

SERIES: I JOHN: HOW TO KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, WEEK 22

TITLE: THE OVERCOMERS

TEXT: I JOHN 5:4-5

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE SHOE AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT COMPANY, NIKE, IS A HOUSEHOLD FAMILIAR WORD IN OUR NATION.

*MOST OF YOU HAVE BOUGHT A PAIR OF NIKE SHOES AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER IN YOUR LIFE AND MANY OF YOU HAVE WORN SOME TYPE OF NIKE CLOTHING.

**NOW THE WORD NIKE COMES FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY.

***FOR NIKE WAS THE GREEK GODDESS OF VICTORY.

****IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY NIKE WAS HONORED BY ZEUS BECAUSE SHE FOUGHT ON THE SIDE OF THE GODS AGAINST THE TITANS. SO THE ATHENIANS DEDICATED HER STATUE IN DELPHI AFTER THE NAVAL VICTORY OVER THE PERSIANS IN 480 BC.

(2) HOWEVER, ATHLETES AND CHARIOTEERS ALSO PAID HER HONOR FOR THEIR SUCCESSES IN THE GREEK GAMES.

*FOR THE ROMANS, NIKE BECAME A SYMBOL OF VICTORY OVER DEATH.

**SO NIKE IS ROOTED IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY, THE GODDESS OF VICTORY.

***AND BY THE WAY, THE NIKE SWOOSH, THE NIKE LOGO REPRESENTS THE WING OF THE GREEK GODDESS, NIKE.

****NOW MOVING ON IN TIME, IN THE GREEK LITERATURE AND THE GREEK LANGUAGE THE VERB NEE-KA-O CAME TO MEAN TO BE VICTORIOUS AND THE NOUN NEE-KAY, OR NIKE, CAME TO MEAN VICTORY.

(3)AND SPECIFICALLY IN ITS ETYMOLOGY, THE VERB FORM OF NIKE HAD THE MEANING TO CONQUER, TO CARRY OFF THE VICTORY, TO BE VICTORIOUS OVER A FOE.

*AND WITH THE ADVENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRED WRITINGS OF THE N.T. IN WHAT WAS CALLED KOINE GREEK OR COMMON GREEK, THOSE MEANINGS WERE USED BY THE INSPIRED AUTHORS.

**IN FACT THE VERB FORM OF NIKE, NEE-KA-O IS USED 29 TIMES IN THE N.T., AND THE NOUN NEE-KAY ONCE AND HOOPER NEE-KA-O IS USED ONCE AND NEE-KOCE IS USED 4 TIMES. (ALL A FORM OF THE WORD NIKE, MEANING VICORY OR TO OVERCOME.)

***NOW IN SCRIPTURE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST USES NEE-KA-O IN JOHN 16:33 TO SPEAK OF HIS VICTORY OVER THE SATANIC WORLD SYSTEM WHEN JESUS SAID: "THESE THINGS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU, SO THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE. IN THE WORLD YOU HAVE TRIBULATION, BUT TAKE COURAGE, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD."

***NOW THE VICTORY OF CHRIST THROUGH HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION FORM THE BASIS OF CHRISTIANS BEING OVERCOMERS OR VICTORS.

****AND PAUL TALKS ABOUT THIS IN ROMANS 8:37 WHEN HE SAID: (QUOTE IT)

(4)NOW THE WORDS OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER IN ROMANS 8:37 IS THE GREEK COMPOUND VERB HUPRA-HEE-KA-O WHICH REFERS TO BEING ABSOLUTELY, COMPLETELY, VICTORIOUS.

*AND IN AND THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE INVINCIBLE AND UNCONQUERABLE SO THAT ROMANS 8:38&39 COME IN TO PLAY SO THAT "NEITHER

DEATH, NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS, NOR PRINCIPALITIES, NOR THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, NOR HEIGHT, NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THING, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US (BELIEVERS) FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS THE LORD.”

