

THE BASIS AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE OVERCOMERS

In Revelation 3:21 the Lord Jesus said, "He that overcometh, I will give to him to sit down with me in my throne." Here we see that the reason the man-child can be upon the throne is that he has overcome. Now we shall see how they overcome and what is their attitude.

Revelation 12:11 says: "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony; and they loved not their life even unto death."

"They overcame him." "Him" here is Satan. They overcame Satan by rendering him unable to do any of his work upon them. The reasons they overcame him were 1) because of the blood of the Lamb, 2) because of the word of their testimony, and 3) because their attitude was that they loved not their lives even unto death.

THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

First, "they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb." Victory in spiritual warfare is based upon the blood of the Lamb. The blood is not only for forgiveness and salvation, but further, it is the basis by which we overcome Satan. Some people may think that the blood is not of so much value to those who have grown in the Lord. They suppose that some may grow to the extent where they go beyond their need of the blood. We must emphatically say that there is no such thing! No person can grow to such an extent that he surpasses his need for the blood. God's Word says, "they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb."

The major activity of Satan against Christians is to accuse them. Is Satan a murderer? Yes. Is he a liar and a tempter? Yes. Is he one who attacks us? Yes. But this is not all. His chief work is to accuse. Revelation 12:10 says: "...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accuseth them before our God day and night." We see here that Satan accuses the brethren day and night. Not only is he the accuser before God, but he is also the accuser in our conscience, and his accusations can cause us to become weak and completely powerless. He likes to accuse people to such an extent that they consider themselves useless and thus lose all their ground for fighting with him. We are not saying that there is no need for us to deal with sin. We must have a keen sense toward sin, but we should not accept the accusations of Satan.

Once a child of God accepts Satan's accusations, all day long he will feel that he is wrong. When he arises early in the morning, he feels that he is wrong. When he kneels down to pray, he feels that he is wrong and does not even believe that God will answer his prayers. When he would speak a word in the meeting, he feels that it is no use, for he himself is not right. When he would give an offering to the Lord, he wonders why he should offer anything, for how could God accept an offering from such a person as he. The main concern of this kind of Christian is not how glorious and victorious the Lord Jesus is, but how evil and worthless they are in every situation. From morning to evening they are consumed with the thought of their own worthlessness. Whether they are working, resting, walking, reading the Scriptures or praying, there is not a single moment but they are considering how worthless they are. This is the accusation of Satan. If Satan can keep us in such a condition, he has won the victory. People in this state are powerless before Satan. No one who accepts accusations can be an overcomer before him. Many times when we are engrossed with the thought of our own evil, it is easy for us to mistakenly think this

to be Christian humility, not realizing that we are but suffering the harmful effect of Satan's accusations. It is true that when we sin we must confess and deal with it. But there is another lesson which we must learn. We must learn not to look upon ourselves, but to gaze only upon the Lord Jesus. To be conscious of self everyday from morning till evening is a sickly condition. It is the result of our accepting the accusations of Satan.

In the consciences of some of the Lord's children there is little feeling toward sin. This kind of people are not of much spiritual use. However, there are many of God's children whose consciences are so weak that they have no real awareness of the work of the Lord Jesus. If we ask them what particular sin they sense at this time, they cannot point to any. Yet they always have the feeling that they are wrong. They always feel that they are weak and worthless. Whenever they think of themselves they lose all their peace and joy. They have accepted the accusations of Satan. Every time Satan gives us this kind of feeling we are weakened and can no longer resist him.

We must not, therefore, lightly esteem the accusations of Satan. His chief work is to accuse us, and he does it day and night without ceasing. He accuses us in our conscience as well as before God till our conscience becomes so weak that it cannot be strengthened.

In the daily life and work of a Christian, his conscience is of great importance. The Apostle Paul told us in I Corinthians 8 that if one's conscience is defiled he perishes. This perishing does not mean eternal perishing, but that that person can no more be built up. He has been so weakened that he has become worthless. I Timothy 1 says that a man who thrusts away his conscience makes shipwreck concerning the faith. A ship which is wrecked cannot sail. Therefore, whether a Christian can stand before God or not depends upon whether he has any offense in his conscience. Once he accepts the accusations of Satan, his conscience is offended, and once his conscience is offended, he cannot proceed in his service nor fight any more for God. We must realize, therefore, that Satan's main work is to accuse us, and it is this work we must overcome.

How can we overcome the accusations of Satan? The voice from heaven tells us: "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb." The blood is the basis of victory, and it is the instrument to overcome Satan. Satan may accuse us, but we can answer that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7). "All sin" means any sin, whether it be great or small. The blood of God's Son cleanses us from all of them. Satan may tell us that we are wrong, but we have the blood of the Lord Jesus. The blood of the Lord Jesus can cleanse all our many sins away. This is the Word of God: The blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.

We must not only reject the accusations which are without cause, but we must also reject all the accusations which have cause. When God's children have done something wrong, they need only the blood of Jesus, His Son, not accusations of Satan. It is the precious blood which is needed for sin, not accusation. God's Word never says that after we have sinned we need accusation. The only problem is whether we have confessed our sin or not. If we have confessed it, then what more can be said? If we have sinned and do not confess it, then we deserve to be accused. But where there is no sin, there is no cause for accusation. If we have sinned and we have confessed it, we should not be accused.

If you have sinned, you can bow and confess it to God. Immediately the blood of the Lord Jesus will cleanse you. Do not think that if you consider more how sinful you are you will be a little more holy, or that if you have more feeling toward your sin you will be more holy. No. We

only must ask ourselves one thing: How do I treat the blood of the Lord Jesus? It is true that we have sinned, but His blood cleanses us from all sin. “All sin” means great sin or small sin, recollected sin or forgotten sin, visible sin, or invisible sin, sin which we think can be forgiven and sin which we think cannot be forgiven—all are included in this “all.” The blood of Jesus, God’s Son, does not wash away one or two sins, or even many sins, but it cleanses us from *all* sins.

We admit that we have sin. We do not say that we are without sin. But regardless of that, we do not accept the accusations of Satan. Before God we are clean, because we have the precious blood. We should not believe in the accusations more than we believe in the precious blood. When we commit sin, we do not glorify God, but when we do not trust the precious blood, we dishonor Him all the more. It is a shameful thing to sin, but not to believe in the precious blood is even more shameful. We must learn to trust in the blood of the Lamb.

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