

## Checkin' Out My Walk

### #45 Heeding God's Counsel To Be The Overcomer Who Overcomes

Truths: 1. Justification is a free gift. There are NO works involved.

2. ALL born again believers are in Jesus Christ and His Life is in every believer.

3. ALL born again believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit. He indwells the believer. Acts 1:8

4. Sanctification is not automatic. It is a life-long process that entails a fight and a battle to be obedient, faithful, yielded and allow the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to work in us and through us.

5. Every born again believer is an overcomer positionally in Jesus Christ.

However, not all born again believers overcome.

6. The Holy Spirit is the POWER that will produce the fruit of the spirit and the new life of Jesus Christ in a believer. As we abide in Him, He causes us to triumph and overcome.

7. Every believer needs to keep his "vessel" clean by confessing his sins. I John 1:9

8. Every believer is to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit > Eph. 5:18.

Revelation is the unveiling of Jesus Christ as the Conquering King who comes in majesty and glory to defeat the enemies, take back dominion of the earth and set up His Millennial Kingdom. Taken as a whole the messages to the seven churches of Asia constitute a comprehensive warning from Christ Himself as embodied in the exhortations to each of the churches.

To contemporary churches, each of these messages is amazingly relevant and pinpointed in its searching analysis of what Jesus sees as He stands in the midst of the lampstands.

This is a WARNING to the churches of today to "hear what the Spirit says unto the churches."

I KNOW YOUR WORKS - Our works are emphasized in Revelation 2 & 3.

Note: I believe each promise is to those who overcome the specific problem He points out in each letter. He gives a different solution for each problem.

1. Ephesus = *The Danger Of Losing Our First Love* (2:4)

The fresh ardor and devotion to Christ which characterized the early church.

2. Smyrna = *The Danger Of Fear Of Suffering* (Rev. 2:10)

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer." In today's world when Persecution Of The Saints Has Been Revived, the church may well heed the exhortation "Fear not."

3. Pergamos = *The Constant Danger Of Doctrinal Compromise* (2:14-15)

Often the first step toward complete defection. The modern church which has forsaken so many fundamentals of Biblical faith must heed the warning!

4. Thyatira = a monument to *The Danger Of Moral Compromise* (2:20)

We need to heed to the departure from moral standards which has invaded the church itself.

5. Sardis = a warning against *The Danger Of Spiritual Deadness* (3:1-2)

Orthodoxy without life, of mere outward appearance, of being, whited sepulchers.

6. Philadelphia = *The Danger Of Not Holding Fast* (3:11)

Exhorted to keep "the word of my patience," to maintain the "little strength" they did have and to wait for their coming Lord.

7. Church of the Laodiceans = *The Dangers Of Lukewarmness* (3:15-16)

Crowning indictment, a warning against self-sufficiency, of being unconscious of desperate spiritual need. Repent and be zealous.

There are Different Promises for each specific problem. I believe the promises are millennial in scope. The promise of reward is restricted to the faithful believers who overcome specific trials and temptations. The blessings of His future Kingdom are assured to those who overcome.

Note the progression of the promises:

1. Ephesus: Remember from where you have fallen, repent

Rev. 2:7 *They will enjoy the Tree of Life in the midst of the Paradise of God.*

2. Smyrna: Do Not Fear! Be Faithful until death.

Rev. 2:11 *They will not be hurt by the second death. Receive crown of life*

3. Pergamos: REPENT of Doctrinal Compromise

Rev. 2:17a *They will be fed out of the hidden manna.*

Rev. 2:17b *They will have a white stone with their name on it.*

Note: Call to Hear is BEFORE the promise in the above 3. Promises speak of fellowship

In the last 4, the Call to Hear is AFTER the promise. Promises speak of position and authority.

4. Thyatira: Hold Fast to what you have; do not compromise your morals

Rev. 2:26 *They will be granted power over the nations. Give him the morning star.*

5. Sardis: REPENT; Wake Up; Watch; Keep Your Garments Clean

Rev. 3:5a *They will be clothed in white.*

Rev. 3:5b *Their names will be acknowledged by Christ.*

6. Philadelphia: Hold fast so no one takes your crown.

Rev. 3:12a *They will be "pillars" in the Lord's temple.*

Rev. 3:12b *Christ will write His own Name upon them.*

7. Laodicea: Buy your riches, garments & eye salve from Jesus. REPENT & Be Zealous

Rev. 3:21 *They will sit with Christ on His Throne.*

Rewards begin with the right to eat of the tree of life in the paradise of God and escalate to the right to sit with Christ on His throne.

Note: Promises to the first three churches reveal incredible blessings which denote spiritual fellowship. Promises for position and authority in His Kingdom do not begin until the church of Thyatira. This seems to indicate a progression of spiritual growth and maturity.

Question: Does Scripture exhort every believer to be an overcomer in experience?

Belief: Our pilgrim life here is a training, proving, testing ground for our future life.

D. L. Moody: "The Overcoming Life"> "The Bible was not given to increase your knowledge, but to change your life. I have an idea that we are down here in training, that God is just polishing us for some higher service." [of His Kingdom> there will be no end!]