**AND THEN IN I CORINTHIANS 15:57 A FORM OF THE WORD NIKE IS USED IN THE GREEK – NEE-KOCH TO TALK ABOUT THAT TRUE BELIEVERS EVEN WILL OVERCOME DEATH AND OUR BODIES WILL BE RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD, (QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 15:57)

***NOW I’VE SAID ALL THESE THINGS ABOUT THE WORD NIKE AND ITS FORM IIN THE GREEK TO HELP US APPRECIATE THE TRUTH OF THE WORD AND TO LEAD US TO OUR TEXT FOR TODAY.

***FOR IN I John 5:4 and 5, THE GREEK WORD NEE-KA-O IS USED THREE TIMES, AND THE GREEK NOUN NIKE OR NEE-KAY IS USED ONCE.

(5)AND THE THEME OF OUR TEXT AND STUDY TODAY IS THAT TRUE BELIEVERS CAN BE ASSURED THAT THEY ARE CONQUERORS, VICTORS, THAT THEY ARE OVERCOMERS THROUGH JESUS THE SON OF GOD.

*WE CAN BE ASSURED OF ETERNAL LIFE BECAUSE WE ARE OVERCOMERS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

**TRUE BELIEVERS, THEN ARE INVINCIBLE OVERCOMERS, NOT IN THEMSELVES OR BY THEIR OWN POWER, BUT IN JESUS CHRIST AND HIS POWER.

***AND ALTHOUGH OUR ULTIMATE VICTORY IS ASSURED, TRUE BELIEVERS STILL LOSE SOME OF OUR BATTLES.

***WE AT TIMES GIVE IN TO TEMPTATIONS AND FALL INTO SIN.

***AND AT THOSE TIMES WE MAY DOUBT WHETHER WE ARE TRULY SAVED, WHEN WE LOSE THE BATTLE AND YIELD TO SIN. SO HOW CAN WE BE SURE WHETHER WE ARE TRULY OVERCOMERS?

(6)WELL, JOHN IN OUR TEXT TODAY, COMES BACK TO HIS THEME OF HOW WE CAN KNOW WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE FROM ANOTHER ANGLE OR VANTAGE POINT.

*AND JOHN IS RELENTLESS IN REITERATING AND RECYCLING AND BROADENING THIS ESSENTIAL THEME OF HOW TO KNOW YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN AND THAT YOUR SINS ARE FOGIVEN.

**AND TODAY THE VIEW JOHN GIVES US IS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF BEING AN OVERCOMER, A CONQUEROR

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, THAT WE ARE AND WILL BE VICTORIOUS THROUGH HIM.

***AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I'VE TITLED THE MESSAGE TODAY: "THE OVERCOMERS."

****AND UNDER THAT THEME WE'LL LOOK AT JUST TWO POINTS AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH I JOHN5:4&5. NO.1 THE BIRTH, V.4 AND NO.2 THE BELIEF, V.5.

(7)AND WITH THAT SIMPLE OUTLINE TO DIRECT US, LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE BIRTH.

I. THE BIRTH, (READ V.4)

A. NOW THE FIRST WORD IN VERSE 4, THE CONJUNCTION FOR MEANING BECAUSE OR SINCE TAKES US BACK TO THE LAST PHRASE IN V.3., THAT GOD'S COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT BURDENSOME TO THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD.

*AND IF YOU RECALL FROM LAST SUNDAY, I TALKED ABOUT THE FRUITS OF NEW BIRTH. AND I COMMUNICATED THAT THE NEW BIRTH BIBLICALLY IS TALKING ABOUT REGENERATION, MAKING US ALIVE, THAT HAS TO DO WITH THE INWARD CALL OF GOD.

**FOR SINCE ADAM AND EVE, EVERYONE BORN INTO THE WORLD IS SPIRITUALLY DEAD. SO THE LORD THROUGH NEW BIRTH MAKES A SPIRITUALLY DEAD PERSON ALIVE.

HE LITERALLY RAISES THEM TO LIFE RAISING THEM FROM THE DEAD SPIRITUALLY, WHICH ENABLES A PERSON TO TRULY BELIEVE ON CHRIST.

***THEREFORE, FAITH IN CHRIST IS THE RESULT OF NEW BIRTH, NOT ITS CAUSE. AND THE NEW BIRTH GIVES US A NEW NATURE, WE HAVE NEW AFFECTIONS AND DESIRES, HOLY AFFECTIONS.

