

Overcome! Part 4

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **Recap:**
- Part of being a believer in Jesus is being an overcomer!
- Key Verse: **John 16:33**
- Lessons from Romans 5:1-5 and James 1:2-4
 - o Interpret your trials the right way. “rejoice” and “pure joy”
 - o Perseverance is not the end goal! Don’t quit. But hey, find the solution!
 - o We come out stronger and wiser on the other side! The trial will be redeemed if you let it!
- **This Week: Letters to the Churches**
- We will look at the messages to the 7 churches in Revelation 2-3.
 - o All 7 churches are called to overcome something.
 - o We will categorize these into 3 things to overcome.
- Read the messages:
- 1) Ephesus **Rev 2:1-7**, Thyatira **Rev 3:1-6**, Laodicea **Rev 3:14-22**.
 - o Problem? Success and complacency!
 - o Everything was good. They had done well. But now they relaxed too much.
 - o They lost their motivation and their hunger.
 - o What would overcoming look like for them?
 - Success AND fire! Stay hungry for God’s Kingdom in the good times!!
- 2) Smyrna **Rev 2:8-11**, Philadelphia **Rev 3:7-13**.
 - o Problem? Persecution and hardship.
 - o Very opposite problem to the first grouping.
 - Do we have this problem in the world? Yes!
 - How about in America? Well, yes, to some extent. Some are serving very sacrificially and are unable to “monetize” their ministry. Hardship can be a big part of this.
 - o What would overcoming look like for them?
 - Just hang on. That is all Jesus asks of them.
- 3) Pergamum **Rev 2:12-17**, Thyatira **Rev 2:18-29**.
 - o Problem? They are doing ok but are tolerating sin/immorality and idolatry.
 - o This is kind of like persecution inside the church. The solid believers don’t seem to have the power.
 - Some pretty harsh judgement coming!
 - I was talking to a pastor years ago who said “I didn’t leave the church, the church left me.” He still served in that denomination faithfully.
 - o What would overcoming look like for them?
 - Hanging on is a big part of it. I’d assume some taking a stand too.
 - Interesting that it doesn’t say for them to start new churches across town!
- What will the outcome be if they overcome?
- What will the outcome be if they are overcome?
- Do any of these three categories of things to overcome resonate with you?
 - o What will happen if you overcome?
 - Victory today and Rewards/treasures in heaven later!
 - o What will happen if you fail?
 - I’ll let you figure that out yourself. ☺
- Jesus has overcome.
 - o The cross does not show Jesus to be a victim, but a great victorious warrior!
 - o He overcame for you and for me, so we could overcome too.
 - o **Hebrews 12:1-3**
- Pray for each other before you finish up!