

We overcome in the Church

„He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches, he shall inherit all things and I will be his God and he shall be My son.“

(Rev. 3:6; 21:7)

I. Knowing the Son of Man (Rev. 1:12-18)

A. Awake: The Son of Man speaking to His church (Rev. 1:12a)

1. We have a living Lord who speaks to us (Acts 3:22; Hebr. 1:1-2; Hebr. 12:25; Ps. 85:9)
2. We turn to see the voice that speaks to us –
Consciously focus on your Lord (Rev. 1:10; Mt. 22:37; Eph. 5:15-17; 1Tim. 6:20)
3. We should respond to our Lord's speaking
(Mt. 13:15-17; 2 Cor. 2:9; John 10:27)

B. The Son of Man in the midst of the golden lampstands (Rev. 1:12b-16)

1. The Son of Man cannot be separated from the golden lampstands (Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 5:25b; 1 Peter 2:6-7a; John 17:22-23)
2. Our Lord, familiar, yet always new – put aside your own ideas and trust in our Lord (Hebr. 7:25-26; Phil. 2:8-11; Eph. 1:20-21; John 16:33; Rev. 5:5; Ps. 42:12)

C. The Son of Man is the overcomer in us (Rev. 1:17-18)

1. Fear of God – we fall down at His feet
(1 Sam. 12:24; Hebr. 12:21-25, 28-29)
2. Your resurrection is my victory! (Mt. 28:20b; Rev. 21:5-7; Rom. 8:34, 37; Rom. 15:13)

II. The revelation of the church

„Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and having turned I saw seven golden lampstands (Rev. 1:12)

A. We would like to see what the church is

1. The example of Peter (Mt. 16:16-18; John 1:42; 1 Peter. 2:4-5)
2. The example of Paul (Eph. 1:16-23; 3:3, 6-11)
3. The example of John (John 17:20-24; Rev. 1:11-12)

B. The importance of the church for God

1. The body of Christ (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:12)
2. God's dwelling place (Eph. 2:20-22; 1Tim. 3:15)
3. God's household (Eph. 2:19)

C. The practical testimony of Jesus on the earth

1. The principle of oneness at the locality
 - a. Seven lampstands (before God and before the world)
 - b. In each case ONE lampstand per place (Rev 1:10-12)
 - c. Unity among us at our locality is practical (1 Cor. 1:10-13; Eph. 4:1-6)
2. We are being built up in the church at our locality (1 Peter 2:5; Rom. 14:19; 1 Cor. 14:12; Eph. 4:29)
3. In the church we experience the Lord's speaking (Rev. 2-3; Acts 5:9,11; Rev. 1:15)
4. The Lord restores us in the church (Rev. 2-3; Acts 5:9, 11; Rev. 1:15)
 - a. Judgment begins at the house of God (1 Pet. 4:17)
 - b. The Lord sanctifying us and saving us from everything that affects His testimony (John 17:19; Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 3:17; 2 Cor. 7:1)
 - c. We are being prepared for the Lord's coming (1 John 2:28; 1 Pet. 4:7-11)

III. Fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12)

A. We are set in the good fight (Mt. 10:34-39)

1. Fully equipped in the power of the Spirit (Eph. 1:19)
2. Jesus prevailed (Col. 2:15)
3. Taking what He has already won

B. Receiving God's promises as our inheritance (Heb. 9:15)

1. Entering His kingdom (Rom 14:17; Acts 14:22)
2. Being sanctified to see God (Heb. 12:14)
3. Doing the will of God (Heb. 10:36)

C. A great struggle with sufferings (Heb. 10:32)

1. Satan robs us, he makes us afraid, he seduces through the world and religion, makes us seem alive, in reality dead, qualifies, cools us down (Rev. 2-3)
But we are able to overcome (Rom. 8:37)
2. Our whole being is challenged (1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

D. Who can take up this fight?

1. God has qualified us (Col. 1:12; Ps. 18:33-37)
2. Don't lose your qualification!
 - a. No passivity (Rom. 12:11)
 - b. Faith and a good conscience (1 Tim. 1:19)
 - c. Oneness of the Spirit (Eph. 4:3; Mark 3:24)
 - d. Being filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:52)

