

So That You May Know That We Are Overcomers I John 5:4,5

The Holy Spirit of God wants us to believe and come to know that "whatever is born of God overcomes the world." (I Jo 5:4) What is the implication behind "overcoming?" That there are things to be overcome! Paul was fond of using the Greek word "agonia" - struggle with adversaries, battle with enemies, hand to hand combat with opponents (Eph 6:12) John makes it clear that to be born of God is no escape from conflict and affliction while here on earth. (It will often make us a "target"... we may find ourselves in the trials and tribulations BECAUSE we are trusting Christ.)

John simply calls this opposition "the world" - that which is not reconciled to God, born of God, and, thus opposes His Way, His Truth, His Life. He also makes it clear that "the world" (that which opposes God) is neither irresistible nor able to conquer the child of God, he who believes in the victorious Son of God. The victory that has victory over the world is the victory of Christ. (I Jo 5:4) In other words, "not God" is unable to defeat God! In Christ, we have received what our Representative in battle has secured - victory over all our enemies. Enemies such as sin, the devil, death (only to name a few).

How do we come to know this? Through "our faith" (I Jo 5:4). Through the receptivity of His activity, our personal, responsive, moment-to-moment trust in Christ. Literally, "he who is believing" in the victory of God's Son is sharing in the victory (I Jo 4:5). Our faith is the "means" by which we appropriate His victory, not the "power". The power (and the victory) belong to Christ. We do not need more "faith", then, to overcome. We need for the Overcoming Son of God to be the object of our faith (not ourselves, not our faith, not even the facts!). Faith in Who He is - the conqueror of all that is against us (Zeph 3:15). Faith in where He is - within us (I Jo 4:4). His overcoming Life abides within us. Abide in Him, and His victory becomes our victory over "not God"!

Jesus Himself made this clear to His disciples just before He was crucified and then raised to overcoming life. He stated that we may abide, or make our home, "in the world", or "in Him". (Jo 16:33) Tribulation and affliction are experienced in both. In the world, tribulation works fear, loss. In Christ, tribulation becomes the soil of revelation, working out of us the courage and assurance of Christ's victory over all that is against us. What the devil means to discourage and defeat us in the moment, God buys up and means for encouragement and victory for eternity. The victorious, overcoming life of Christ deposited into us at our new birth (I Jo 5:1) is displayed through us in that same moment. Each and every battle with "not God" may end on a note of victory in Christ as we demonstrate - by Christ in us - that the created (at its worst) is no match for the Uncreated (at His best - Jesus Christ the Lord!).

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Greetings

Down through the years many of you have expressed your appreciation for our message recordings in all their forms - tapes, CD's, online (www.stevepettitmessages.com). We are grateful they are helpful to you along the way. But like everything else that transpires in the Body of Christ, there are no "solo" actors!

It all began with a graduating college student—Stephen Yeung—who wanted to be able to continue hearing "preaching like that" after leaving Gainesville. He bought the original equipment and got things up and running. Before long Suzanne Groce took on this ministry of getting the Truth of the Gospel into the hands of so many. Along come John Dorough, who recorded and edited our Sunday messages for many years. Jim and Janet Lake also did so much recording, duplicating, and mailing of our conference and Sunday messages. Through most of it all, Ryan Hajdaj participated with the above named people in making sure things worked, got transferred to the appropriate medium, and sent to many of you. To this day, he and his wife Char listen to, edit, archive and upload our messages from wherever they may have been recorded. And, too many others to name along the way have had a hand in this aspect of our ministry.

Why am I telling you all this? Just to remind each of us that there are no "solo" Christian ministries! That none of us has a private salvation (or ministry) package with God. That we are many members in one Body being and doing for the common good. And to thank all of you for sharing in this journey together with us for the honor and glory of Christ!

C A L E N D A R



SEPTEMBER

2 Happy Birthday Steve
7* Alachua Bible Study *NOTE DATE CHANGE
13-16 Sebring, FL (863-385-6058)
19-25 South Fork, CO (full up)


OCTOBER


14-17 Louisville, KY Men's Retreat (502-664-5622)

Praise & Prayer

  For the victory of Christ

  For our fellow workers in the Body of Christ

 An acceptance of our victory over the world
while in the world

 The Body of Christ to employ its gifts and resources
for the good of the Body and the hope of the world



We will keep you apprised regarding our
February 2022 Florida Retreat
as Covid conditions continue to be a factor
in our ability to make such a commitment.

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