

Every Believer is called to overcome in this walk of faith



Yeshua: "[To] the one who overcomes..." Revelation 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26; 3:5, 3:12, 3:21

## To the One Who Overcomes

This week as I was thinking about the churches in Revelation 2-3, I remembered that all the congregations listed had at least one significant promise (I counted 13 total promises) to be brought to the one who overcame. Every congregation was called to overcome.

Every Believer will have to overcome some things. There's difficulty for every human who is born on the earth (sickness, accidents, difficulties, relational stress are common to all). But there are greater challenges promised to us as Believers as we follow the Lord:

- we reprove and speak up against the oppressor and injustice;
- we share the Gospel with others (some who aren't excited that we are sharing--especially in light of the foundational step in accepting the Gospel is repentance);
- we love, forgive, and bless all (even our enemies);
- we are to take up our cross daily and die to our own wishes and desires where they are contrary to God's word or plan;
- we are peacemakers who consistently attempt to help make things right with others even when it would be easier and more comfortable not to get involved;
- we are those who consistently ask God to "let Your Kingdom come, let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We ache at the gap between heaven and earth's present reality.
- we can prayerfully read through the beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) for other challenging parts of our "job description";

Frankly I'm convicted as I read most of these. I'm not walking in the fulness of the reality that God would have for me....and you're probably not either. We have much room for improvement.

Dear saint, what are you presently in the process of having to overcome? Have you become discouraged, overwhelmed? Is this trial threatening to wear you out or cause you to shrink back? The Scripture calls us to not be surprised by these fiery trials (1 Peter 4:12) as if something abnormal is happening to us. Ironically, we are actually commanded to rejoice in the midst of our suffering/adversity (1 Peter 1:6; 4:13; Romans 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:16; Philippians 4:4; James 1:2; Matthew 5:12, etc.). Why is this? Here's what these challenges are intended to bring:

- Our suffering is working something positive in us (James 1:2, Romans 5:3)
- We are connecting to Yeshua and His suffering (1 Peter 4:13)
- There are greater rewards coming to us that are commensurate with the greater the suffering (Matthew 5:12-13, 2 Corinthians 4:17)
- We have the opportunity to follow the lead of our Savior who suffered the most significantly for our sakes and has been exalted to the highest place (Philippians 2).
- As we stay connected with other Believers in the midst of our mutual trials we are able to both receive and give greater support and encouragement (Romans 12:15, Hebrews 10:25)

And if you are in a time of lesser adversity or challenge, then it should be an anomaly. If you are in one of these seasons draw close to the Lord and ask Him to use you to comfort and help lift the burdens of others while you wait for an inevitable coming challenge that you will have to patiently overcome.

I'll close with 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 which is an encouraging Scripture for those in a place of significant challenge.

*16Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

I'm grateful for you all and look forward to hearing of good reports in the groups this weekend.