52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Overcomers will be Sealed**

Day 48 – June 30, 2013

**Psalm 119:132** “Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Thy manner with those who love Thy name.”

When we read the book of Revelation, and when we hear the voice of God speaking judgment for His church in preparation for the return of His Son, our flesh puts us varying degrees of panic. But know this; God is gracious to those who love Him with whole-hearted abandon. The book of Revelation has great promises and instructions for us in the days we are in, if we but open up our ears to what God is speaking.

**Revelation 2:7** “He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes… “

As the time of Jesus’ return nears, God will release His presence more and more upon His people. God’s remnant will display great wisdom and power for the purpose of inviting all people to come closer and closer to the saving and sanctifying knowledge of Jesus Christ. **But with this manifested presence, more and more will be required of us. We must walk with a higher standard of obedience.** This is why God is speaking so sternly and urgently to us in this hour. Judgment starts with us, and we must be overcomers. To overcome means to subdue, conquer, prevail, and gain victory. We must conquer and gain victory over everything that is contrary to the Lord, everything that hinders our whole-hearted devotion to God.

**Please read Revelation 2 and 3.** These chapters are letters written to seven actual churches in Asia Minor. As these churches are described, we can see the churches of today. These messages are for us, instructing us how to partner with Jesus in his worldwide preparation of the church for His 2nd coming. Jesus is showing us the kind of church that He is building and what His agenda is. We have built our own churches our way for too long, now is the time to do it God’s way!

During these 52 days, we have seen that this preparation will take a **greater spiritual maturity, faith, and level of obedience** thanthe church has ever walked in.These messages define the truths and focus necessary to equip us to walk in love for Jesus and for one another. Our **faithfulness** to God is of great value. We express our love for Him as we obey His commands, heed His warnings, and believe His promises, especially His eternal rewards to overcomers. **In these end times, there is a deeper truth that we must pursue and it will take the supernatural help of the Holy Spirit to understand it**. We must be overcomers.

An overcomer is one who matures in the specific areas that Jesus emphasizes in their life. Overcoming does not mean attaining perfection in our character, but rather walking in a disciplined lifestyle that is **constantly reaching for victory in the areas we are struggling in.**

**Let’s look at what and how the churches mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3 were to be overcomers.**

For those like the church at **Ephesus**, overcoming means to return to our first love for Jesus, until the end of your life! We are to exhibit Christian love to God and to others. We are to intimately know the love of God and to be a faithful witness of God’s love. We must not be so busy that we miss out on intimacy with God. **Ephesus will overcome and gain victory through intimacy with God.**

If we see ourselves in the church of **Smyrna**, overcoming means to be faithful in persecution, even to death. Know that the suffering in our lives has great purpose; it is a testing of our faith to bring us to maturity in Christ. **Smyrna will overcome by being faithful and persevering through their trials.**

Overcoming for those like the church of **Pergamum** means to resist immorality and idolatry for the rest of our lives. The church at Pergamum had great mixture of false teachings and truth. We must guard the Word of God. We must know the Word of God and live by it. **Pergamum will overcome by knowing and living out the revealed truth of the Word of God.**

Those like **Thyatira** must overcome by resisting immorality and idolatry for the rest of our lives. We must be a light to the world, and not blend in to the darkness. We must expose the deeds of darkness. **Thyatira will overcome by resisting immorality and idolatry, and be a light to the world.**

If we see ourselves in the church of **Sardis**, overcoming means to be watchful by developing a strong prayer life; and to hold fast the things that God entrusted to us. We must be careful to keep ourselves separate from the world. **Sardis will overcome by being careful to keep themselves separate from the world, living holy and consecrated lives in prayer:**

Those like the church of **Philadelphia** might think they are overcomers already. But in order to overcome, we must persevere in mature obedience for the rest of our lives. We must take on the character of God, and hold fast to God’s faithfulness. Philadelphia was known for its healing waters, so we too must be living water to those around us. **Philadelphia will overcome by coming into mature obedience.**

The church in **Laodicea** must overcome their lukewarmness. They must see that God has what they need, and that He has the true riches we seek. Laodicea was known for their eye salve, even though they were blind to the truth. May we overcome and see the truth clearly. Repent. Know that those whom God reproves He loves! If we repent and become overcomers, we will be clothed in purity and righteousness. **Laodicea will overcome by being zealous to repent of their love of the world, and then see the truth of God clearly.**

Let’s look at one of the promises made to the church of Philadelphia. This is a promise for all who overcome and come to the full knowledge of Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 3:10** “Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, **I also will keep you from the hour of testing**, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

The word **keep** means to be guarded, to keep an eye on, and to hold on to tightly. In the coming times of judgment upon the entire earth, things will be very unsettled, and life will be very difficult. People will be under so much grief and suffering they will want to give up and die. God is sending judgment to get them to repent and come to Him, but unfortunately most will not repent.

**Revelation 9:6, 20-21** “And **in those days men will seek death** and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.” … “The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands**, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.”

But those who have come close to the Lord and persevered in mature obedience during their times of testing and judgment, will be kept from this time of worldwide judgment. God will keep them very close, always watching them, and holding on tightly to them.

**Let’s look at several cross-references to this time of separated protection.**

**Isaiah 43:1-2** “…Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.”

God promises that overcomers will not be hurt by the flames as others. Those who love God, He will turn to us and be gracious to us; He will put His seal upon our forehead. We will be marked out for protection.

**Revelation 7:3** “saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

**Revelation 9:4-5** “They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man.”

In the end times, all will have a mark; either the seal of the Lord or the mark of the beast. **There will come a day when every person on earth must choose who they will serve.**  This scripture will seriously come to life in those days.

**Malachi 3:16-18** “Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name. **They will be Mine**, says the LORD of hosts, on the day that I prepare My own possession, and **I will spare them** as a man spares his own son who serves him. **So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.”**

**Joel 2:32 “**And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors (remnant) whom the Lord calls.”

We are heading into difficult times, where we will all suffer hardship, but all who are overcomers will be comforted by the Lord, having His peace in their hearts.

David Wilkerson said, “No hiding, no mountain cabins of escape, no caves, no shelter, no stockpiles of food, no weapons, no water; God's holy remnant can look death right in the face and say, ‘I fear you not. There is no sting, no more terror; I am ready to be offered’.” When we try to preserve ourselves we are still connected to the world and the earth.

God is warning and preparing us for such a time as this. **Let us be steadfast in our trust in God and let Him keep us in perfect peace.**

**Isaiah 26:3**  “The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You.”

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Please read Ezekiel 9**. Look at the correlation between these verses and the ones in Revelation. Make note of what the Lord is doing and why.