



Sunday March 07, 2021
Overcoming Part 6: Overcoming The World

REVIEW

We start this sermon series in January of this year. We've had a few breaks due to Supernatural Sundays and our 20th Anniversary Thanksgiving service.

Let us quickly review what we have covered so far:

In this series we are learning how to live victoriously over the flesh, the world, the devil.

We have established the fact that all believers can live overcoming and victorious lives over the flesh, the world, and the devil. We have understood that **the Cross** of Jesus and **our identity** in Christ are the basis for us to live overcoming victorious lives. We also discovered that living by **the Word of God** and **walking in the Spirit** are practical keys to living the overcoming life.

In the last sermon we spoke specifically how to walk in victory over the flesh.

How do we overcome the flesh?

- 1, Know you are free from the power of sin
- 2, Use the Word in relation to your area of weakness
- 3, Walk in the Spirit and crucify the flesh
- 4, Put on Jesus and make no provision for the flesh
- 5, Get Another Believer to walk with you

TODAY

Today we discuss overcoming the world. Next Sunday we will discuss overcoming the devil.

What are the challenges we face as believers in the world?

Broadly speaking, we can place these challenges into three categories:

- A, Worldly influences and attractions.
- B, Cares and pressures.
- C, Troubles and persecutions (hardships, trials or tribulations).

Let's talk briefly about these.



A, Worldly influences and attractions

Worldly influences and attractions are real. They pull on our affections and try to gain our attention.

Think about this. Paul the apostle wrote about Demas one of his own fellow workers (Philemon 1:24). In the final epistle, and closing remarks, almost with a sense of deep sadness, the apostle Paul writes: *“Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed...”* (2 Timothy 4:10). Demas was one of Paul’s team members, and he was pulled away from his call because of the attractions of this world.

The Bible calls us to keep ourselves “unspotted from the world” (James 1:27). The wonderful truth is that God has given us what we need to stay free from the corruption or moral decay that is in the world caused by lust – the worldly attractions and desires. We have this stated in 2 Peter 1:3-4:

2 Peter 1:3-4

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

But the apostle Peter did warn that if after we have escaped the pollutions of the world, we choose to go back, we end up in a worse state than the beginning:

2 Peter 2:20

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

B, Cares and pressures

Next, there are the cares, responsibilities, pressures, stresses we face in the world.

The Lord Jesus referred to both these in the parable of the sower:

Mark 4:18-19

18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.



Notice the 'deceitfulness of riches, the desires for other things' which we addressed in the first point A.

Jesus also mentioned 'the cares of this world'. These are the responsibilities that we have to fulfill and the related pressures we face.

Sometimes we can become overburdened with these that we become ineffective for God's purposes and sometimes we could self-destruct.

We have the wonderful promise that we can lay all our cares on the Lord and let Him so empower us that we can walk free from the burdens, while still fulfilling our responsibilities.

1 Peter 5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

C, Troubles and persecutions

And then there are the hardships, trials or tribulations, the winds and the waves, the storms of life that come. The unexpected challenges, the sudden mishaps, hindrances, oppositions and even persecutions.

The Lord Jesus offered us His peace and yet warned us that in the world we will have tribulations. So, following Jesus does not mean the absence of tribulations, but the presence of his peace and good cheer in the middle of tribulations.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Sometimes we face persecutions because of our faith, or because of a life of godliness, truth, and purity. Not everyone in the world is going to celebrate when we walk in truth and integrity because it goes against much of the ways of the world. But we know God commends, approves and rewards us for our faith and walk of righteousness.

How Do We Live As Overcomers Over The World?

We wish to present a few Biblical and practical instructions on how to live victorious over the world. While (A) worldly influences and attractions, (B)cares and pressures, and



(C)troubles and persecutions (hardships, trials or tribulations) - all these are real, how do we live as overcomers through these?

We will discuss four Biblical instructions:

- 1, Set Your Desires On Things Above
- 2, Be Sanctified By The Word And The Spirit
- 3, Live By Faith In God And With A Renewed Mind
- 4, Be Spiritually Minded And Earthly Wise

There are numerous Scriptures that we can reference with respect to each of these Biblical instructions. However, for this sermon, due to time restrictions, we will mention just a few.

1, Set Your Desires On Things Above

Colossians 3:1-3

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Verse 2 instructs us to seek, pursue, yearn for things that are above.

In verse 2, the phrase 'set your mind on' in Greek is '*phroneo*' which means to exercise the mind, to direct one's mind to a thing, to seek, to strive for.

As 1 John 2:16-17 teaches us we are not to love the world nor the things that are in the world because these are not of the Father and these are passing away.

Now this does not mean we do not meaningfully engage with the world. Of course, we do. We are stewards of all that God has given to us and we can enjoy the good things that God has blessed us with (1 Timothy 6:17-18, Ecclesiastes 3:13). But our affections are not captured by these things. Our primary desires, plans and pursuits are on that which pleases God.

As Jesus taught, we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). So, for us all of life flows out from a Kingdom perspective.

A constant question we ask ourselves is 'how does what I am doing, pursuing, working towards matter for the Kingdom of God?'



Consecrate your affections to God.

Look at your life on earth from heaven's perspective, from a Kingdom perspective.

2, Be Sanctified By The Word And The Spirit

The only way we can be 'in the world' and still not 'of the world' is by the work of God's Word and His Spirit in our lives.

The Word of God and the Holy Spirit sanctify us – keep us apart holy for God.

Jesus made this clear in His prayer in John 17.

John 17:16-17

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

The Holy Spirit also sanctifies us (Romans 15:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11) and conforms us into Christlikeness (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Invite the Holy Spirit to touch your affections and desires and keep them consecrated to God.

3, Live By Faith In God And With A Renewed Mind

As we face pressures, challenges, and persecutions we must learn to walk by faith through those life situations and overcome.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

We saw in 1 John 5:4 that we overcome the world through faith in God.

We must learn to use our faith to combat the winds and the waves, the storms that arise.

We must use our faith to force mountains, hinderances and obstacles out of the way.

We must use our faith to see needs met, closed doors open, Jericho's conquered, the mouths of lions stopped, and so on.



We must use our faith to be undeterred through trials and persecutions. 1 Peter 1:6-7 teaches us that the genuineness of our faith is proved through the trails we endure and comes out like gold, for the praise and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We also live with a renewed mind. A renewed mind is a mind that thinks aligned to the ways and thoughts of God. In the midst of challenges we stay positive knowing that all things are working together for good to those who love Him and those called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). In every situation we see ourselves as more than conquerors (Romans 8:37). In every situation we believe that God causes us to triumph (2 Corinthians 2:14). This is how the renewed mind thinks.

4, Be Spiritually Minded And Earthly Wise

See the APC book: Being Spiritually Minded Earthly Wise

We are also instructed to be wise on this earth. Get both spiritual and natural knowledge. Get understanding of both spiritual and natural things, because we live in both realms.

Jesus instructed us to be wise as we go out as sheep among wolves:

Matthew 10:16

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

In the parable of the Unjust steward, it ended with the master commending his unjust steward (Luke 16:8). And then Jesus states that "the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light" (Luke 16:8). We need to be prudent as we deal with the people of this world.

SUMMARY

As believers we can overcome the world. We can overcome (A) Worldly influences and attractions (B) Cares and pressures (C) Troubles and persecutions (hardships, trials or tribulations).

Four Biblical instructions to live victoriously over the world:

- 1, Set Your Desires On Things Above
- 2, Be Sanctified By The Word And The Spirit



- 3, Live By Faith In God And With A Renewed Mind
- 4, Be Spiritually Minded And Earthly Wise

SALVATION CALL

The GOSPEL (Good News) in brief.

Here is how we RECEIVE the Good News for our personal lives.

We make it a simple A,B,C,D. We must:

ACKNOWLEDGE: our sin, the consequences of our sin, and our need for a Savior

BELIEVE: in Jesus Christ, in who He is and what He has done on the Cross, personally

CONFESS: Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of our lives

DECIDE: to follow Jesus Christ as His disciple for the rest of our lives

MINISTRY TIME

Call team up :

First and Third (and fifth) Sundays: Nancy Ramya, Jacob Mathew, Jean George

Second and Fourth Sundays: Jeyakumar Isaiah, Selina Macwana, Roshan Jonas



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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Overcoming Part 6: Overcoming The World

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *2 Peter 1:3-4; Colossians 3:1-3; John 17:14-20; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Matthew 10:16*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

*1) Discuss the three broad categories where we face challenges in the world:
(A) Worldly influences and attractions (B) Cares and pressures (C) Troubles and persecutions (hardships, trials or tribulations).*

2) Discuss how you would practically apply these four Biblical instructions to live victoriously over the challenges we face in the world:

1, Set Your Desires On Things Above



- 2, Be Sanctified By The Word And The Spirit*
- 3, Live By Faith In God And With A Renewed Mind*
- 4, Be Spiritually Minded And Earthly Wise*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey.

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another.

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened.*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>