

How to be an Overcomer and Have Victory Over All Things



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How to be an Overcomer and Have Victory Over All Things

An eBook by Brother SteveZ with Faith for the Last Days Ministries

Web Site: <https://www.faithforthelastdays.com/>

A word from the author:

All scriptures used in this eBook are from [*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), which I jokingly tell my friends is the version Jesus used.

Words in **RED** are the words of Jesus. Words in **BLUE** are the words of scripture found in the bible. Words in **BLACK** are either descriptive narratives from the bible or the words of the author of this eBook.

I urge every reader to read through the entire eBook and then go back, open your bible, and reread all the scriptures presented. Take the time to read the scriptures in the context in which each is written. Read the verses before the scripture and the verses after the scripture. Do not just take my word for what is presented. Read the Word for yourselves. Be like the ones identified in the New Testament by Luke, the writer of the Book of Acts. Luke commended the Greeks in Berea when they heard the gospel because they studied the Word.

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” Act. 17:11.

As you should with any bible teaching that lines up with the Word; receive it, then study it to make sure it is accurate.

Much scripture is used in this eBook. The Word is powerful and alive when received under the influence of the Holy Spirit. I further urge the reader, to read with the desire to allow the Holy Spirit of God to take your understanding and revelation of the subject matter far beyond where my words can take you. Allow the scriptures to teach you.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Ti 3:16–17.

Topic — I am discussing the biblical mandate to overcome. When a Christian walks in the lifestyle of overcoming he/she can be considered an Overcomer. My purpose is to teach the church about the concept of overcoming, what it looks like, how to do it, and the blessings and promises to those who do overcome. My ultimate goal is to teach you how to be an Overcomer.

My prayer is that you will take the teachings found in this eBook and not just learn how to overcome, but actively live a lifestyle of overcoming. I pray that you take the teachings learned and apply the scriptures deeply in your heart so you can enter into a place within the Kingdom of God where you, as a Christian, will not only see the power of God in this present world ("I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living." Ps 27:13), but will also heap eternal rewards that cannot be taken away ("And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work." Re 22:12).

Being an Overcomer is what the Lord Jesus Christ has called the Church to be in these last days. Being an Overcomer opens the door to the power of the Holy Spirit, which we all need if we hope to successfully face what is about to happen very soon in this world.

It is my sincerest prayer that somehow I can convey what the Lord has put into my heart for you, as a Member of the Body of Christ, and to the Church on the earth. I believe for you to have ears to hear, a mind to perceive, and a heart to understand. As you read, I confess the following over you:

“...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Eph 1:17–23.

So, read forward with an expectation of being challenged and encouraged. May the Lord richly bless, as you work your way through this Christian life teaching.

-About the Author; Brother SteveZ-

The online ministry of Faith for the Last Days was spoken into SteveZ's heart during the initial stages of the pandemic. The urging of the Holy Spirit has grown to the present day. SteveZ is an ordained elder & minister and has been a pastor, evangelist, traveling teacher, conference speaker, and walking with the Lord for over 40 years. SteveZ has been married for almost 40 years to his one wife, has four beautiful daughters, and many grandchildren (with more on the way).

Faith for the Last Days YouTube Channel Link:

<http://www.youtube.com/@faithforthelastdays>

Prelude: The majority of this eBook is addressed to people who know Jesus Christ as their Savior and King. They're part of the universal church (God's people across the entire earth). They are part of the Kingdom of God where Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the King of their lives. They're true born-again Christian believers in Jesus Christ the Messiah.

If you have not personally given your heart to Jesus at some point in your life, or you might have said a prayer of salvation somewhere in the past, but you're not feeling certain about your position with God or your salvation, please do the following:

! STOP HERE !

Go to and read the Epilogue at the end of this eBook first.
Do it before you continue.

Read no further until you are certain you have Jesus truly and completely in your life. Why am I asking you to pause your reading if you are not sure of your right standing with God? Because we are about to start discussing things of the Spirit. Not just spiritual concepts but the working and power of the Holy Spirit.

"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Co 2:14.

Without the Holy Spirit making you alive in Jesus Christ, you will miss much of the meaning and purpose of this eBook. Even worse, you will miss Jesus Christ Himself.

Read the end of this eBook first and do what it says. Then return to this spot and continue reading.

[Link to Epilogue at the end of this eBook](#)

Introduction to Faith for The Last Days:

Faith for The Last Days is a bible teaching ministry focused on developing the church into the image of Christ through faith. The church needs to prepare in faith for the return of the Lord ([Lk. 18:8](#)). We have a mission to equip the Body of Christ with knowledge by teaching the Word that gives God's people the power to overcome and how to live as Overcomers ([Rev. 2:1-3:22](#)).

We desire to fulfill the biblical mandate of preaching Christ crucified and risen from the dead. We believe in making disciples of those who would be saved. We believe in empowering God's people to receive and walk in the Way of the Lord Jesus Christ ([Acts 18:25 and Acts 19:9](#)) along with all of the promises, blessings, and power of the New Covenant.

Why is Faith for The Last Days starting now?

Faith for The Last Days is starting because we have a "burden of the Lord". The burden is not a heavy oppression, it is a calling and an anointing of the Holy Spirit that lays on the heart of men and women to do and fulfill the righteous acts of the Holy Spirit. It is a yearning of the heart given by God to fulfill what the Lord has called us to complete for the Kingdom of God during our lives. Faith for The Last Days is a ministry that, we believe, the Lord has called us to fulfill. It is a call to teach and encourage the Church to rise up to face the darkness that is happening right now, and is about to become more real to the entire earth very soon. Read below to gain a clearer picture of what we are talking about.

The times we live in.

It is evident that we are living in troubled times. Much of what we see happening in the world today is presented in the bible as the "Beginning of Sorrows", which relates to the starting of birth pains that a woman has during the process of giving birth to a child. The troubles the earth is seeing with wars and rumors of war, worldwide sicknesses, and pestilences, along with the increase of natural disasters, and the breakdown of godly behavior and standards in society, are all indicators that the time is getting close to the fulfillment of scripture and the return of the Lord.

Any bible believing person, that does not have their head in the sand, can see the world is heading towards a nexus. The atmosphere of societies is heading toward darkness. God has said in His Word that the world will grow dark as we near the end of times. The Bible clearly explains that there will be a world-wide trouble which will consume the minds and hearts of the global population. It will be troubling times indeed. It will be a global oppression which all people of the earth will have to face, either in strength, or to succumb to the spirit of the age behind and empowering it. God's Word lays out how it will unfold and how there will arise an Antichrist to lead the world against God and His people. The Antichrist will be a world leader and will appear on earth's stage during the very last seven years before the return of Christ.

Events seen in the news show that the governments of the earth are gravitating towards a one-world government, which will ultimately try to control all people upon the earth. The rise of the Antichrist has been prophesied in the bible.

However, the prophetic declarations found in the bible concerning the very end of the last days and the circumstances that will enable and empower the Antichrist, have not been able to be previously completed due to the lack of the means to do so. The Book of Revelation describes one way the Antichrist will attempt to dominate the world by commerce as seen below:

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Re 13:16–17.

Such concepts as a worldwide financial system and currency, and the means to practically implement and enforce such a system, have not been present until the current age of the internet and digital currency.

As will be seen later, Jesus described the last days as a woman going into labor with the birth of a child. As with natural pregnancy and birth, the contractions start out mild and then grow in frequency and intensity as time progresses. The current time is just at the beginning of the birth pangs. The circumstances in the world are going to become increasingly dire and the church needs to be ready to face what is coming.

Will the Church be part of the End? Or will the Church be caught up?

No matter what your eschatology (theology of the end times) is concerning the rapture or catching away of the church, the earth is entering a time of increased darkness and will be facing challenges that have not had to be confronted on a worldwide basis in the entire history of mankind. The people of God need faith, we need the Word, and we need to know how to apply faith to the Word to overcome.

The worldwide Body of Christ is soon to be required to be the light in darkness as it has never been needed before. If ready, the Church will be comprised of those that overcome. By the grace of God, we, the people of God, will be entering our finest hour as Overcomers in Christ Jesus. **“For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.”**
Is 60:2.