****NOW A FRUIT OF NEW BIRTH IS THE NEW DESIRE TO KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS FOR THESE ARE BEST FOR US, THEY PROTECT US, THEY ARE NOT A BURDEN.

****BUT IN CONTRAST THE WEIGHT OF SIN IS BURDENSOME. PROVERBS 13:15 SAYS THE WAY OF THE SINNER IS HARD. (QUOTE IT)

1. THEREFORE FOR THE TRUE BELIEVER KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDS ARE NOT BURDENSOME WEIGHTS. THEY ARE DIFFICULT AT TIMES, BUT NOT A HEAVEY LOAD THAT WE BREAK UNDER, BUT SOMETHING WE WANT TO DO. WE, THROUGH NEW BIRTH HAVE NEW DESIRES TO LOVE GOD, TO LOVE THE BRETHREN AND TO KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS.

*SO THE CONJUNCTION, FOR, TAKES US BACK TO THE EMPHASIS OF THE FRUITS OF NEW BIRTH. THE FRUITS BEING WE WANT TO KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS AS THE DIRECTION, NOT THE PERFECTION, BUT THE DESIRE

OF OUR LIVES. PLUS WE LOVE GOD AND WE LOVE THE BRETHREN.

**THEREFORE, FOR WHATEVER, LITERALLY EVERYONE, ANYONE, WHO IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMES THE WORLD.

***HENCE OVERCOMERS WANT TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, THEY ARE NOT BURDENSOME, AND THROUGH THE NEW BIRTH WE OVERCOME THE WORLD, WE HAVE VICTORY OVER THE WORLD, WE ARE ABLE NOW TO CONQUER THE HOLD AND DRAW OF THE WORLD OVER A PERSON.

****FOR YOU SEE, THE COMMANDS OF GOD ARE A HASSLE, A BURDEN, THEY ARE STUPID, IRRELEVANT, AND PURITANICAL, ARCHAIC TO PEOPLE WITHOUT CHRIST, DIRECTED BY THE THINKING AND PHILOSOPHIES OF OUR WORLD.

2.BUT TO THE CHILD OF GOD, ONE BORN OF GOD, THEY ARE NOT, BECAUSE EVERYONE BORN OF GOD OVERCOMES THE WORLD.

*AND THE VERB OVERCOME IN THE GREEK IS NEE-KA-O AND AGAIN MEANS TO CONQUER, TO CARRY OFF THE VICTORY, TO BE VICTORIOUS, TO PREVAIL.

**AND THOSE BORN OF GOD WANT TO KNOW GOD'S COMMANDMENTS AND HAVE VICTORY OVER THE WORLD IN THE DIRECTION, THE PATTERN, THE DESIRES OF THEIR LIVES.

***NOW SPECIFICALLY WHAT IS IT THAT WE OVERCOME HERE? THE ANSWER IS THE WORLD, AND WHAT DOES THE WORD WORLD MEAN HERE.

***WELL EARLIER IN OUR STUDY OF I JOHN IN CHAPTER 2 VERSES 15-17, JOHN SAID: (QUOTE IT)

3.NOW THE WORD WORLD HERE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT THE GLOBE WE LIVE ON, PLANET EARTH, AND IT IS NOT TALKING ABOUT THE WORLD OF PEOPLE, THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH.

*THE WORD WORLD HERE – KOS-MOS IS TALKING ABOUT THE FALLEN WORLD SYSTEM THAT IS IN REBELLION AGAINST GOD'S WILL AND WAS LED BY THE EVIL ONE, SATAN.

**THE WORLD IS THE SYSTEM THE PHILOSOPHIES OF LIFE THAT OPPOSE GOD'S LAW, VALUES AND PURSUITS OPPOSED BY GOD.

***THEREFORE WORLDLINESS IS HUMAN ACTIVITY WITHOUT GOD, SOMEONE OF THE WORLD IS

CONTROLLED BY WHAT PREOCCUPIES THE WORLD, THE PURSUIT OF PLEASURE, PROFIT AND POSITION.

****IT IS THE SPIRIT OF SELF-SEEKING, SELF INDULGENCE WITHOUT REGARD FOR GOD AND HIS WILL AND HIS WAYS.

4.WORLDLINESS EXALTS OUR OPINIONS, OUR DESIRES ABOVE GOD'S COMMANDS AND PROMISES.