These phenomenal promises should serve as an incentive for us to strive [press on, struggle, contend, fight, labor] diligently to be a faithful overcomer. How? By faithful obedience through faith in their new life in Christ > SANCTIFICATION. As the Holy Spirit transforms me into the image of Jesus Christ, I am blessed to be a channel of blessing to others.

Ps. 1:1-2 Blessed *is* the man who WALKS NOT in the counsel of the ungodly,  
NOR STANDS in the path of sinners, NOR SITS in the seat of the scornful;  
<sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

### I. We Must Be Directed By The Word.

- a. Israel was a unique and separate people; among the nations but not contaminated by them.
- b. As God's people, we are to be in the world but not of the world.
- c. Beware Of Friendship With The World. It can lead to:

#### (1) Being Spotted By The World

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to Keep Oneself Unspotted From The World.

#### (2) Loving The World

I John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

#### (3) Results In Conforming To The World

Rom. 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> 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.

I Cor. 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Example: Lot looked toward Sodom, pitched his tent toward Sodom and soon moved into Sodom. [Gen. 13:10-12; 14:12]

- a. Lot was saved. II Peter 2:7-8 and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked...
  - b. Lot lost ALL when the Lord destroyed the cities of the plain. [Gen. 18-19; I Cor. 3:11-23]
- Consider: Abraham, the outsider, had a greater ministry to the world than did Lot, the friend of the world.

TRUTH: We move into sin and disobedience gradually.

Prov. 4:14-15 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.

<sup>15</sup> Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.

Consider: If your follow the wrong counsel, then you will stand with the wrong companions and finally sit with the wrong crowd. Example:

Matt. 26:31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock Will Be Scattered.'

1. When Jesus was arrested, Peter didn't follow Christ's counsel and FLEE from the garden.
2. Peter followed [walked with] and entered the high priest's courtyard.

3. It was here HE STOOD WITH THE ENEMY. [John 18:15-18 Simon Peter was following Jesus,...<sup>16</sup> but Peter was standing at the door outside. <sup>17</sup> Then the slave-girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also *one* of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the slaves and the officers were standing *there*, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.]

4. Peter ultimately SAT with them.

Luke 22:55 After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter Was Sitting Among Them. Result: He denied Christ 3 times.

## II. We Must Be Delighted With The Word & Meditate On The Word

Ps. 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

a. Meditate = to mutter

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Wiersbe: "If we speak to the Lord about the Word, the Word will speak to us about the Lord. That is abiding in the Word. [I John 2:14, 24]

Note: As God's people, we should prefer The Word of God to:

(1) Food Ps. 119:103; Job 23:12; Jer. 15:17; Matt. 4:4; I Peter 2:2

(2) Sleep Ps. 119:55, 62, 147-148, 164

(3) Wealth Ps. 119:14, 72, 127, 162

Consider: The way you treat your Bible [His Word to us] is the way you treat Jesus Christ.

Important Point: The verbs in Ps. 1:1 [walks, stands, sits] are in the perfect tense and indicate a settled way of life. The verb, meditate, in verse 2 is in the imperfect tense and speaks of constant practice. He keeps meditating. It Is A Source Of Spiritual Energy.

### The Person Who Is A Blessing

Ps. 1:3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither and whatever he does shall prosper.

God blesses us to be a blessing to others. [Gen. 12:2] > to become channels of blessing to others.

A tree in Scripture can symbolize an individual. Like a tree, a godly believer is alive, beautiful, fruitful, useful and enduring. The most important part of the tree is the hidden root system that draws up water and nourishment. Likewise, the most important part of the believer's life is the "spiritual root system" that draws on the hidden resources we have in Jesus Christ.

Eph. 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Col. 2:7 having been deeply rooted [in Him] and *now* being *continually* built up in Him and [becoming increasingly more] established in your faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing in it with gratitude. This is "abiding in Christ." [John 15:1-9]

Water for Drinking in Scripture is a picture of the Spirit of God. [John 7:37-39; I Cor. 10:4]

Water for Washing is a picture of the Word of God. [Ps. 119:9; John 15:3; Eph. 5:26]

Quote: God's Word is a Living Water that detoxifies our soul.

The more we drink of it, the more it cleanses, refreshes and renews us.

Thirst for Water is an image of thirst for God. [Ps. 42:1; 63:1; 143:6; Matt. 5:6; Rev. 22:17]

The River is a picture of God's provision of spiritual blessing and help for His people.

[Ps. 36:8; 46:4; 78:16; 105:41; Ex. 17:5-6; Num. 20:9-11; Ezek. 47; Rev. 22:1-2]

Trees may wither and die. Maclaren: "Religion lacks depth and volume because it is not fed by hidden springs." It's a tragedy when a believer ignores his root system and begins to wither.