Section 1:

Chapter 1: Concept of Overcoming

Disclaimer - Throughout this eBook, we will be addressing challenges and issues the Church and God's people are facing now, and will be facing soon with much more intensity. We want to be very clear that when programs, systems, denominations, organizations, training tools, and other means and methods are mentioned, we are not coming against them. The majority are all very important. Actually, many are needed and should continue to be used. But as will be seen from the Word, without the presence of the Holy Spirit in them and upon them, they have no eternal value and do not benefit the Kingdom of God.

Oxford Dictionary's definition of "Overcome"

Succeed in dealing with a problem.

Defeat an Opponent, Prevail

Matthew 24 talks about the signs of the times and the End of the Age. The scripture says that as Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him asking about the end of the age or the Last Days. See below:

”Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”
Mt 24:3-12.

Now, one could say that there have been wars and rumors of wars even from the time of Jesus going forward. And of course that would be true. The distinction is what is being seen today is the frequency, the intensity, and additional circumstances that are lining up. The greater number of prophetic presentations of events foretold from the bible allows us to see that the world is truly headed into the very last of the last days.

According to the Word, the "last days" officially started on the Day of Pentecost (Jewish feast day). At His Ascension to Heaven, Jesus instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem to be given the power they needed to fulfill their assignments for the Kingdom of God.

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” Lk 24:49.

The event above that Jesus told His disciples to wait for is described in the Book of Acts in Chapter 2. On the Jewish Feast Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fell upon the 120 disciples in the upper room waiting on the blessing as the Lord instructed.

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1–4.

The disciples filled with indescribable joy and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, ran down from the upper room onto the street. Because of their actions and exuberant declarations of the majesty of God in other tongues (languages), the people on the street thought they were drunk.

However, Peter stood up, set the record straight, and preached the first sermon about the risen Christ, where over 3,000 people were saved. In his message to the people, the Apostle Peter, under the unction and power of the Holy Spirit, time-tagged the event. Peter quoted the Prophet Joel ([Joel 2:28](#)) and said:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;...” Ac 2:17.

So, according to the bible we have been in the last days since the Day of Pentecost over 2,000 years ago. By the very definition of the "last days", there will be a very last day of the last days. According to Jesus, there will be an ending “...and then the end will come.” Mt 24:14. So we see there is an end and that according to the prophets, apostles, and Jesus Himself, as we get closer to the end, the world will become a more treacherous and dangerous place to live. Additionally, the stirring up of evil by satan and his demonic hordes will multiply in the hearts and minds of ungodly people and government characters. They will make the lives of those who want to serve God significantly more challenging and difficult.

We can see the rise of the ungodly and unholy trying to dominate our lives through unscrupulous men and women right now. They attempt to pervert the minds of children with the pushing of the LGPT agenda. Causing confusion about gender, the emasculation of manhood, and being a man of God, thus weakening the man's position as the leader of the family. We see wanton and horrific attempts by abortionists to murder children and even sell their body parts. We see large segments of the population leaning towards a one-world government, which opens the door to totalitarianism. We see the breakdown of governments and borders. We see the preparation and push for a government-controlled digital currency. We see the weakening, and compromise of Christian standards, denominations, and Christian leaders. We see the increase of witchcraft, and demonic acceptance, in schools, campuses, governments, and society. We see lawlessness in the streets and the lack of righteous government responses. And the list goes on and on.

Therefore, as we approach the very end of the last days, there will be very difficult times indeed, especially if you are trying to live for the Lord, as Paul clearly stated in 2 Timothy below:

[“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” 2 Ti 3:12–13.](#)

Moreover, as we approach the end (you can say the last of the last days or the final days), we know from the Book of Daniel, the Book of Revelation, and other scriptures, that there will be a final seven-year period right before the Lord Jesus returns. That final seven-year period is often referred to as The Tribulation. It is basically split into two, three and half (3.5) year periods that flow together. The second 3.5-year period is worse than the first and is also known as Jacob's Trouble as identified by the Prophet Jeremiah.

[“Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble,...” Je 30:7.](#)

The tribulation period will be the very most horrific time that has ever been upon the face of the earth. Many believe that the Church (people, not buildings, but true believers in Jesus Christ) will be raptured or caught up to heaven before or at the time of the tribulation.

The word rapture is not in the Bible. The word rapture is used in English when describing the church being "caught up" into the heavenlies with Jesus. The use of "rapture" is taken from a Latin translation of the bible that translated the original Greek and used "rapiemur" (another form of "rapturo"), which has obvious similarities to the English "rapture". Thus the word rapture is not in the bible but is commonly used to describe and identify the event of the Church being caught up with Jesus in the air.

The term "caught up" is the English translation of the original Greek word "harpazo" (pronounced har-pod-zo). Harpazo literally means to catch up or snatch away. Harpazo as it relates to the rapture of the church is found in [1 Thes. 4:17](#); see verses 15 to 17 below:

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Th 4:15–17.

“Caught up” (harpazo) in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is the same word utilized to describe how the Spirit of God took Philip from one place to another geographic region instantaneously in Acts 8: 39. It is the same word describing what Paul talked about being caught up to Paradise in 2 Corinthians 12:2. Both describe a sudden disappearance from their current surroundings and being taken to another place entirely.

Now there are many theories of how and when the rapture will occur. However, there are three main prevalent theories on the timing of the rapture. All three theories focus on the last seven years before the return of the Lord.

The three main theories are pre-tribulation or pre-trib (rapture before the start of the seven-year period), mid-trib (the rapture at the middle point or 3.5 years into the seven-year period), and the post-trib theory (rapture at the end of the seven-year period or when Jesus physically returns to earth).

This eBook is not meant to delve into the rapture subject in any great depth. We reference it because it's important to the concept of being an Overcomer in these last days.

No matter which eschatology you hold to (eschatology is the study of the last things in the last days), it is clear and evident that the last days will be times of persecution, trials, tribulations, toils, wars, pestilences, natural disasters, financial turmoils, hate, prejudices, treacheries, plus the general burden of daily life in addition to all the above.

So why are we referencing the rapture of the Church? Because we are finding there is an unbalanced emphasis on the rapture in many churches today. Please read carefully – we are **not** saying that the rapture of the church is an incorrect doctrine! We truly believe the catching up or harpazo of the church is going to happen. It is clearly stated in multiple places in the word of God. The truth of the coming event is not the question. The challenge is our concern that the church is developing a mindset of escapism, instead of a heart of endurance.

Preachers that focus on the rapture are perhaps unwittingly developing a posture and an attitude within their congregations of living for escape, instead of living and developing Godly endurance and faith to overcome.

If you're expecting a taxi to pick you up in the middle of the race before you have to run the hills, you don't train and develop endurance to finish the full race. What happens if a day before the race is supposed to start, the course is changed and the hills are much sooner and higher than you expected? You don't have the strength and endurance to finish the race and have to drop out or collapse on the roadside.

No matter when the rapture of the church occurs, there is going to be persecution, tribulation, difficulties, sicknesses, diseases, wars and rumors of war, and great natural disasters are going to increase in intensity and frequency. Because we see a focus on the escape and not the endurance through faith, a large portion of the church is not being instructed (nor do they even see the need to be instructed) on how to succeed, thrive, endure, and yes, even overcome the events that are on the horizon of our lives.

As an example; The worldwide pandemic caught everyone flat-footed. It caught the church flat-footed. It caught the world and the governments of the world by surprise. It was a massive test run or a worldwide probing of the spirit of antichrist to see how the peoples of the world and the Church would respond to governments becoming overlords instead of the government being "God's minister" as stated they should be in Romans.

“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.” Rom. 13:3–4.

What happens when governments are the ones practicing evil and demand that citizens go against God’s truth and His Word? We have seen and will see what happens. Fear, financial pressures, food shortages, and the lack of basic necessities will give the opportunity for God’s people to either rise up in faith or fold like a house of cards. We look back and laugh now, but do not forget the riots in shopping centers over toilet paper!

Jesus tells us what is going to happen. **“Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.”** Mk 13:12.

We saw the precursor of the above scripture happening during the pandemic. We remember very clearly hearing stories on the news of how children were turning in parents and parents turning in children because they didn't adhere to the government regulations being imposed. God's people were told not to have church meetings, and other stipulations were put in place because of the fear of the disease.

Church leaders suspended meetings and shut down the preaching of the Gospel. While others rose up and said no! "I will do what the Lord tells me to do". Those that rose up were persecuted and arrested, and faced great financial stress because of their actions of faithfulness to the Word of God.

