

Revelation 2-3 • He Who Overcomes

1. (Jn. 16:33) The biblical definition of an “overcomer” is someone who successfully **conquers, subdues** and has **victory** over the world; the “overtaken” are themselves **conquered** and **subdued** by the world.
2. (Rev. 5:4-5) Christ Himself is the ultimate **example** of what it means to be an “overcomer”.
3. (1 Jn. 5:4-5) A born again “believer” is proven by their **faithfulness**; it is not enough to simply **acknowledge** Christ but to live in obedience to His Word.
4. (Rom. 12:21) An “overcomer” is not simply passively resisting the **world** personally, but is actually overcoming the **world** by their **treatment** of others.
5. (1 Jn. 2:13-14) An overcomer is not a part-time or casual **participant** with Christ, but takes up permanent **residence** with Him because “apart from Me you can do nothing”.
6. (1 Jn. 4:1-6) An overcomer does not accept things at face value, but **tests** all things to validate who is **operating** according to “the spirit of truth and the spirit of error”.
7. (2 Pe. 2:17-21) The “overtaken” are not those who never came to **believe** in Christ, but temporarily came out of the world only to return to and become **re-enslaved** to it once again.

Summary to This Point: The foundational understanding of what it means to “overcome” given in the NT prior to Revelation:

- It is the spiritual **battle** encompassing all the complimentary elements of the world-system’s values and behavior.
- It is the biblical **response** to evil by choosing to do biblical good.
- It is not just **countering** the antics and tactics of Satan, but his working through false christs, false prophets, false teachers and their associated works of deception.
- The only antidote is to become **enslaved** to Christ by putting His Word and ways into practice and abiding in Him alone.

Part II: The Promises to Overcomers

1. (Rev. 21:7-8) The book of Revelation is itself summarized with a plain explanation of the ultimate **destination** for those who overcome versus those who are “overtaken”.
2. (Rev. 2:7—Ephesus) Overcomers are faithful and consistent to the end so as to experience the eternal **rewards** of their **salvation**.
3. (Rev. 2:11—Smyrna) Overcomers can endure even the worst **earthly** circumstances because their gaze is fixed on **eternity**.
4. (Rev. 2:17—Pergamum) Overcomers are sustained by God’s **Word** and their exclusive devotion to **Christ** alone.
5. (Rev. 2:26-28—Thyatira) Overcomers effectively deal with the personal issues of **immorality** and **idolatry**.
6. (Rev. 3:5—Sardis) Overcomers make the necessary **course corrections** while there is still the opportunity to do so.
7. (Rev. 3:12—Philadelphia) Overcomers recognize that everything accomplished for the Kingdom of Christ is rooted in **eternity**, even the seasons of **accomplishment** in this life.
8. (Rev. 3:21—Laodicea) Overcomers ensure that it is Christ alone who is always and exclusively **seated** upon the **throne** of their life.

Overall Application (Mt. 7:21-23):

The chief characteristic of an “overcomer” is **faithfulness** in this life to God’s Word and ways in order to achieve all the **benefits** of the life to come.