

Overcoming Faith [I John 5:4-5]

Background Scripture: [Revelation 2:7]: *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; to him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

Note: To him that overcomes: An overcomer (**GK. Nikon**): one who, by the grace of God received through faith in Christ, has experienced the new birth and remains constant in victory over sin, the world's system and Satan. **(1)** surrounded by great opposition and rebellion, overcomers refuse to conform to the world and any ungodliness within the visible church and its lukewarm culture (**vs.24**). they hear and respond to what the Spirit says to the churches, remain faithful to Christ to the very end and accept only God's standard revealed in His holy word (**3:8**).

(2) The promise to overcomers in God's churches, and only the overcomers, is that they will eat of the tree of life, will not be hurt by the second death (**vs.11**), will receive hidden manna and be given a new name in heaven (**vs.17**), will be given authority over nations (**vs.26**), will not have their names removed from the book of life but will be honored by Christ before His Father and the angels (**vs.3:5**), will remain with God in the new Jerusalem (**vs.3:12**), will sit with Christ upon His throne (**vs.3:21**), and will be forever the children of God (**vs.21:7**).

(3) The secret of victory for overcomers is Christ's atoning death, their own faithful testimony about Jesus, and their perseverance in love for Christ even in death (**12:11; I John 5:4**). Note that we either overcome sin, the world and satan, or we are overcome by them and are ultimately thrown into the lake of fire. There is no intermediate group.

Conclusion: The faith that overcomes the world is a faith that see eternal realities, experiences the power of God and loves Christ to such an extent that the world's sinful pleasures, secular values, ungodly ways and selfish materialism not lose their attraction for us, but also are looked upon with disgust, aversion and grief (**Revelation 2:7**).

[Hebrews 11:1-3]

Now faith is the substance of things hope for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made with things which do appear.

Note: Through faith we understand: "Through faith" occurs here at the beginning of the sentence for emphasis, as it does **18** times in (**chapter 11**), with a cumulative emphasis intended. We "understand" or obtain knowledge in two basic ways: **(1)** that which is obtained through the five physical senses and natural reasoning and **(2)** knowledge about God and the spiritual realm that happens first at the spiritual level through revelation and is

understood “through faith.” The natural mind cannot understand things given by God (**I Corinthians 2:12-14**), including creation; only a “renewed mind” can comprehend such things. Thus, the testimony of God’s Word is intrinsic to faith, understanding “that the worlds were framed by the word of God” thus, “***Thus, he that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.***”

Note: exp. **Substance and evidence:**

Substance: (GK.): Hypostasis: a compound word “setting under” (support), i.e., (figuratively) concrete essence, or abstract assurance (objective or subjective) confidence, confident, substance.

Substance: (ENG.): A form of **matter** with a constant chemical composition and distinct physical properties.

Matter: Any physical substance that has mass and occupies space (volume). It makes up all visible objects in the universe, from microscopic atoms to planets and stars existing primarily as solids, liquids, gases, or plasma.

Mass and Volume: Matter consists of particles that take up physical space and have a measurable weight. Everything around you is made of matter, which is composed of atoms and molecules.

Evidence: is defined as the available body of facts, information or object indicating whether a belief or proposition is true and valid. It serves as proof in legal, scientific, or daily contexts, acting as grounds for belief or a sign that makes something clear, according to Merriam Webster: A visible sign of something, something that furnishes proof, also, (to show or make evident).

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Two kinds of people regarding faith:
[Hebrews 4:2; Matthew 8:8]

Final Thought: ***And Jesus answering saith unto them: **Have faith in God. Therefore, I say unto you, what things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.** [Mark 11:22, 24]***