Sadly, large segments of the church around the world have succumbed to pressures and fears of unholy concepts and the actual spirit of the world. The sections of the church that we're speaking of, are the ones that are accepting and embracing the lightly masked spirit of antichrist that is spreading pervasively throughout the world. The above is just a taste of what is on its way.

Therefore, we conclude that there is an immediate need for the Church and the people of God to recognize how desperate the hour really is. If we do not embrace the concept of being an Overcomer, we will be overcome.

It is the responsibility of the church and God's people to take a stand for what the Word says. We were instructed by Jesus to do so. We read in the Gospel of Luke we are to **“occupy”** till he returns. Jesus said **“...’Do business till I come.’...”** Lk 19:13. **“Do business”** is actually one word in the original language meaning **“Occupy”** or **“occupy yourself with the business of the Kingdom”** until He returns. The challenge is being ready for what is coming next, we will discuss some specifics in the Sections and Chapters below.

Chapter 2: Overcoming the Lack of Power

There is a problem in the Church. Many denominations, non-denominational groups and churches, and Christian organizations that were once recognized for their anointing and the moving of the Holy Spirit, have over time, forgotten the presence of the Lord. They have moved to man-made systems and programs. The self-centered organizations and church programs have become their own standard of success, instead of the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives being the measure to judge by.

“For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.” 2 Co 10:12.

This of course creates an environment that rejects and leaves no space for the anointing and presence of the Holy Spirit. The works of man are nothing but self righteousness. It is the Lord who is the true judge.

“For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.” 2 Co 10:18.

When the pandemic started to hit, the Holy Spirit very clearly spoke to the author of this eBook. The Holy Spirit presented Matthew 25 concerning the Parable of the Ten Virgins and He said **“A cry has been made”**.

“And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’...” Mt 25:6.

In the bible, the Church is referred to as the Bride of Christ. Jesus is portrayed as the Bridegroom. According to Jewish culture at the time of Jesus on earth, the bride and bridegroom would be engaged or betrothed. Then the groom would return home by himself to add an addition to his father's house for him and his new wife. The groom would be gone for some time preparing the new home. It was unknown how long he would be gone until his task was done.

But the friends of the bridegroom would be waiting in anticipation for the groom to return. None knew what day or hour he would show up. So if he came in the evening, the friends of the bridegroom would run ahead in the streets with torches in their hands declaring loudly to those waiting that the groom was coming, and all should get ready and go out to meet him.

This is a wonderful analogy of Christ departing to heaven (His Father's house) after His death and resurrection, and then returning for His bride at an undisclosed hour as described in John 14 below:

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” Jn 14:1–4.

And in Matthew 24 the bible tells us that the exact time and date of Jesus' return is a mystery. “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” Mt 24:36.

Moreover, Matthew 25 obviously follows directly after Matthew 24. In Matthew 24, as has already been briefly discussed in this eBook, Jesus laid out the signs, events, and predictions for the very end of the last days so we can understand the *season* of the end of days. An identifier of the season is being able to hear “the cry” that the Bridegroom is on His way.

The Holy Spirit said “A cry has been made”. It was very clear what he meant, which we will explore below.

The Lord meant that this was a literal example of an actual foretold event. The worldwide pandemic was a cry being made. It was a warning shout. A loud notification that Jesus was describing in Matthew 24. In the very next chapter of Matthew 25, Jesus states in Verse 1 by saying “Then the kingdom of God shall be like ten virgins...”

When Jesus says “**Then**” he's tying it to the very next sequence following Chapter 24. Therefore, a cry has been made, and that cry will be heard by those who are ready to hear it. The cry is saying “get ready”! “Make yourself ready”! We all need to be ready to go out and meet the Bridegroom. Because He is preparing to be on His way, we need to be ready to meet Him.

The question we have to ask the reader is: “Are you ready to meet Him?” Are you ready in the context of Matthew 24 and 25? Before you answer, let's briefly examine the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25.

Jesus explains to us in this parable that there were ten virgins, five of which were wise and five were foolish.

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. Mt 25:1–5.

Oil in the Bible most times represents the anointing, power, and presence of the Holy Spirit. The five Foolish Virgins had their lamps. The five Wise Virgins had their lamps and also had vessels. The vessels were reserves, or an additional pail or container designed to hold extra oil. The Wise Virgins were prepared for a long night.

“And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.” Mt 25:6–10.

The wise were the Overcomers who had the oil in their lamps/torches. They had a light, but they also had the reserves needed to hold them through. They had the presence of the Holy Spirit to back up their testimony and actions. They were ready to overcome the adversity that the wait for the Bridegroom would create. They were prepared to endure.

The foolish had lamps with light, but time, circumstances, and events caused them to use up their oil. They had no reserves. They had not properly prepared. The foolish could not support themselves through the events that were about to unfold. The foolish were not ready to overcome.

The foolish virgins had an affinity for or thought they could, borrow oil.

It could be viewed as ironic that this is an eBook and it's connected to an online ministry called Faith for The Last Days.

The ironic part is that in these last days, there are multitudes of people who borrow oil all the time. They borrow oil from online ministries, from reading books, from watching videos, from vicariously interacting with preachers and teachers online. They get stirred up watching and listening then go their way, but they take no time to personally cultivate the oil of the Holy Spirit and obtain it in their own hearts. The foolish don't have vessels with reserves to hold them through. The foolish keep thinking they can borrow oil whenever they want. That is until a cry is made.

There are numerous organizations, societies, denominations, churches, and church groups that at one time had a movement of the Holy Spirit. They had an overflow of the presence of God. They had blessing and reserves of oil, but have since grown stale and too dignified to be moved by the power of the Holy Spirit. They are also living off of the borrowed oil of the past.

As Christians, if we are hoping to make it through the last days and actually survive to the rapture, we need to be ready to face calamity. We cannot be living off of borrowed oil.

We must develop reserves of our own. To be an Overcomer is to have that reserve of oil. We must take the time to obtain it, and be willing to pay whatever price is necessary. It is the Pearl of Great Price. **“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”** Mt 13:45–46.

The Overcomer is the one who spends the time in the Word of God until it becomes a light to their path. **“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”** Ps 119:105. The Overcomer is the one who spends the time in prayer until it becomes part of who they are. **“I am Prayer.”** Ps 109:4. The Overcomer is the one who develops a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that allows them to know His voice, they hear His voice, they can discern His voice from the many other voices that are being spoken in this world. **“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”** Jn 10:27.

The Overcomer is one who is willing to wait on the Lord and seek His face until they are renewed by the Holy Spirit and receive power from God. **“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”** Lk 24:49.

The Overcomer is the one who is going to have the discernment to understand and identify truth because they have a love of the truth. **“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”** Heb 5:14.

The Overcomer knows whom they are believing in and will never let go. “For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;...” Job 19:25. and “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 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.” Ro 8:38–39. The Overcomer has a reserve of oil, the Overcomer does not live off of borrowed oil. “... but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps...” Mat 25:4.

The Overcomer is not only going to receive power from God, but will also use the power given to them to pull down strongholds of satan and empower their testimonies and faith in the Word of God. “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.” Re 12:11.

A person that overcomes, can show the power of God in and through the testimony of their life.

Chapter 3: Displaying the Power:

“Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.” Da 11:32.

So you might say, “Give me an example, show me the way the power of the Holy Spirit could be displayed?”

As the author, I will give you an example from my own life - it's the best I can do. Back in the 80s, I was a young Christian burning on fire with desire for a closer relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. I needed, I wanted, I had to preach the gospel! It was consuming me.

That yearning in my heart was the calling to the ministry that the Lord had put on me. It was the anointing and the presence of the Holy Spirit upon me. He was letting me know what He called me to do. I didn't quite understand it. I didn't have any mentors at the time. But I did have the Word of God.

I was in business for myself and worked various jobs trying to take care of my young family. As I was learning my way in the Lord, a door of ministry opened for me to become the pastor of the very small country church I was attending in the mountains of Pennsylvania. There were 12 people on the books! Most Sundays there were only six to eight people that would show up for a morning service. The heating system was a wood stove in the back, and the building was a converted doublewide that was braced up with beams so it was open up and down the length of it.

