

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.” (Revelation 3:12, NKJV)

The Christian who does not turn to the book of Revelation in his hours of trial is one who misses a great privilege and help. Glorious things are written *there* for the people of God: *there* is strong comfort for every heavy in heart; *there* are distant views of the good things prepared for true believers. as we dwell upon it we catch a glimpse of the New Jerusalem; we seem to hear something of that blessed Song of Angels in which the redeemed will one day join. Reading of these truths will surely make us more heartfelt and sincere and more spiritual Christians. We are also reminded that although there are many battels the church and believer will come out victorious.

Let us try to focus our minds for a season from earth and fix them on heaven; Let’s look into the truth of the passage we have just read, and consider the eternal rest that remains for the children of God.

Now the words of our text were spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ to the **Church of Philadelphia**, also known as the **Faithful Church**, which was one of the seven famous churches mentioned in these passages, and in each of these seven messages a believer will find something useful to his own soul; seven times over they are mentioned for our special notice **we see a word of warning, but also a word of Comfort**. The solemn warning is accompanied seven times over with words. *“He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”*

We see and notice two things—a **character** and a **promise**: the character is, **“the man that overcomes,”** the promise, **“I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God and he shall go no more out”**;

Our Subject today is these two things the **Character** and the **Promise**. and these two things by the blessing and help of God we will see from Gods Word for ourselves.

Characters and promises are always linked together in Scripture; they must never be separated.

Scripture is full of examples but let’s look at just a few. Who are those of whom Jesus says, *“All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will in no way cast out.”* John 6:37

Who are those of whom He declares, *“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.”* John 7:37. How will our thirst be quenched if we refuse to Come , how will we have life if we don't come. John 5:40

Who are those of whom He says, *“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28

This / will is also seen in our passage. it is the man that overcomes who shall be made a pillar in His temple and no more go out. **We press this point, because there are carnal persons who often take for themselves promises to which they have no claim;** they feed on Christ's sweet sayings, but they will not touch Christ's commands; **they forget that characters and promises are like lock and key,** they fit one into the other, **he that has not got the character has no part or portion in the promises.**

Our first point what is the character The Lord Jesus is speaking of, who receives and gets encouragement in our text? The one spoken of is he “that overcomes.”

“Overcomes”. Or Him that is victorious. He that conquers, prevails, gets the victory. We are introduced to the fact there are, enemies to be conquered, a battle to be fought, a warfare to carry on; all these things must be, or else the Lord Jesus would never tell us that we must overcome.

There is the old man *For you ought to put off the old man (according to your way of living before) who is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.* Ephesians 4:22

our own natural heart which so leans towards evil, in our flesh is no spiritual good thing. The ways of God are opposite and opposed to the natural mind. Even when we have been given a new heart, the old ways will still try to dominate and want their way. Many times our hearts are **so cold** and loveless, **so careless, so dead and insensitive** to heavenly things, **so full of vain thoughts**, so sleepy and forgetful of God. No enemy needs to be watch ed more than our own hearts, just one traitor within the camp is much more dangerous than 100 armies outside the camp. The Bible warns us in Proverbs 4:23 *Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

He who trusts in His own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely shall be delivered. Prov 28:6. We rather trust in the Holy Scriptures which are able to make us wise to salvation through Jesus Christ. 2 Tim 3:15

Christian, watch and remember; do not give in to the old Adam, the flesh must be resisted, battled with, and overcome. *“But now also put off all these things: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, **shameful speech out of your mouth**. Do not lie to one another, having put off the old man with his deeds” (Colossians 3:8-9). **The devils drivel out of your mouth- put them all off like old cloths never to be worn again. It’s hard work to put off Anger , it fits so tightly, this burning coat of wrath doesn’t come off easily. But Gods Word is clear PUT IT OFF, put it off. It’s not fitting for a Child of God to be an angry person.***

There is nothing false or untrue in God. God is true, and in him is no falsehood at all; **and if you and I have really been renewed**, as we profess to have been, we will hate the very hint of a lie, When we read the long catalogue of wrong deeds we loathe them and the one in Christ Jesus wants no part in them. We keep col 3:5 before us. Mortify therefore because you are in Christ Jesus. *“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness (which is idolatry),” (Colossians 3:5)*

And then there is the world. We all live in the midst of unconverted persons, a fallen world. and how can there be friendship and agreement between you and them? They speak roughly about Christians, calling us all sorts of names, they tend to look down upon us, all these are things against which you must be prepared to fight. We quickly discover the worlds ways are not our ways, nor the worlds ways of thinking our way. Some try hard to keep in with the world and still be a Christian, yet Gods word is clear *“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever desires to be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4).* What is meant by the **WORLD**. wicked and evil men of the world, reckless, immoral, both unbelievers and believers. *sometimes put to signify the cruel and hurtful actions and customs of the world.* How sad when our affections and thoughts are totally consumed by worldly things, and worldly ways, and worldly values. How sad, no not Just sad, how we have fallen, when God and His ways take second place. Allow me to remind you that the Lord prayed *“I do not pray for You to take them out of the world, but for You to keep them from the evil.” (John 17:15).* You are to be the light in the midst of darkness; you are to be as salt in the midst of corruption; you are to be a witness for Christ and the gospel; and so long as you dwell among the ungodly **it is impossible**, if you are faithful, that there can be entire oneness and peace. Christian, watch and remember—the world must be resisted, battled with, and overcome

And then there is the devil. He is that liar and murderer from the beginning; there is no end to his devices. He has a snare for every age, a pitfall for every

circumstance, a trap for every place: snares for the learned and snares for the unlearned; snares for the godly, snares for the profane; rich, poor, master, servant, old, young, he comes with every possible temptation for the head, for the heart, for the temper, for the belly, for the tongue. Don't think he will always meet you as a roaring lion: he can transform himself into an angel of light; lead you on as he did Eve, **little by little, gently and softly**, a step at a time, and make you captive unawares if off your guard. Christian, watch and remember; give Satan no vantage-ground for an instant; the devil must be resisted. *"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7)

here, then, are our three great enemies—**the world, the flesh and the devil**; one of two things must happen: they will overcome us, or we must overcome them.