E. How should we fight practically?

1. Through His Spirit (Acts 1:8)
2. Through our obedience (Luk. 1:38; 2 Cor. 10:5)
3. Through our prayer (Acts 4:23-31; Rev. 8:3-6)
4. Through the word of our testimony (Rev. 12:11)
5. Through our praise (2 Chr. 20:20-23)
6. Holding fast what we have (Rev. 3:11; 3:3; 2:25)

IV. Overcoming with Christ, the Crucified one

A. Jesus became obedient unto the death on the cross (Phil. 2:8)

1. At age 12 He knew where He had to be (Luke 2:49)
2. He was baptized (Matt. 3:13-16)
3. He resisted Satan's temptation (Matt. 4:1-11)
4. He did God's will all the time right to His crucifixion (John 5:30; 8:28-29; Matt. 26:29)

B. Jesus died on the cross for our salvation

1. God's judgement of all men (Heb. 9:27)
2. As atonement for our sins, to reconcile us with God. He died for us and we died with Him (1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:14-15, 20)
3. By identifying with His death we can overcome sin (Rom. 6:3-13)
4. The old man, the self (Matt. 16:24; Gal. 2:19-20)
5. The world (1 John 2:14-17; Gal. 6:14)

C. Jesus died that we might receive God's eternal life to overcome as He overcame

1. God resurrected Him and He became the Spirit living in us and transforming us into His image (John 7:39; 1 Cor. 15:45; Col. 1:27; Gal. 4:19; 2 Cor. 3:18)
2. In the spirit we have crucified the flesh (Gal. 5:16, 24)

D. Jesus died on the cross, now we are able to overcome and build up His church in oneness

1. The Lord said that He wants to build His church (Matt. 16:18)
2. Caiaphas the high priest prophesies the Lord's death and the oneness of the believers that is made possible as a result (John 11:50-52; Eph. 4:13)
3. Jesus praying for oneness (John 17:20-24)
4. Paul preaching Christ crucified (1 Cor. 1:18, 24; 2:2)
5. The Lord has set the members as He pleased that there should be no division in the body (1 Cor. 12:12-13, 24-25)
6. We are one new man, reconciled to one another and to God in one body, and we are the church for whom he gave Himself (Eph. 2:14-16; 5:23-32)

V. From a babe you have known the sacred writings (2 Tim. 3:14-16; Heb. 4:12)

A. The Word of God (Rev. 1:16; 2:12, 16; 19:13, 15a)

1. Giving heed to the Word (Heb. 2:1-3; 1 Sam. 15:23, 26)
2. Loving the Word (John 14:23; 1 John 2:5)
3. The Word is reliable (1 Tim. 4:9; Is. 42:8; 45:21; 46:10-11)

B. Dealing with the Word of God

1. The Word has been written for us today
(1 Cor. 10:6, 11; Rom. 15:4)
2. The joy of the Lord comes through the Word (Neh. 8:8-10)
3. Searching the Word (Is. 34:16; Prov. 25:2)
4. Finding great treasure in the Word (Ps. 119:162)
5. The Word is our food (Jer. 15:16; Heb. 5:13-14)
6. Receiving the Word and doing it (James 1:21-24)

C. How does the Word of God operate?

1. The Word is living, powerful and sharp (Heb. 4:12)
2. The Word separates soul and spirit (Heb. 4:12)
3. We use the Word to fight
(Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17; Judg. 3:16-21)
4. The Word purifies (John 15:3; Eph. 5:26)
and sanctifies us (John 17:17)
5. The Word separates us from the world (Rev. 2:12, 16)
and keeps us (Rev. 3:10)
6. The Word is a basis for our prayer
(Acts 4:24-31; Dan. 9:2-19; Neh. 1:5-11)
7. The Word stirs up, renews and leads to Gods testimony
(2 Chr. 15:8-10)

VI. We hear what the Spirit says

(Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)

A. Revelation – only in spirit and through the Spirit

(Rev. 1:10, 12; 4:1-2; 21:10; 1 Cor. 2:9-10)

1. Jesus presents Himself as the Spirit – if anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink! (John 7:37-39; Ps. 116:13; 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 Cor. 15:45)
2. Only in spirit: free from burdens and sin (2 Cor. 3:17; Luke 13:11-13; Heb. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:17)
3. The Spirit (the anointing) teaches us everything – we listen and obey (John 14:26; 1 John 2:20, 27)
4. Who speaks? We discern the voice of the Spirit from all natural voices (John 6:63; Heb. 3:7-8; 1 Cor. 2:3-6; John 5:39-40)

B. The Word piercing to the dividing of soul and spirit

(Heb. 4:12)

1. Only the spiritual man receives the things of God (1 Cor. 2:14-15; Rom. 7:18; 8:7)
2. The control of the Spirit over the natural man (Rom. 8:5-6; Gal. 5:16, 24)
3. The Lord holds the two-edged sword in His hand against all mixture (Rev. 2:12-15)

C. The expression of the local church – full of the Spirit

(Eph. 2:22; 1 Pet. 2:5)

1. A lampstand of pure gold (Rev. 1:12; Ex. 25:31, 37) shining through the Spirit – the oil for the light of the lampstand (Ex. 27:20; Lev. 24:2-4)
2. Our exercise unto godliness in the church (2 Cor. 4:12-13; Gal. 3:2-3; 1 Tim. 4:7-8)
3. The Spirit and the bride speak: Come! (Rev. 22:17)

VII. The Lord wants to restore His church so that she corresponds to Him (Eph. 2:20-22; Rev. 19:7-9)

A. Why does the Lord rebuke the churches?

(Rev. 2:4, 14, 20; 3:2, 16)

1. Praise and reproof – where necessary and justified
2. He is her Maker (Matt. 16:18; Heb. 11:10)
3. He is her Redeemer (Acts 20:28)
4. He is her Judge (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 1:16; 2:4; Heb. 4:12)

B. What makes the Lord dissatisfied?

1. Special judgment for every church and still applicable to all of them
2. Lack of divine love (Rev. 2:4; 1 John 4:20; 3:18)
3. Practicing the Nicolaitan teaching (Rev. 2:15)
4. Mixture with the world (1 John 2:15-17)
5. Religious mind and behavior

C. Which way does the Lord show to the churches and to the individual believers in them?

1. Genuine repentance (Ps. 32:2-9; John 8:11)
2. Overcoming (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21)
 - a. Knowing liberty and abide in it (Rom. 6:3-7, 12-14)
 - b. Taking out of the abundance of grace (Rom. 5:17)
 - c. Experiencing the saving power of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Is. 12:2-3; Ezek. 47:1, 8-12)
 - d. Consecrating oneself for the building up (Ps. 118:22-24; 1 Pet. 2:4-5)
3. Loving holiness (1 Pet. 1:13-15)
 - a. Light – holiness – glory
 - b. Allowing God to work in us (1 Thess. 5:23)

VIII. Overcoming through faith

A. The preciousness of faith in our times

1. Will He find faith? (Luke 18:8)
2. Our faith overcame the world (1 John 5:4-5)
3. Faith is the substantiating of things (Heb. 11:1)
4. In faith arriving at the oneness of the faith
(Eph. 4:13-16; Rom. 1:12; Phil. 1:6)

B. Believing the speaking of the Lord and defeating the enemy

1. The example of Abraham (Gen. 15:1-6)
2. Hearing and believing (Rom. 10:17)
3. Not doubting: having an Amen to the Lord's speaking
(Rom. 4:20; Gal. 4:29-30)
4. Seeing situations in a spiritual way (2 Kin. 6:16-17)
5. The obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5; 2. Cor. 10:5)

C. He who overcomes (Rev. 2-3)

1. Eating of the tree of life (2:7)
2. Not being hurt by the second death (2:11)
3. The hidden manna, the white stone and a new name (2:17)
4. Authority over the nations (2:26)
5. White garments (3:5; 22:14)
6. Being part of the city of our God (3:12; Heb. 11:10)
7. Sitting with Him on His throne (3:21)

D. Reaching the goal (Rev. 21:1-7)

1. A new heaven and a new earth
2. The holy city
3. Water of life for the thirsty ones
4. He who overcomes will inherit these things