*NOW THERE ARE 3 SUMMARY WAYS OR AVENUES THAT THE WORLD SYSTEM, THE PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE OPPOSED TO GOD USES TO INCITE SIN AND LEAD DOWN A PATH OF HEDONISM: THE LUST OF THE FLESH WITH A WRONG DESIRE, AN EVIL CRAVING, A PASSIONATE WRONG DESIRE, AN IMPULSE FOR THAT WHICH IS FORBIDDEN.

**AND IT MAY BE A LEGITIMATE DESIRE. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR FOOD OR MONEY OR CLOTHING OR A PLACE TO LIVE OR A CAR.

***AND THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH THOSE DESIRES BUT WHEN THOSE DESIRES DOMINATE THE LANDSCAPE OF OUR LIVES AND BECOME PREOCCUPATIONS AND OBSESSIONS, THEY ARE WRONG.

****NOW THE 2'D AVENUE THAT THE WORLD SYSTEM USES TO DECEIVE AND DESTROY IS THE LUST OF THE

EYES. AND WE KNOW THAT OUR EYES AND THE ABILITY TO SEE IS A PRECIOUS GIFT OF GOD.

5.BUT ALSO OUR EYES ARE OPEN WINDOWS FOR TEMPTATION TO ENTER, THUS YIELDING TO WRONG DESIRE CAN PERVERT THE USE OF OUR EYES AND PLUNGE US INTO COVETOUSNESS, DISSATISFACTION, IDOLATRY AND IMMORALITY.

*BUT MOVING ON, A THIRD THING THAT THE WORLD SYSTEM IS COMPOSED OF IS THE BOASTFUL PRIDE OF LIFE.

**AND THE WORD PRIDE IN THE CONTEXT OF I JOHN 2 HAS TO DO WITH THE BRAGGART, ONE WHO BOASTS, AN ARROGANCE, A TRUST IN SELF AND WHAT YOU HAVE, AN EMPTY AND IMPIOUS PRESUMPTION.

***AND I CAN BREAK THAT DOWN AND SUMMARIZE IT BY SAYING IT IS BOASTING OF WHAT WE HAVE AND DO. AND IT MAY NOT BE BOASTING VERBALLY, BUT INWARDLY REVELING IN WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

****WE THINK WE'RE SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF ASSETS OR ACHIEVEMENTS, OR LOOKS, OR TALENTS, OR ABILITIES, HOW WE LOOK OR WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY.

6.BUT WE MUST BE ON ALERT AND COGNIZANT THAT OUR TALENTS, OUR POSSESSIONS, OUR INTELLECT, OUR

HEALTH, OUR JOBS, THE PLACES WE LIVE IN ARE ALL GIFTS FROM THE LORD AND WITHOUT HIM WE CAN DO NOTHING. QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 15:10 AND JOHN 15:5

*AND BELOVED, THE PRIDE OF LIFE IS A TEMPATION WE DEAL WITH EVERY DAY AND BRINGS US DOWN WHEN WE YIELD TO IT, AND PRIDE IS THE WAY OF THE WORLD. (QUOTE PROVERBS 11:2, PROVERBS 16:18, MATTHEW 23:12, JAMES 4:6&10)

**NOW WITH ALL OF THAT SAID, THE WORLD CONSISTS OF THE LUST OF THE FLESH, THE LUST OF THE EYES, AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE.

***BUT HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS. WHOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMES, HAS VICTORY, CONQUERS THE WORLD SYSTEM THAT TRIES TO LEAD AWAY FROM OUR GREAT CREATOR, SAVIOR GOD!! WE HAVE VICTORY THROUGH BEING BORN OF GOD, THROUGH GOD'S WORKING OF SAVING GRACE IN OUR LIVES, WHICH ENABLES US TO HAVE SAVING FAITH.

****FOR JOHN CONTINUES ON IN V.4 AND SAYS, "AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD – OUR FAITH."

7.AND THE NOUN VICTORY IS NEE-KAY IN THE GREEK, ANOTHER FORM OF NIKE. AND THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD SYSTEM, OVERCOMES, THE VERB FORM OF NIKE, NEE-KA-O, TO CONQUER, TO PREVAIL.