Long story short, I became the pastor. I didn't have much bible study training. I didn't go to a seminary. I didn't go to a Bible School, but the folks there wanted me to be their pastor and I gladly accepted.

Just before I was offered to be the pastor, I had accepted a financial services position to be a stockbroker. The company wanted me so badly they even were paying for my Series 7 licensing class and schooling. I was told my first year as a stock broker / financial adviser I should make around \$100,000. When the opportunity came for me to become the pastor of that little church for \$250 a week, I turned down my six-figure job for the privilege and joy of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I didn't know what to do as a pastor! I went around to other churches trying to communicate and interact with other pastors, but they were all too busy and had no time for me. I tried to get them to have regular prayer sessions with me. All turned me down and basically said they did not pray much anyhow.

So I did what my heart told me to do, and that was to get on my face and pray. I spent my time lying at the altar of that little church day and night. I practically wore out the knees of my jeans petitioning the Lord to open His Word to me as I studied it day and night, hour after hour. I sought God and prayed, and sought God and wept tears, and believed God and called on His name. I petitioned the Throne of Heaven to transform my heart so I could do what Jesus wanted me to do.

Of course, I wasn't all that good at preaching. Of course, I didn't know how to do a proper layout of a sermon. Of course, there were many things I was just trying to figure out. But there's something that did happen, the Holy Spirit of God showed up. I would call on the name of the Lord! I would say "Lord bring the people in from the highways and the byways! Cause them to not be able to even pass by this building without having to come back and find out what was going on in this place!". God moved. We went from eight people on an average Sunday to almost 90. People were getting saved, delivered, baptized in water, filled with the Holy Spirit, and lives were being changed.

I still clearly remember one Sunday morning while I was preaching the Word of God, all of a sudden we heard this locking up of tires, a loud screeching of tires out on the blacktop in front of the church. I had no idea what was happening but it was a serious stop! A few minutes later the back door opened and four elderly people came in. Two husband and wife couples. They were all in their seventies at least. They sat down in the back of the pews and I continued preaching the gospel. As I teach the Word it is a common thing for me to give an invitation for somebody to receive Jesus at the end of the message. And praise God, all four of those elderly visitors stood up and walked down the aisle to give their hearts to Jesus!

At the end of the message when church was over and I was greeting people, I got to shake their hands and talk with the folks for a few minutes. I warmly welcomed them into the Kingdom of God. I then asked them where were they from because I had not seen them around in our little town before.

They told me they were driving down the road, just on a Sunday Drive. They had already driven around 50 miles that day and had no intention of going to church or stopping. They were just driving down the road and then they saw the sign of the church.

When they saw the church sign they all told me that something came over them. They were overwhelmed with the necessary need to immediately stop and get into the church building. They had no idea what came over them, but it was completely compelling. The elderly man driving slammed on the brakes and they slid down the road to a stop. He spun the car around in the middle of the road and gassed it into our parking lot. They were almost tripping over each other trying to get into the building!

They started their day lost and without hope. They left our church Born Again, Washed in the Blood, Redeemed, and as Citizens of the Kingdom of God!! I know that I will see every one of them again one day.

That is one example of so many that I can give that shows and demonstrates the real-life difference between man-made programs and the power of the Holy Spirit.

From all of the above, we can see that God is calling you to be an Overcomer. To overcome effectively your heart and actions must agree with the Word of God. Your heart and actions must present faith and be empowered by the Holy Spirit. You are called to have a relationship with Jesus Christ that proves He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. You are called to be filled with the Holy Spirit and overcome.

Section 2:

Chapter 4: Overcoming the World

As we saw in the previous chapter, being an overcomer or having the ability to overcome for the Lord is not possible without being empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is opposed to the spirit of antichrist and this age. Therefore, one of the major adversaries that we have as Overcomers is this world itself.

What does that mean? How is the world itself our adversary? Well, we are not referring to the rocks, streams, and bushes of the earth. (Although one day, as Overcomers, we will be used by God to deliver even groaning creation as witnessed in Rom 8:18-22. But that is a study for another eBook.) In the context of overcoming the world, we are referring to the intent and purpose of the spirit of the world versus the Spirit of God. [“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”](#) Ro 12:2.

The people of the earth have an overall perception of life and God that is influenced by the spirit of this world or the spirit of the age, which is and always has been in alignment with the spirit of antichrist. The spirit of antichrist has been and is currently in operation in the world today. [“...and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”](#) 1 Jn 4:3.

The spirit of the world or spirit of antichrist is by its very nature, anti-christ; or against Christ. The world cannot receive Jesus Christ because His revelation is given by the Holy Spirit, which opposes the spirit of the world. Jesus tells us this in the Gospel of John.

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” Jn 14:16–17.

Because people that are born again and have the Spirit of God are not of the world, but are of the Kingdom of God, therefore; the world will be anti-us, if indeed we are walking with and for the Lord. Jesus said:

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” Jn 15:18–19.

But our great King has not left us to fend for ourselves. He has not created us as orphans! “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” Jn 14:18. When we were born again we were recreated as children of God. “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...” Rom 8:16

He has sent the Holy Spirit to His people. When we receive Jesus, we also receive the Holy Spirit and the Father. “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,...” Jn 14:16–17. “...He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.” 2 Jn 9.

The Lord has given us comfort and power to overcome the world. “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” 1 Jn 4:4.

Jesus has given us the victory in all things. He has vanquished the enemy and the spirit of the world so we may have peace in the midst of tribulation. “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Jn 16:33. That is good news!

Chapter 5: So what does overcoming the world look like?

1. **Overcoming the world is turning away from the influences of the world and spirit of the age, and running towards Jesus. We must be in the Word and Prayer.**

The world and the Spirit-filled overcoming Church are diametrically opposed to each other.

The World

The Church

The world is carnal and natural.	The church is spiritual and supernatural.
The world is in agreement with the spirit of the age, the spirit of antichrist.	The Church is one with God and anointed with the Holy Spirit. The Church is the Body of Christ here on earth.

Overcoming the world requires a change. At times in our lives, we find ourselves walking in an acceptance of how the world is without an active engagement against its influences. As an Overcomer we must stay engaged with the Spirit of the Lord.

We have to regularly stop and acknowledge that the way of the world is not the way that we've been called to live by God. James tells us to resist.

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

Jas 4:7–10.

The Holy Spirit in these last days is calling the Church to rise up and recognize that we need to resist the devil and stand up against evil.

For us to stand up against evil, we have to acknowledge that our hearts need to be changed by the Spirit of God. As the people of God, we need to call on the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul! The Lord spoke to the people of Israel about the latter days (last days), and it applies to us too. “But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. 30 When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the Lord your God and obey His voice...” Dt 4:29–30.

To start overcoming, the Word must be part of our lives, but so must prayer. The prayer of an Overcomer will declare a truthful acknowledgment that we have not resisted against the allure of this world and the spirit of this age with everything we have. “You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.” Heb 12:4.

When we acknowledge truthfully and honestly before God in the privacy of our prayer chamber that we have not done all we know how to do, then we can start acknowledging (in word and deed) the same in front of others and the Church as well. We are the Body of Christ here on earth, and members in particular (Rom.12:3-8).

When we as individual Overcomers and the Church humbly confess our missing the mark to other brothers and sisters, “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” Jas 5:16, then we are able to open the doors of our hearts to receive prayer and healing because Jesus is there. “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Mt 18:20.

The healing process described above does not create a haughty spirit. It does not create a pride of overcoming. The healing process from the Word allows us to humble ourselves before the Lord and each other. That is not the way of the world. It is the way of the Lord. The way of the Lord always administers a blessing and is opposed to the way of the world as Jesus said. "...You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mt 20:25–28.

"But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Mt 23:11–12.

When we humble ourselves before the Lord, call on His name, and decide that we are going to follow Him with everything we have, we suddenly find ourselves in a place where the Lord Himself is doing the heavy lifting. We suddenly find ourselves standing and watching as God Himself takes care of circumstances, transforms our lives, and delivers us out of darkness into His glorious light.

The prayer of the Overcomer is one of faith and power. But at the same time, it acknowledges that we are 100% depending and believing in the power and goodness of God to accomplish that which we are believing and asking for. Because we have such a faithful and good God, the prayer of an Overcomer is full of joy. Paul tells us by his own experience.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Php 4:6–7.