Swindoll: "Without sufficient and regular nutrition, our inner life begins to suffer the consequences. Our souls long to be fed, nourished, and energized on a regular basis. When we fail to set aside time to absorb healthy spiritual food, it isn't long before the consequences kick in . . . and it's not a pretty sight. We start to operate in the flesh rather than under the control of God's Spirit. We get shallow and selfish, more demanding and less gentle, quick to react impatiently, rashly, angrily. These are all signs of inner malnutrition." I need:

(1) A regular diet of God's Word; nourished by words of faith & sound doctrine [I Tim. 4:6]

(2) Pray regularly Ps. 55:22 Cast your burden on the Lord [releasing the weight of it] and He will sustain you; He will never allow the [consistently] righteous to be moved (made to slip, fall, or fail).

(3) Be still and meditate on the Word. Ps. 46:10

The believer who abides in Christ stays fresh, green and fruitful.

Our fruit comes from life > the life of God flowing in and through us.

I Cor. 2:9 as the Scripture says, What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed].

Ps. 92:12-14 The [uncompromisingly] righteous will flourish like the date palm [long-lived, upright, useful and fruitful]; They will grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic and stable].

Planted in the house of the LORD, They will flourish in the courts of our God.

[Growing in grace] they will still thrive and bear fruit and prosper in old age;

They will be full of sap [of spiritual vitality] be vital and fresh [rich in trust and love and contentment];

It's time to reflect and consider your walk with the Lord.

How would you describe your relationship with the Lord now as opposed to January, 2015?

Are you still struggling with, "DOING your first works and returning to your first love?"

Do you sense a deep need for Him or do you feel you have your life under control?

Have you become spiritually apathetic and indifferent or do you truly love Him more than you did 1 year ago?

Nan Missler: Overcomers are not perfect. They fail just like all of us, BUT they keep on getting up, keep on repenting, keep on being willing to surrender themselves to Christ and ALLOW HIM, who is the only perfect one, to work through them and in them to conform them into the image of Jesus Christ in whom we have victory. Lord, thank you that I am an overcomer in you. May the experience of my life each day be the reality of who I am in you. I pray God has used this study to Rekindle The Fire in your heart for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Church	Commendation	Problems	Solution	Overcomer Promise
Ephesus	Works, Serving, Sacrificing, Steadfast, Separated, Suffering	<u>LEFT</u> Your First Works First Love	Remember Repent DO 1 <sup>st</sup> Works	Grant Right To Eat Of Tree Of Life In Midst Paradise Of God
Smyrna	Works, Tribulation, Poverty, Blasphemy of Synagogue of Satan	None	Do Not Fear Future Be Faithful To Death	Crown Of Life Not Hurt By 2 <sup>nd</sup> Death
Pergamos	Works Live>Satan's Throne Hold Fast To My Name, Didn't Deny My Faith	Allow Doctrine Of Balaam & Nicolaitans <b>COMPROMISE</b>	Repent or Jesus Will Come With Sword Of His Mouth	Eat Of Hidden Manna Give White Stone New Name
Thyatira	Good Works, Love Service, Faith Patience	Allow teachings & Seduction of Jezebel	Hold Fast What You Have Until I Come	Morning Star Power Over Nations
Sardis	Works Name You Live	You Are Dead Works Not Complete	Watch Hold Fast Repent	Clothed In White Raiment
Philadelphia	Didn't Deny His Name Kept His Word	None		Pillar Write On Him The Name Of God & My New Name
Laodicea	Not One Word	Lukewarm Complacent Blind To Condition	Buy Gold Tried By Fire; White Raiment; Anoint Eyes From Jesus Be Zealous Repent	Sit With Him on His Throne

I want to tell you a little story. As I tell the story, I will brainwash you. It's a harmless procedure. Don't worry about it. When I am done, I will ask you two simple questions. If you know the answer, just raise your hand. If you don't know the answer, it will be because you have been successfully brainwashed.

*"Once upon a time, a man left home, jogging. He jogged a little ways and turned left. He jogged a little ways and turned left. He jogged a little ways, and turned left, and jogged back home. As he was jogging home, he noticed two masked men waiting for him at home. Who were the masked men? Why did he leave home jogging?"*

If you know, don't say it out loud. The rest of you, pay attention, we are gonna try it again.

*"Once upon a time, a man left home jogging. He jogged a little ways and turned left. I'll give you a hint, that's important. He jogged a little ways and turned left. He jogged a little ways, turned left, and jogged back home. As he was jogging home, he noticed two masked men waiting for him at home. Who were the masked men? and Why did he leave home jogging?"*

Anybody new figure it out? ...Two more. The rest of you, pay attention. We are gonna try it one more time. But now I am going to un-brainwash you. See, you didn't realize it, but I had you brainwashed in the first three seconds. I am going to un-brainwash all of you now, just by showing you a couple of pictures. I'll tell the same story word for word, but watch the pictures. You will feel yourself get un-brainwashed. It's the coolest feeling. Are you ready? Here goes.

*"Once upon a time, a man left home jogging. He jogged a little ways and turned left. He jogged a little ways and turned left. He jogged a little ways, and turned left, and jogged back home. As he was jogging home, he noticed two masked men waiting for him at home. Who were the masked men? The catcher and the umpire!"*

Is it that easy to get brainwashed?" As soon as I said: "A man left home..." You started thinking about a house. You were off track. Once you get off track, it's pretty tough to get back on.