, unbelievers will witness Jesus' love towards the people they persecuted. Jesus will reveal His love for His Bride before their persecutors. An expression of His deep love is the desire to openly make love known on the last day. The Father will openly manifest His love for His children before the nations.

- Intimate revelation of God's heart - Rev. 3:12
 - a. The greatest place of intimacy available to the human spirit is found in Jesus writing on the heart and mind of the faithful the name of the Father, the New Jerusalem and His own new name.

- Intimate revelation of God's city - Rev. 3:12
 - a. Jesus will give the faithful the authority in the City and ability to comprehend it. Some are given the key to a city or are called a father of that city to honor their connection to that city. This points to their unusual authority, commitment and understanding of that city.

- Intimate revelation of God's son - Rev. 3:12
 - a. Jesus will reveal His heart and beauty to the faithful. Jesus' new name speaks of a fuller revelation of His nature as the God-Man as seen in Rev. 19:12.

- To buy gold refined in God's fire - Rev. 3:18
 - a. The gold of godly character makes us rich in this age by tenderizing our heart to feel more of God's love and enlarging our desire for Him and for righteousness
- To receive the anointing of revelation - Rev. 3:18
 - a. Jesus was saying that we must take action to cure our spiritually sick eyes. Only the Holy Spirit can give us revelation of Jesus and His Word. However, we can take natural steps in taking time to feed on the Word and to turn our eyes away from worthless things that dull our spirit.
- Intimacy with Jesus - Rev. 3:20
 - a. I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me – to eat together in covenant intimacy or in deep fellowship as the Spirit tenderizes our heart to feel more of His love by increasing our revelation of Jesus and zeal for righteousness. The eternal application of this refers to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9; Lk 22:16 , 29, 30; Mt. 26:29; Mk 14:25).
- To eat from the tree of life in the midst of paradise - Rev. 2:7
 - a. All believers eat from the Tree of Life. However, there maybe a special privilege for eating from the Tree that is in the “midst” of the Paradise of God.
- To not be hurt at the second death - Rev. 2:11
 - a. The second death is eternal separation from God (Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8). The first death is the death of our physical body when the spirit of the unbeliever goes to hell.

4. Summary

Keep your focus on overcoming sin in your life with Jesus' help