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;...”
Col 4:2.

The Apostles in the early church at Jerusalem understood. “...And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.” Ac 5:40–41.

When the Apostle Paul and Silas were imprisoned and beaten, hanging in chains and bloodied, they prayed and loudly started to praise the Lord!

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.” Ac 16:25.

We can understand praying, they were in a desperate situation. But praising God? Why? Because Paul and Silas knew something! Because Jesus our Lord and King said: “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Mt 5:11–12.

When we bless God at the time of prayer, especially in difficult circumstances, we declare for all to see and hear that we believe the Lord has heard our prayers. When Paul and Silas were blessing God, the prisoners were witnessing their faith. “... and the prisoners were listening to them.” Ac 16:25.

What happened next happened in real life to Paul and Silas, but is also a metaphor of what happens when we pray in faith and with thanksgiving. “Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.” Ac 16:26.

“...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” Jas 5:16. When we pray in faith and with thanksgiving, the anointing creates a shaking in the spirit realm, it causes those who are bound to hear. The anointing breaks the chains and sets people free of bondage to the spirit of this world. The prayer of an Overcomer produces results.

Chapter 6: Overcoming the world is turning towards the Lord and developing a love of the Truth.

”Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” 1 Co 2:12.

The end of these last days is going to produce The Antichrist. And as we've discovered already in this eBook, that as those days progress and we come towards the end of days, there is going to be increased hostility towards the people of God, and darkness or evil will increase and increase. Moreover, deception will grow strong. There are coming times and events upon this earth that will astound the nations and the peoples of the world. Those events will literally be a lie but will be so convincing that many will believe it.

We as Overcomers are called to be the light in the darkness. And one of the greatest producers of light that we can maintain, is a Love of the Truth. Actually, the love of the truth is going to be the major distinguishing characteristic between the Child of God and those who will follow The Antichrist and believe The Lie. Paul tells us what is coming as read below.

“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2 Th 2:9–12.

We as Overcomers and the people of God need to make sure that we live and declare the love of the truth. Although it includes wanting to speak and say true things, the love of the truth is much more deeper and profound. It takes us into a realm that is completely opposite of what the world is walking in.

The biblical, Holy Spirit inspired love of the truth, works in our hearts with a power and purity that will not accept hypocrisy or any falsehood. The power of the love of the truth does not just provide us with discernment of evil in the world, it also opens the door for an anointing to recognize and acknowledge thoughts, actions, emotions, and responses that we ourselves have, which are not perfect and pure before the Lord. The love of the truth empowers the Christian to recognize the moving of the Spirit of God and to discern between Good and Evil in all realms, including matters of the heart and mind. The love of the truth will not accept the spirit of lies, deceptions, falsehoods, or evil/antichrist. The love of the truth can smell even the smallest tainting of corruption. It can see the falsehood even if it is wrapped in a covering of fact. It is the anointing of the Holy Spirit that is given total reign in your heart.

“These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. 27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.” 1 Jn 2:26–27.

The love of the truth will cause us to acknowledge before God when we miss the mark in our inward thoughts and emotions, even when our outward response to daily circumstances and events presents a different expression. The love of the truth will not let the overcomer be ok with lying to himself/herself or to God even in the smallest matter.

Chapter 7: Overcoming the World will include Hearing and Speaking the Voice of Truth:

There will be coming upon the earth and even now is beginning the manifestation of a strong spirit of deception that will cause many to stumble. The end time spirit of deception will grow stronger and stronger until it will be very difficult to reject the very convincing lies that will be cast in front of our eyes and spoken into our ears. **“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand.”** Mt 24:24–25.

To overcome this world and the spirit of it, we all must have the workings of the Spirit of God that allows us to clearly hear His voice. His voice is the voice of Truth.

The deceiving spirit, that is beginning to manifest strongly in the world and the spiritual realm, will present The Lie with a narrative that will have parts that are true, but it will also have parts that are false. It will have parts that are accurate, and it will have parts that twist accuracy which make it sound like it's right, but in reality, it's leading to deception and death.

Because the Overcomer will be able to discern the lies and see the twisting of the truth into corruption, we will have the ability to be light in the darkness. The Overcomer will not be overcome by darkness because they will let the light of God in them shine forth. Because we will be able to discern the good from the evil, the love of the truth will compel the Overcomer to speak the truth and contend with The Lie.

The Overcomer will be the voice of truth to a lost and dying world and will lead many to salvation and deliverance. The writer of the Book of Hebrews describes how those that overcome will stand in Christ before the Father with their spiritual fruit they produced by the power of God in and through them.

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” 13 And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.” Heb 2:10–13.

The love of the truth will break through the lies and allow those who have ears to hear, eyes to see, a mind to perceive, and a heart to understand, to be brought into the Kingdom of God. The truth of the Word will minister to their spirit by the activation of the Holy Spirit and bring them into the grace of God.

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.” Ac 10:44

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Mt 24:14.

Section 3:

Chapter 8: Overcoming Through Faith.

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” 1 Jn 5:4.

All the things that we've talked about in this eBook so far have been and will be accomplished by and through faith. Without faith we will not be able to accomplish anything, because we must believe in God, the promises of His Word, and we must believe that He is who He says He is.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb 11:6.

If one says they do not have enough faith to overcome, but are a true disciple of Christ Jesus; then they do have faith, but are just not utilizing it. The Word says you cannot be saved without faith.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” Eph 2:8–9.

Salvation is by grace but it is through faith. As a believer (in other words a person of faith) you received a measure of faith from God Himself. “...as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” Ro 12:3.

And if God has given you your measure of faith, then you have been given the full amount that you will be required to have to face all things in your life. “...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him...” 2 Pe 1:3.

And the Word further tells us we have all we need to overcome. “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Co 10:13.

He has given us His power to overcome and He is within us and completes us. “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Col 2:9–10.

So we see from scripture, if you’re in Jesus, you have been given all the faith you need to overcome. We don’t necessarily need more faith, what we need to do is develop the faith we already have. We need to exercise our faith, which strengthens our faith. In other words, we need to apply our faith.

The challenge before us is to apply our faith towards a deeper relationship with the Lord and His Word. We need to believe in faith for the infilling and power of the Holy Spirit.

When We Don’t Need Faith:

To properly grasp the concept of faith, let’s start by understanding when we do not need faith.

As we will see, the concept of faith is applied when we do not see, nor handle what we are hoping for. Because once you apply faith and you receive what you're believing for in faith, you no longer need faith for it.

As an example, if I'm believing God and exercise faith for a loaf of bread, when I receive that loaf of bread and it is put into my hands, I no longer need faith to believe for it. Because I've got it. That physical receiving or manifestation of the event of what I believe God for is the fulfillment of my faith. See what Paul says in Romans 8:

“...but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?” Ro 8:24.

But until we have physically obtained or see the manifestation of what we are believing for, we need faith to receive what we desire from God. To be an Overcomer, we need to develop our faith and continually display faith to walk in the power that overcomes.

What Faith Is:

So what exactly is faith? The Word of God tells us what faith is in Hebrews 11:1, which says: “**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**” Heb 11:1.

So we see that faith is a substance and is the evidence. It's the substance of what we're hoping for; meaning, what we're looking to accomplish with our application of faith. It is the end result of what we're believing God for.

The word "substance" in the original Greek means that it is a firm foundation and has an actual existence. It literally means that in your heart and mind the object of your hope is a tangible reality.

Suppose you're sitting in a chair. You can reach down and touch the chair. It is holding your weight, it's supporting you, it has substance. So is “...**the substance of things hoped for...**”. Your faith acknowledges and accepts what you're hoping for is as real as the chair you are sitting on.

Your faith stands in the place of the very thing you're hoping for. In your heart and mind it becomes what you are believing God for. It is as good as real. It literally has substance in the realm of faith.

Faith is “the evidence of things not seen”.

Evidence; the Word tells us that faith is the evidence of things not seen. As we already taught, once you see it or physically have the thing hoped for, then you no longer need faith. That is why faith is about not seeing. “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Co 5:7.

But just as if we had received the physical manifestation of what we are believing God for, so is faith “evidence” of the same for what we do not see. Faith is the literal substance of our hope, and so faith is the undeniable evidence as well.

