

2. How to Develop Strong Faith

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Subtitle: Faith to overcome

Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV) *Now **the just shall live by faith**; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.*

- We are re-visiting the subject of faith
- We are ‘priming the pump’ again to take our personal faith to new levels
 - Strong Faith in God
 - Strong Faith in God’s Word
 - Strong Faith in the Name of Jesus Christ
 - Strong Faith in God’s promises
- **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)** *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*
- As believers, we are called to live & walk by faith

Main points from the previous message:

- a. Weak faith or strong faith (Abraham)
- b. From general promises of descendants - to a specific promise of a son
- c. How did Abraham move from general faith to specific (strong) faith?
- d. God repeated His promises to Abraham, over and over again
- e. Find a Scripture that covers your specific need, and repeat to yourself

1. Overcoming Faith

Revelation 3:21–22 (NKJV) *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

- These are the words of Jesus Christ to the church at Laodicea
- He tells them (and us!) that everyone who overcomes (in their faith walk) will be able to sit down with Him on His throne (in His future Kingdom)
- The word “overcome” suggests that:
 - there are difficulties & opposition
 - there is a need for us to be vigilant & alert, to fight
- overcome – Gr. nikao’- to subdue, conquer, prevail, get the victory

1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV) *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

- Evidently, walking by faith is also called “fighting the good fight of faith”
- ... lay hold on eternal life ...
- In other words, don't passively wait for things to come to you
- Reach out, by faith, & lay hold of the things that God has promised

2. Faith to overcome the world

1 John 5:4 (NKJV) *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

- Whatever (whoever) is born of God overcomes the world
- Evidently, the world is an entity (a system) that needs to be overcome
 - world's corruption, world's pollution, (2 Peter 1:4, 2:20)
 - friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4)

1 John 5:5 (NKJV) *Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

- When we commit our life to Christ, we rise above & overcome the world
- Notice: ... he who believes ...
- The key to overcoming is our faith!
- Therefore, our focus shouldn't be on overcoming but on our personal faith
- ... this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith (1 Pet. 5:4)

3. Jesus Christ has overcome the world

John 16:33 (NKJV) *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.*

- In the world you will have tribulation (trouble, pressure)
- ... be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world**
- Jesus Christ did not succumb to the world's pressure, He overcame it
- Even the world's religious systems are part of the world's corruption

2 Peter 2:20 (NKJV) 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.

- This speaks of people who once got saved, but backslid & went back into the world & were entangled again by the pollution of the world
- Either we overcome the world, or it will overcome us
- Our faith and the world's system are incompatible (opposing forces!)
- Although we are (still) in the world, we are not of the world (John 17:14)
- In Jesus' High Priestly prayer for His disciples (John chpt. 17), He mentioned "the world" 19 times
- Some of the main comments in His prayer were:
 - Father, I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world (vs. 6)
 - I have given them your Word (vs. 14)
 - They have kept your Word (vs. 6)
- Hearing & keeping the Word of God gives us faith to overcome (Rom. 10:17)

4. Faith to overcome satan

Revelation 12:10–11 (NKJV) *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren**, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. **11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.***

- The "accuser of the brethren" is a term applied to satan - the devil
- Believers overcome satan:
 - by the blood of the Lamb (blood of Jesus Christ), and
 - by the word of our testimony (the confession of our faith)
- Just a reminder:
 - satan is already defeated through Christ's death on the cross (Col. 2:15, Heb. 2:14)
 - satan is already "under our feet" (Eph. 1:21-22, 2:6)
 - we have authority over him
- However, satan is still operating in the earth (illegally)

Romans 16:20 (NKJV) *And the **God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

- Notice: ... God ... will crush Satan under your feet

1 John 2:13–14 (NKJV) *I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. **I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one.** I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. **14** I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. **I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.***

- Ap. John writes to fathers, young men & little children
- These are:
 - Mature believers (fathers)
 - Maturing believers (young men)
 - New believers (little children)
- Maturing believers have learnt how to overcome the devil
- Notice: vs 14. ... young men, you are strong - the word of God abides in you
- Strength to overcome the devil comes when God's Word dwells in us
- Without the blood of Jesus & without the (knowledge of) the Word of God, we are no match for the devil