If there were no battles why then would the Captain of our salvation provide and give weapons of warfare. The Sword of the Spirit a helmet of Salvation a breastplate of righteousness. We can read about all this armor in Eph 6:11. I read of **the bread and water of life**: he that eats of that bread shall never hunger, and he that drinks of that water shall never thirst; and these the Son of God offers freely to all who will come unto Him. And above all **I read of the precious blood of Christ the Lamb of God**, in which the worst of sinners are invited to wash and be clean, and not all the powers of darkness can stand against the Blood of the Lamb. This is that blessed means through which all the saints have had victory and triumph; they overcame, I am told in Revelation, **by the blood of the Lamb**. This blood has been the strength and confidence of all of the redeemed through the ages. This is **the sure title to eternal life** which nothing can overthrow; and this title, if you will only believe, shall be your own.

with all this heavenly help and aid how can we shrink from the battle. **Greater is He** that is for me than he that is against me (1 John 4:4) mighty are our adversaries, but the captain of our salvation is mightier still: **His army, His grace, His Spirit** shall hold us up. There is no man that was so ungodly in time past that grace can't make him a good soldier of Jesus Christ; no woman so weak that faith in her Redeemer shall carry her through to the end. **Doubtless you may lose a battle or two**, but you shall not lose all; you may faint, but you shall not be cast down completely; watch against sin, and sin shall not have dominion over you; resist the devil and he shall flee from you; come out from the world, and the world shall be obliged to let you go, and you shall find yourself in the end more than conquerors through Him that loved you.

We should stop a moment and think, **how much do we war against evil and wrong.** How much do we know about wielding the sword of the Spirit. Are we familiar with your shield of faith. Do we leave vain and unprofitable talk, are we setting our faces steadily towards seeking the Lord our God. Surely there must be something more in our Christianity than a mere profession and a name; there must be actual warfare against sin. **This definite and decided will and desire in us to stand our ground and to fight the good fight for righteousness sake.** Is God Given, *“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”* (Philippians 2:13).

Now what is the special promise of our text: “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out.”

The conquering Christian has in heaven an everlasting habitation; no more wavering and tossed by doubt and uncertainties; he will have a mansion that will never be taken down, a dwelling that is firm and unshaken when the world finally will be burned up. **As we look on to the last part of the promise,** we see its exceeding sweetness and comfort. **In heaven,** we are told, the believer will go no more out. No more going out from the presence of the Lord. Now on earth are the days of weakness and shortcoming; even the best of believers are frail and backsliding compared to what they ought to be. How cold are their prayers, how **faint their praises,** how **dull their affections;** how **heavy their hands in doing the Lord’s work,** how **slow their feet in walking in the Lord’s way;** how poor is our zeal in fighting the Lord’s battle! sadly there is not one child of God that does not face struggles.

But soon this will all be over. We will be eternally in God’s presence in the Light of His glory, the devil and sin will be banished and outside. And there shall be **no more trembling and fear;** for **temptation shall cease,** and the former things shall all pass away. Then the believer see his Savior face to face, and know Him at last, even as He has been known; and **in His presence there shall be fulness of joy without anything to break it off,** and at his right hand shall be **pleasures for evermore.** Once there, there will be no more battles. Strife is over, Rest has come. But now we keep in mind Gods promises. We put on the whole armor of God. We run the race set before us. We endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

- “To him that overcometh,” said Jesus, **“will I give to eat of the Tree of Life”**(signifying the most pleasant and delightful fruits)—Rev 2:7

- “He that overcometh **shall not be hurt of the second death**” — Rev 2:11 **to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna**” — Rev 2:17 Those bidden by God have a meat to eat that others know not of (Jhn 4:32), they are fed by the finest of the wheat. "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.
- “He that overcometh to him **will I give power over the nations**” — Rev 2:26
- “He that overcometh the same shall be **clothed in white raiment**” — Rev 3:5
- “To him that overcometh will I **grant to sit with Me in My throne.**” Rev 3:21

There is nothing sleepy, easygoing, careless, about the victorious Christian; we must be active, bold, decided on the Lord's side. It is not enough to eat the king's bread and wear the king's dress; we must also fight the king's battles. *“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.”* (1 Corinthians 16:13)

Walk then as victorious children of the light; remember your calling, your privileges, your duties. Let these all stir you, to **press forward, to endure the cross, to despise the shame**. Let it not grieve you to suffer with Christ now, for after a little while we shall reign with him. The hour is swiftly approaching, when you will be out of the reach of all enemies and sorrow for ever. Then *“Your sun will no more go down, nor your moon withdraw; for Jehovah will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning will be ended.”* (Isaiah 60:20) *“lay aside every weight and the sin which doth most easily beset you; and run with patience the race set before you; looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of your faith,”*