*WE CONQUER THE WORLD SYSTEM WHICH IS LIKE A MAGNET EVER PULLING WITH GREAT INTENSITY, WE HAVE THE POWER TO DO THAT, THE SPELL OF THE OLD LIFE HAS BEEN BROKEN, BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH WHICH FOLLOWS BEING BORN OF GOD IN THE FIRST PART OF V.4.

**AND THE FAITH IS SAVING FAITH IN THE FINISHED WORK OF CHIRST ON THE CROSS.

***FAITH IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD AND THE TENSE THAT JOHN USES HERE IS AN AORIST FORM IN THE GREEK WHICH EXPRESSES A ONCE FOR ALL ACTION OR EVENT.

****AND AS A PERSON PUTS FAITH IN THE ONCE FOR ALL, FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST, THAT PERSON BECOMES A SHARER IN CHRIST'S TRIUMPH OVER SIN, DEATH, AND HELL. FOR AS WE READ EARLIER IN JOHN 16:33, JESUS HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

8.SAVING FAITH TAKES YOU ON TO THE VICTORY THAT CONQUERS THE WORLD, AND SAVING FAITH IN CHRIST WHICH FOLLOWS BEING BORN OF GOD CHANGES US, AND MAKES US CHILDREN OF GOD, AND RATHER THAN BEING IMMERSERSED AND PERMIATED WITH THE WORLD AND IT'S ATTRACTIVENESS WITH IT'S ENTICEMENTS, WE NOW HAVE A DESIRE TO LIVE FOR THE WORLD THE LIFE TO COME.

*AND THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE ARE NOT ATTRACTED TO THE WORLD, WE ARE, BUT FAITH THAT SAVES US CHANGES US AND REDIRECTS US, QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 5:17.

**AND WE LOSE SPIRITUAL SKIRMISHES ALONG THE WAY BUT THE BATTLE IS WON IN CHIRST AND THE FAITH THAT HE GAVE TO US AS A GIFT TO TURN TO HIM FOR SALVATION AND FORGIVENSNS OF OUR SINS.

***THROUGH BEING BORN OF GOD WE HAVE VICTORY OVER THE WORLD AND WILL NOT BE CONDEMMED BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH IN THE FINISHED VICTORIOUS WORK OF CHRIST, AND IT STARTS WITH BIRTH, NEW BIRTH FOR US.

***WHICH LEADS US TO OUR SECOND POINT TODAY, THE BELIEF. LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE.

II.THE BELIEF (READ V. 5)

A.NOW JOHN IN V. 5 ASKS A QUESTION FOR EFFECT AND EMPHASIS, BUT GIVES THE ANSWER IN THE VERSE TO MAKE HIS POINT.

*AND THE RHETORICAL QUESTION IS “WHO IS THE ONE WHO OVERCOMES THE WORLD?” AND THE ANSWER THAT IS GIVEN FOR EMPHASIS IS, HE WHO BELIEVES THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD.

**AND THE VERB BELIEVES, IS IN THE PRESENT VOICE AND ACTIVE MOOD INDICATING A PRESENT CONTINUAL ACTIVITY.

***MEANING, WE DO NOT HAVE AN AORIST, ONCE FOR ALL FAITH THAT WAS IN V.4, A DEFINITE ACT OR A FACT, FAITH THAT ONCE FOR ALL SAVES US. I MEAN POSITIONALLY WE ARE SAVED AND WILL OVERCOME THE WORLD, V.4

***BUT THE TRUTH CONVEYED IN V. 5 IS DAILY PRACTICALLY OVERCOMING THE WORLD.

1.LET ME CLARIFY. IN V.4 THE CHRISTIAN HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD AS A FRUIT OF THE NEW BIRTH AND OUR SAVING FAITH IN CHRIST.

*BUT IN V.5, A CHRISTIAN OVERCOMES THE WORLD PRACTICALLY ON A REGULAR BASIS, NOT JUST ONCE FOR ALL IN V.4.