The “evidence” word in the Greek for Hebrews 11:1 is literally saying it's a proof positive. It is the same word that would be used in a court of law that would prove to the judge that literally what you're showing and displaying or describing is a fact.

Because you're believing God for something that's not manifested yet, it's not physically seen yet, but by faith, it becomes the absolute evidence in your heart and mind that you have already received it. By faith, you can declare you already have it from God. It is indisputable evidence that you can present to the court of heaven. You can say "I have this by faith". And when you speak faith, in your heart and mind the thing you are believing for is already obtained. All you are waiting for is the physical manifestation of the thing you have believed for.

Examples of Faith Applied:

I have many, many examples that could be presented. I will present the following two.

Faith Example 1: When my oldest daughter was very young she had gotten ill. She had been with a fever that escalated to a high temperature. My wife and I did all we could in the natural to get the fever to reduce and break. But nothing we did worked. We believed believing God for her and were holding fast in faith for healing.

However, we were coming to the point where I was going to take her to the emergency room because her fever was so high. But before I left with her to see the doctor, I picked her up and held her in my arms. I whispered in her ear. I told her to believe Jesus for her healing. I told her to confess her healing out loud for herself from her heart.

She had been taught in the Word of God that Jesus heals. ([Isa 53:1-5](#), [Matt 8:14-17](#), [1 Pet 2:24](#)) She responded by whispering back "I'm healed in the Name of Jesus" That's all that she could get out. Then suddenly she sprang alive in my arms, she threw her hands in the air and shouted at the top of her little voice "I am healed in the Name of Jesus"! Instantly the burning fever was gone and never came back. She was completely healed by the King of Kings!

Faith Example 2: I was in desperate need of some funds to pay bills. I needed \$300 to make it through the month. I had no way that I could see obtaining that \$300, except for God.

My wife and I prayed and we confessed the name of Jesus that He was our provision, our hope, and our shield. We declared in the Name of the Lord that our need was met, and we were trusting Him to take care of us with all our hearts. It came towards the end of the month and I still didn't have the money manifested. At that time, the Lord put it in my heart to go to the mailbox and check the mail.

I went to the mailbox, opened it up, and found a letter from a man of God who lived in another country. I hadn't talked to or seen him for at least seven years. In that envelope was a check for \$300. It had a brief note that said "Steve, the Lord put it in my heart that you needed this". Praise God! The Lord is moved by faith.

Dealing with unbelief and developing our measure of faith.

The Word of God addresses many things concerning faith. Two important issues we need to address as last days overcomers are unbelief and developing our measure of faith.

Unbelief:

Unbelief is a form of anti-faith. It works against the faith we have. Even Jesus could not do many miracles in His hometown area because the people there were familiar with Him as an ordinary person and not as the Messiah. Therefore, their expectation of Him was of an ordinary man with an ordinary man's limitations.

"Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. 4 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief."
Mk 6:1–6.

Their “ordinary man” view of Jesus created unbelief in the hearts of the people of Nazareth. Their unbelief was so great that it made Jesus “marvel”. It was present to the extent that “[He could do no mighty work there...](#)” Likewise, to the extent that we have unbelief in our hearts will also be to the extent that we can “[do no mighty work there](#)” as well.

If you have a thought process that somehow equates your human limitations to what you're trying to accomplish by the supernatural power of God, it will create an unbelief that stops faith. It creates unbelief because we're looking at the wrong source.

[“For I know that in me \(that is, in my flesh\) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.”](#) Ro 7:18.

The challenge many people have when trying to apply faith is that they unwittingly attempt to do the things of God from a mental posture of the natural or the carnal. We have natural bodies that have natural limitations. It's normal to recognize what we can and cannot do. As an example, in the natural, I cannot walk on water. Neither could Peter as we see in Matthew 14 below:

[“And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” 29 So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”](#) Mt 14:28–31.

In the passage found in Matthew 14 above, when the disciples were in the boat and saw Jesus approaching them walking on the water, they at first thought he was a ghost. That's because walking on the water is not a natural act; it's supernatural.

Peter found faith by watching Jesus do something supernatural. Because his eyes were on the supernatural of God he was able to do something that was outside the natural realm too. However, when he refocused on the natural he became afraid. Fear quenches faith.

Peter had great faith to start with. How many of us have stepped out of a boat in a storm and walked on water? Jesus talked about the smallness of Peter's faith in the context of his sinking in the water. Jesus related it to Peter's doubting. Peter's doubting was based on his refocus on the natural and becoming afraid. Focusing on the natural or the carnal creates unbelief.

Fear is a natural emotion that opposes faith because there is no fear in pure faith. Further, God did not give us the spirit of fear but of power. [“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”](#) 2 Ti 1:7.

When Jesus was coming down from the mountain of transfiguration some of his disciples were trying to cast a demon out of a child, but they couldn't get it done. When Jesus got to them the father of the child cried out to Him:

[“Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”](#) Mk 9:24.

The father of the boy declared he had faith but he also acknowledged that he was battling unbelief. But that's all Jesus needed. He needed to see that the man had some faith, which the father of the boy declared was present.

It's important to acknowledge and understand this next principle; that the anointing of Jesus was able to break through the portion of unbelief present in the boy's father. There was enough faith for Jesus to work with. Similarly, Peter's unbelief did not make Jesus sink along with Peter.

However, the unbelief of the people of Nazareth was so pervasive that they refused to believe anything about Jesus being able to do a miracle. So much so, that they were offended by him. Contrast to the father of the child who had faith to believe but was battling some unbelief.

Afterwards, the disciples came to Jesus privately and asked him a question about the situation that had unfolded with the father and the child as described in Matthew:

“Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” 20 So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” Mt 17:19–21.

It is important to note; that in verse 21 above Jesus is not prescribing a works-based religion. Some have taken this passage out of context and said that we have to fast and pray to have the authority or power to cast out a demon, which is definitely not true.

What Jesus was referring to was that spiritual stronghold or that type of spiritual possession oppressing the boy requires faith that doesn't have unbelief mixed in. He was referring to the people of God (Overcomers) who are going to spend their time in prayer and fasting, focusing on the Lord, on the spiritual, on the supernatural, and be in a place where there is no unbelief present.

Without the proper perspective, many Christians who would otherwise be seeing spectacular works of the Spirit of God in their lives, don't see much fruit in that area because they are looking at themselves, and considering themselves, their failures, and their lacks, and what other people might think, and their fears.

Instead, let's acknowledge that when we have Christ Jesus, we now have God in us and working through us. When in the Name of Jesus we pray or declare something according to the Word, we no longer need to concern ourselves with the natural. All we have to do is believe in faith that it is the Spirit of God working through us. Then we will see the results of the supernatural much more distinctly, and much more often. Jesus encourages us to stand with Him and His Word.

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” Jn 15:7–8.

Developing our measure of faith.

When we receive Jesus Christ we are no longer just natural humans. We quite literally are born again as a new creation. Our spirits' that were dead, are made alive and turned into something very different than what we were. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Co 5:17.

The human side of us has no power without the Holy Spirit indwelling us. The Holy Spirit declares Jesus Christ in and through our lives. “He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” Jn 15:5.

If the Holy Spirit is in us, we have the Father, the Son, and the Spirit within us. “At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” Jn 14:20.

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” 1 Co 3:16.

It's that very Oneness that allows us to operate in the power of God. “But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.” 1 Co 6:17.

Because we are natural and He is Spirit, we NEED faith. When we ask in faith and then take action in faith we open the door to allow His super to be added to our natural. Then we see that we truly are at one with the supernatural power of God.

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” Jn 15:7–8.

And as we have already discussed, the natural part of ourselves does not want to be open to the Spirit. That is why we must allow the Spirit to transform how we think, act, and speak.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Ro 12:2.

In Romans 12 above we see that we are not to be conformed to this world. The word "conformed" in the original language means to have your character, your mind, and your thoughts, turned into a similar pattern of the thing discussed. In this case, it is the world and the spirit of it.

Instead of conforming to the world, we are to be "transformed". The word transformed in the original Greek is the word metamorphosis in English. Metamorphosis is the process that the caterpillar goes through to turn into a butterfly. Metamorphosis happens through activity and over time.

