

ARE YOU AN OVERCOMER IN CHRIST?

A. Various Views on the Identity of the Overcomer

1. You are an overcomer if you believe in Christ and practically overcome sin, Satan, and the world in order to _____ your eternal salvation. (RC, EO, Many Protestants)
2. You are an overcomer if you believe in Christ and practically overcome sin, Satan, and the world in order To _____ that you were truly saved/elect. (Calvinism)
3. Though all believers in Christ are eternally saved, even if those who don't perseverance in faith and good works, only the minority of believers who _____ overcome sin, Satan, and the world by _____ following Christ will be considered overcomers. (Common Free Grace view)
4. You are an overcomer if you simply believe in Jesus Christ (1 John 5:4-5) because He has overcome sin, Satan, and the world by His finished work, and all believers of this church age are _____ in Him—the only One who was victorious and worthy by His works. (Classical Grace, dispensational view)

B. Terms Used for Overcoming in the Bible

1. The stem *nik-* occurs _____ times in the New Testament with nouns meaning victor, victory, or overcomer or conqueror (*nikos, nikē*) and with verbs meaning conquer or overcome (*nikaō*).
2. The stem *nik-* was used in many _____ in the New Testament because of the cultural emphasis in the first century on athletic, military, or political conquest or victory.
 - *How should we view these terms and this concept of overcoming dispensationally?*

C. The Overcomer BEFORE the Book of Revelation

1. In the Gospels, _____ is the One who overcomes or gets the victory by His person and work. (Matt. 12:20; Luke 11:22; John 16:33).
2. In Romans 8:37, _____ believers are regarded as already being _____ (*hypernikaō*) through _____.
 - *How does this compare with Romans 12:21?*
3. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, victory over death is _____ to all believers through _____.
 - *What practical affect should this truth have on believers? (1 Cor. 15:58)*

4. In 1 John 2:13-14, believers have _____ overcome the _____.
5. In 1 John 4:4, believers have _____ overcome _____ (4:1) and the _____ of the Antichrist (4:2-3).
6. In 1 John 5:4-5, the overcomer is defined to simply be one who has been _____ through _____ in Jesus Christ.

D. The Overcomer IN the Book of Revelation

1. Paul and John don't have two different concepts of the overcomer.
2. Nowhere in the book of Revelation is the overcomer defined. Thus, John doesn't have two different concepts of the overcomer in 1 John vs. Revelation.
3. John uses *nikaō* in Revelation in the place of *pisteuō* from his Gospel, probably because the theme/overall context of Revelation is one of victory over sin, Satan, and evil, just like the contexts of *nikaō* in 1 John 2, 4, and 5.
4. There are no references in Revelation to "him who does not overcome" despite the references to failure in the churches (2:4-5, 14-16, 20-24; 3:1-3, 15-19), showing that "he who overcomes" is not a special category of believers.
5. Overcomers are contrasted with unsaved/unbelievers (Rev. 21:6-8).
6. Promises to the overcomers in Revelation 2:7, 11, and 3:5 are best understood as salvation blessings, not earned rewards.
7. The 7 overcomer statements to the 7 churches of Revelation 2–3 are promises of encouragement where Christ ends on a note of grace, not warnings to the believers within each church or commands yet to be fulfilled by them.
8. Within the addresses to the churches, the promises of a crown/reward for faithful service come before (2:10; 3:11) the overcomer promises (2:11; 3:12). Thus, crowns/rewards are a different concept from overcoming.
 - *How is the concept of the overcomer used in Revelation regarding . . .*
 - Jesus Christ?
 - Antichrist?
 - Tribulation martyrs?
 - *What can we learn from all this?*