**IT IS TO SAY, THE CHRISTIAN HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD IN V.4, BUT HE OR SHE ALSO OVERCOMES THE WORLD IN V.5.

***WE SHARE IN THE ONCE FOR ALL TRIUMPH OF OUR SAVIOR THROUGH SAVING FAITH IN V.4, BUT WE ARE CALLED TO HAVE THAT ONCE FOR ALL TRIUMPH A DAILY REALITY IN OUR LIVES THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, THAT THE INCARNATE JESUS IS GOD'S ETERNAL SON. V. 5

****HENCE, IN CHRIST BY FAITH, WE HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD, AND BY THAT SAME FAITH IN CHRIST WE DAILY OVERCOME THE WORLD WHEN WE REFUSE IT'S SEDUCTIONS AND TEMPTATIONS AND LIVE TO PLEASE OUR GREAT OVERCOMER, JESUS CHRIST.

2.AND IT IS OUR FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THAT CONNECTS US TO THE RESOURCES OF HIS TRIUMPH.

*LET ME PUSH BACK HEAR FOR A MOMENT. WE HAVE ULTIMATE FINAL VICTORY THROUGH SAVING FAITH IN V.4, AND HAVE VICTORY IN LIVING FAITH IN V. 5, DAILY VICTORY.

**V. 4 IS POSITIONAL VICTORY, V. 5 PRACTICAL VICTORY.
V.4 IS SAVING FAITH, V. 5 IS RESULT OF THAT SAVING
FAITH, SANCTIFYING FAITH, FAITHFULLNESS.

***AND IN V.5, OVERCOMING THE WORLD, CONQUERING
THE WORLD, HAVING VICTORY OVER THE WORLD IS STILL
A DAILY BATTLE.

****THE REASON BEING, IN V. 5 JOHN SWITCHES THE
TENSES TO FOCUS ON HOW TO OVERCOME IS LIVED IN
THE PRESENT – RIGHT NOW!

3.AND WE HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD IN V.4 BECAUSE
OF GOD'S FAITHFULLNESS AND THEREFORE BELONG TO
THE ONE WHO HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD, BUT IN V.5,
WE MUST ALSO STRIVE TO WIN DAILY BATTLES BY OUR
SANCTIFYING BELIEF IN A PRACTICAL DAILY BELIEF OR
FAITH THAT RESULTS FROM THE SAVING FAITH THAT GOD
GIVES BECAUSE OF THE NEW BIRTH. WE MATCH UP OUR
PRACTICE WITH OUR POSITION. WE LIVE OUT WHO WE
ARE IN CHRIST AND THROUGH WHAT HE HAS DONE IN
OVERCOMING THE WORLD.

*LET ME ILLUSTRATE IT FROM SLAVERY. SLAVES IN
AMERICA WERE EMANCIPATED DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

**AT ONE POINT THEY WERE FREED AS SLAVES, BUT
SOME CONTINUED TO LIVE LIKE SLAVES. THOSE WHO
DID THAT NEEDED TO REALIZE THE GREAT TRUTH OF
THEIR EMANCIPATION. THEY NEEDED TO LIVE AS FREE

PEOPLE, TO LIVE OUT WHAT THEY WERE AT THIS POINT, AS FREE PEOPLE, NOT AS SLAVES.

***WELL, SO IT IS WITH THE CHRISTIAN. THROUGH THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL WE HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM SIN AND NO LONGER SLAVES OF SIN. AND NOW BY PRACTICAL DAILY FAITH WE NEED TO LIVE OUT WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST.

****WE NEED TO MATCH UP OUR PRACTICE WITH OUR POSITION. WE HAVE BEEN EMANCIPATED AND WE NEED TO LIVE LIKE IT BY FAITH, BY BEING FAITHFUL AND BELIEVING AND LIVING OUT THE TRUTH.

4.WE ARE OVERCOMERS – VICTORS, THROUGH NEW BIRTH AND SAVING FAITH THAT FOLLOWS, BUT NOW DAILY WE MUST LIVE OUT BY FAITH THAT VICTORY OVER THE WORLD.

IN WRAP UP: (1)BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, WE ARE OVERCOMERS, VICTORS, WE OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER THE WORLD THROUGH CHRIST AND NOTHING CAN OR WILL SEPARATE US FROM CHRIST.