The process of transformation is wonderfully presented in the Bible in the Old Testament and the New. When God was giving Moses the instructions on building the Tabernacle of Meeting and the furniture and implements to be used in it, he talked about the Laver. The Laver was a bath where the priests would have to wash their hands and their feet before they continued to offer sacrifices to the Lord. As we see in the book of Exodus below:

“You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, 19 for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it.” Ex 30:18–19.

The New Testament tells us that the reference to the law, the tabernacle, the implements, and activities inside the tabernacle, which include the laver, the water, and the washing, are all shadows of things to come. It means those things and activities represented something that was going to be found in Christ Jesus. “**which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.**” Col 2:17.

The reference to the washing of water can be seen in the Book of Ephesians. “**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**” Eph 5:25–27.

Seeing that the washing of the water represents the Word of God, we understand that the Word will transform our thoughts and our actions. As we wash our minds, so to speak, in the water of the Word, it transforms our thinking and our hearts to line up with the things of the Spirit.

When we wash with the water of the Word and submit to the power of the Spirit, we start to transform. “**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**” 2 Co 3:18.

Therefore, faith is developed by applying the Word of God to our lives. “**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**” Ro 10:17. We get faith by hearing (and reading) the Word and believing the Word.

When we receive the Word with belief in our hearts, the measure of faith that we've been given begins to develop. "...because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe." 1 Th 2:13.

When we embrace the Word for what it is, the Word of God, the Spirit begins to change us and equip us to take action in faith that produces the works of faith. As Paul exhorted Timothy to understand.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Ti 3:16–17.

Faith must have action connected to it or it is unprofitable. "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"
Jas 2:19–20. Faith comes first, then works of faith follow to make your faith profitable to the Lord. "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." Jas 2:14–17.

True faith has action with it. The faith actions we take are works of righteousness that are well pleasing to God. ... "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." Re 14:13.

The works that follow faith are the proof of our testimony in Christ. The works performed by faith are the acts of an Overcomer. "And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." 1 Jn 5:4.

Being a Spirit filled Overcomer is accomplished by faith in the power of God, and is proven by the fruit of our testimony. The Overcomer has a love for the Lord that is powered by faith even unto death.

“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.” Re 12:11.

Chapter 9: Overcoming Self.

One of the greatest obstacles that a man or woman can face in attempting to walk for the Lord is our own selves. "Self" is on display by what comes out of the heart, the thoughts we allow to inhabit our mind, and our actions or works of the flesh.

An Overcomer must find the grace that has been given to each one of us to run hard after the Lord, and at the same time, reject and turn away from the works of the flesh and the carnal mind.

“...But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man,...” Mt 15:18–20.

With the transformation of our hearts before God, we find two parts of self that must be defeated as an Overcomer. They are the natural or carnal mind with fleshly desires, and our will and ego.

Let's first look at the works of our carnal desires because they are the areas that the world and the devil primarily find areas of weakness. The outward actions of the flesh are also used most often as a negative testimony against the Lord from His people. The world will say “Such and Such is a Christian and look what they did.”, “For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” ...” Ro 2:24.

Works of the flesh:

“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Ga 5:19–21.

Each one of the items listed in Galatians 5 above could have its own individual volume of books. However, the purpose of this eBook is not to delve into the depths of each one of the temptations of the flesh, rather, it is for the Spirit of God through His Word to speak to you, the reader, and let Him minister to you as it pertains to your own life.

So how do we overcome the works of the flesh?

We overcome the works of the flesh by following Jesus as our greatest example. While Jesus was walking on earth, he overcame all sin by submitting to the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit. “...Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does;...” Jn 5:19–20.

We further understand that Jesus was sent by the Father and was the revelation of the Father to all creation. “...I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.” Jn 8:18.

When the disciples asked Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus responded by saying as follows: “Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me,...” Jn 14:9–11.

In the Gospel of John, chapter one, it tells us that Jesus is The Word, or as it says in the original language, He is the “revelation” of God in the flesh. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jn 1:14.

The example of Jesus our Lord, who is also the Living Word, always agrees with the written Word. When we apply the written Word in submission to the Holy Spirit to our lives, our hearts and minds are renewed. The renewing brings with it the revelation that the Spirit of God dwelling in us is greater than the power and allure of the flesh and this world.

The victory over the works of the flesh are realized when we fulfill the call and example of Jesus. The call of Jesus to His disciples when He physically walked the earth is the same call to us still to this day. Jesus Himself tells us the secret of success on being an Overcomer.

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.” Lk 9:23–24.

Jesus called us to follow Him. Where did Jesus go? He went to the cross. “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires...” Ga 5:24.

When Jesus said “**take up the cross**” the people who heard it knew what he meant. It meant to go die. When Jesus tells us to take up our cross daily, it means for us to die to the passions and desires of the flesh and live unto God In the Name of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The good news is that the Lord Jesus Christ has given us His power, by the Spirit of God, to be able to overcome the spirit of the world, and every single one of the works of the flesh! He has given us the power to walk in and manifest the victory of the Throne of Heaven here on earth, because of the presence of the Holy Ghost in our lives. “**Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**” Ga 5:16.

All people have various areas of the heart that temptations are stronger than others. As an Overcomer who has the Love of the Truth dwelling in your heart, you will recognize that having victory over one area of temptation in your life does not make you better than those who may still be struggling in the same or different areas. “**Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**” Ga 5:26.

Walking in the Spirit takes time to be in the Word, to read the Bible with belief in your heart, and to let faith rise up. Faith confirms that you have the victory in Christ Jesus. Walking in the Spirit is submitting to what the Word says, and allowing the Holy Spirit to minister to you and through you by faith. Walking in the Spirit means that you take control, by the grace of God and the power of God, over your words, your actions, and your thoughts. Walking in the flesh is to walk with the world and the devil. Walking in the Spirit is to walk with God. Walking in the Spirit overcomes the walk of the flesh. Paul tells the Romans the distinction between the two below:

“**For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**” Ro 8:5–8.

But you are an Overcomer! And because you have the Lord - you can overcome. As Paul continues to tell us in Romans 8. “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” Ro 8:9–10.

And the news gets even better! Because we have the Lord, we can have the faith to walk in the promises of God to those who overcome. The promises of God have always been present since the beginning of the Church. But because of unbelief and the corruption of religion, over time the promises had been forgotten, suppressed, or rejected by the Church. But praise God, as the darkness gets more pervasive, the Light of God is being seen more clearly. The truth and promises of the Word are growing in the hearts of the people of God upon the earth. The eyes of the Overcomers are beginning to see from the Word. “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little...” Is 28:10.

We are authorized by God Himself to manifest His presence, glory, and power to the world.

Dying to self; Overcoming our will and ego:

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” Php 2:5–8.

Kenosis of Christ:

The phrase in Philippians 2:7 “made Himself of no reputation” is actually only one word in the original Greek and it's the word “kenoo”.

Kenoo means self-emptying or emptying oneself to take the positive or power to neutral. Jesus, being God, temporarily set aside His Divine attributes and became a man, subject to the elements of His own creation. As we see in the scriptures where He was hungry ([Mat 4:2](#)), He was thirsty and He suffered pain ([Jn 19:28-30](#)), He was sad ([Lk 19:41](#)) and He was glad ([Jn 11:14](#)). He made Himself completely subject to the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit, so He could be the perfect example for us to follow. The Apostle Peter describes as follows:

“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.” 1 Pe 2:21–24.

When Jesus called each disciple and said “**follow me**” - He was metaphorically inviting them to follow Him to the cross. Just as Jesus right now, by the Spirit of God and the drawing of the Father, calls us to follow Him to the cross as well. The Lord is not calling us to die physically on a cross, He is letting us know that we need to die to self, so we can live fully unto God.

Deny Self:

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “**If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it....**” Mt 16:24–25.

The mark of a true Overcomer is submission, obedience, faith, power, fruit, and love. Because Jesus in his call to every Overcomer, says “let him (or her) deny himself”, He is calling us to make a conscious turning away from our own will, our own wants, our own dreams and desires, and nail them to the cross, putting them to death. We must allow Him, by submitting to the power of His Spirit, and the truth of His Word, to transform us into an Overcomer. He calls us to be the one that overcomes, that desires nothing more than following the perfect will of God in their life.

“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:...” 1 Pe 2:21.

The Apostle Paul exposes his heart for Jesus to all generations to read and see. “...I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me...” Ga 2:20.

As is evident in the Word and experienced by life, it is clear that crucifixion hurts. Giving up your desires and allowing those hopes and dreams, that you determined were best for you, to be put to death, will produce pain. It requires suffering because it hurts. But when we become alive with Christ and start to realize from the Word of God, that the purpose of God for each one of us is so much greater than anything we could desire or want for ourselves, it gives us the faith and the ability to willingly go to the Cross, just like Jesus did, and die to self.

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Ro 8:18.

When the knowledge of God breaks through the carnality of our minds, and we recognize that to truly follow Jesus as an Overcomer, we must follow Him to the cross. We find that in our death to self, we have power through the Spirit of God to live. We find that the anointing of the Spirit of God allows us to begin to walk in victory over the enemy in our daily lives.

We start partaking in the promises that the Lord has given to those who overcome as described in scripture below. “...And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.” 2 Co 1:7.

“...Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises...” 2 Pe 1:2–4.

How wonderful are those promises! How wonderful it is to walk in the presence of the Lord, amid this corrupt world that we live in. We find that we have the anointing, by the grace of God, to do the works that Jesus called us to do.

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” Ro 8:11.

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in US! Because of our submission to the blood of Christ Jesus, and what He did for us, that same Spirit and that same power is available to operate in and through us. Because we have the Spirit of God, on that last day we will be quickened, we will be caught up (Harpazo), and we will be fully changed into the image of Christ. Until then, while we lived here on this earth as Overcomers, we have that Spirit and the power of God, to do the works of Jesus here on earth.

As an Overcomer, you have been called to help transform this wicked and perverse world into repentance and the acknowledgment of the Kingdom of God. We have been called to be a light that shines brightly in the darkness, and changes the course of many generations because of our obedience to the Lord. The prophetic declaration found in Isaiah is an invitation, it is a call to participate in God's end time plan for all that would receive the Lord.

“Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.” Is 58:12.

You have been called to overcome, you have been called to be an Overcomer.

“Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1 Jn 5:5.

It is our hope that in this brief but intense bible study you, the reader, have been inspired by the Word to go deeper with God. We pray you have been stirred to walk in a more profound relationship and power with Jesus Christ our Lord.

If this eBook has helped you, or if you would like to hear and see more teachings by Brother SteveZ, make sure you go to the Faith for the Last Days YouTube channel and [- Subscribe, Like and Share -](#).

A straight forward and biblically inspired salvation message follows the Epilogue below. Pass this eBook along (and the associated video at the end) to all people who you know or think are still outside the Kingdom of God.

Final Section:

Epilogue: – Salvation is the birth of an Overcomer.

(As I write these words my daughter is literally giving birth to my grandson.)

Question? Is your spirit alive or dead?

Each person born has three parts; body, soul, and spirit.

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Th 5:23.

Your body is flesh and can die. Your soul is your mind and emotions and therefore can change and be altered. Your soul (personality) will remain and be connected to your spirit. Your spirit is eternal. Your spirit can be dead or alive (eternally). Because of original sin, everyone begins with a non-alive spirit. Everyone begins spiritually dead.

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—”
Ro 5:12.

Our spirit was dead and without hope. “...who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),...” Eph 2:1–5.

Without the Holy Spirit making your spirit alive, you will not understand the spiritual things concerning God. It would be like talking to a dead man. Now we are not talking about spiritual things of the world, or of some form of mysticism. We are talking about things of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit can make your dead spirit alive. Without your spirit being illuminated by the Holy Spirit, true spiritual knowledge will be misunderstood, twisted, or just sound foolish to you.

“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Co 2:14.

Unless you have committed your life to the Lord Jesus Christ and confessed Him with your mouth out loud, you are missing a true spiritual connection to God. You know this because you have an “empty spot” within.

The empty spot I am talking about is not always recognized, but it is known. All people who reach an age of decision know it. It is the “something” inside that needs to be filled.

But without Jesus, it just never seems to be completed. You see, the empty spot was created by God Himself in your inner man. It can't be found by a medical procedure, because it is a spiritual need.

Without Jesus, we try to fill the empty spot with things of the world; drugs, sex, booze, lust, ambition, greed, pride, vanity and vain glory, earthly recognition, mysticism, witchcraft, the praise of men, the praise of self. And it continues, because the empty spot always needs more physical pleasures, more praise and acknowledgment, more pride, more of you and your ego, more of your own solutions, more "inward-looking" solutions, and on and on.

However, none of that truly fulfills. It only lasts till morning, then the emptiness shows up again. The spirit of the world is never satisfied and craves more and more of the corruption of the world and our own lusts till we crash and burn out. Or at the very least, we come to the end of our lives without any sense of fulfillment or true purpose. “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another,...” Ga 5:17.

Then after death, eternal fiery torment. “...so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth...” Mt 13:40–42.

So why did God give us this empty spot? He created it in all people so He could fill it. He wants to be our fulfillment, as God said Himself: “...I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.” Ge 15:1.

Only God Himself can fill the empty spot. “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” Jn 17:3.

The Word of God (Bible) tells us what Jesus Himself said: “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Jn 14:6.

Therefore, we conclude that without Jesus abiding within us, we have no hope and a very fearful eternity waiting for us. “... that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” Eph 2:12.

But praise The Lord, the very next verse from Ephesians 2 says as follows:
“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near
by the blood of Christ. Christ Our Peace 14 For He Himself is our peace...”
Eph 2:13–14.

The Word of God says that your life does not have to end with destruction,
if you don't want it to! God has a purpose for all people. And God's purpose
for you is always good. Jeremiah tells us.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of
peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jer.29:11

We further see that the Apostle Paul reveals the perfect will of God for you.
“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who
desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
1st Tim. 2. 3-4

A true spiritual connection to God will always lead you to Jesus Christ,
which is eternal life with the power to overcome. “For the message of the
cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being
saved it is the power of God.” 1 Co 1:18

Keep reading to experience the power of the Word.

As we have seen already in the scriptures, we all need forgiveness from God because we all have sinned. Please read the following scriptures and let the love of God show you directly the way to salvation.

Need for Salvation:

Rom. 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Results of Sin:

Rom 6:23A

“For the wages of sin is death,…”

God’s Solution for Our Sins:

Rom 6:23B

“...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”

Why? Because God Loves You:

Rom 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

How to Receive the Forgiveness of God:

Rom 10:9

“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Rom 10:13

“For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The Result of True Salvation – Being Born Again:**Rom 5:1**

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,...

Rom 8:1

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,...

Why Are You Free from Condemnation When Saved?

Because salvation is given by Grace! You can't buy it and you can't earn it.

Eph 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

And because God gives it, it can't be taken away.

Rom 8:38–39

”For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 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.”

Keep reading to find God.

With Jesus there is everything – availability of the power of God in our lives - to live right - be free from the slavery of sin – have eternal life - full of joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Without Jesus there is no hope. Therefore, choose Jesus and choose life!

Prayer of Salvation

Read on to be forgiven– to be Born Again.

The prayer below cannot just be repeated. It must be heartfelt and truly meant if it is to make a real change in your life. If you are ready to give your life to Jesus and make Him the King of your life, read and say out loud the following prayer:

Father God, I know I have sinned and am a sinner. I know I cannot save myself. That's why I thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ to save me.

Jesus, I declare You are the Son of God. You lived without sin and were crucified and died in my place. Your Blood paid the penalty for my sin. You died and were buried, and on the third day, you rose from the dead by the power of God. Jesus, I give my life to you and repent of my sins. I receive your free gift of grace for the forgiveness of my sins. I am forgiven! And because I believe in my heart and declare You as my Lord out loud with my voice, I am saved, forgiven, and granted eternal life with you. By faith in your Word, I am now a child of God. Thank you with all of my heart! Amen.

Praise God! If you prayed that prayer, you are now a Citizen of the Kingdom of God. Jesus is your King!

Look below for more information!

We want to pray for you - help you in your next steps- help you get connected to a local church where you live. Then when you're done go back to the eBook where you left off and start reading as a new person!

Click to let us know you have received Jesus in your heart –

[Click Here If You Received Jesus In Your Heart](#)

Click the link above to get help and support in your new walk with Christ!

If you are still not sure - click the link below to listen to Brother SteveZ talk to you in person.

[Click Here for Video](#)

 Finding Jesus

Our Final Scriptural Prayer for You:

11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Th 1:11–12.

END.