*BUT THE FRUIT OF THIS SAVING FAITH IS A LIVING FAITH THAT DAILY LIVES TO CONQUER THE WORLD, A PERSEVERING FAITH THAT IS A FRUIT OF SAVING FAITH AND THE NEW BIRTH.

**SO OUR ASSURANCE COMES FROM WHAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR US IN CHRIST AND WHAT HE DOES PRACTICALLY AS A RESULT OF HIS SOVERIEGN GRACIOUS WORKS.

***SAVING FAITH IS EVIDENCED BY A LIVING FAITH THAT HAS VICTORY OVER THE WORLD ON A REGULAR BASIS, NOT PERFECTLY, BUT THAT HAS CHANGED OUR DIRECTION AND DESIRES THAT WE ARE NO LONGER WORDLY AS THE NORM. QUOTE EPHESIANS 2:1-5 AND EXPLAIN.

****AND BELIEVERS, WE ARE SECURED BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE AND NEED TO STAND ON THE PROMISES OF GOD FOR OUR VICTORY OVER THE WORLD.

(2)BUT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TODAY, WE WILL OVERCOME BY GOD' PRESERVING GRACE. WE ARE OVERCOMERS AND THE PROMISES TO OVERCOME ARE GREAT TO THE CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR.

*AND I WANT TO QUICKLY REMIND YOU OF THEM AS WE READ ABOUT THEM IN OUR SCRIPUTRE READING EARLIER.

**THE PROMISE TO THE ONE WHO OVERCOMES IS THAT WE WILL EAT OF THE TREE OF LIFE IN THE PARADISE OF GOD IN REVELATION 2:7.

***IN REVELATION 2:11 OVERCOMERS WILL NOT BE HARMED OR FACE THE SECOND DEATH WHICH IS ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM CHRIST IN THE LAKE OF FIRE

****IN REVELATION 2:17, THE OVERCOMERS WILL RECEIVE THE HIDDEN MANNA AND WILL BE GIVEN A WHITE STONE WITH A NEW NAME WRITTEN ON THE STONE, WHICH SYMBOLIZES ALL THE BLESSING AND BENEFITS THAT LEAD TO ETERNAL LIFE IN A NUTSHELL.

(3)IN REVELATION 2:26-28 OVERCOMERS WILL REIGN WITH CHRIST ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE KINGDOM.

*IN REVELATION 3:5, OVERCOMERS WILL BE CLOTHED IN WHITE PURE GARMENTS AND OUR NAMES WILL BE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE AND CHRIST WILL CONFESS OUR NAMES BEFORE HIS FATHER WHICH IN SUMMARY COMMUNICATES HEAVEN IS OUR HOME.

**IN REVELATION 3:12 IN SUMMARY OVERCOMERS ARE ETERNAL CITIZENS IN HEAVEN'S CAPITAL, THE NEW JERUSALEM.

***AND THEN IN REVELATION 3:21, THE PROMISE TO OVERCOME IS AGAIN THAT WE WILL REIGN WITH CHRIST ONE DAY.

***NOW THESE ARE PRECIOUS PROMISES TO ALL TRUE OVERCOMERS, TO ALL TRUE BELIEVERS. AND OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT. AND THOSE PROMISES ARE GIVEN TO ENCOURAGE US AND SPUR US ON, WHEN WE ARE DOWN AND STRUGGLING AND FEEL DEFEATED.

(4)WE ARE VICTORS, CONQUERORS IN CHRIST, AND I CLOSE WITH ONE LAST PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE TO ENCOURAGE US, ONE THAT I READ TO MY PARENTS BEFORE THEIR DEATHS. IT IS I CORINTHIANS 15:51-58. QUOTE THIS.

*BELOVED WE ARE VICTORS IN JESUS. WE ARE A PART OF THE TRUE NIKE THE REDEEMED OF GOD. MAY WE LIVE LIKE IT. (LET'S PRAY)

V.4 FOR WHATEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMES THE WORLD; AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD – OUR FAITH.

V.5 WHO IS THE ONE WHO OVERCOMES THE WORLD, BUT HE WHO BELIEVES THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD?