

2019 WCCC
Brother Timothy Kwok
Be an Overcomer(2)

2 Timothy 4:8

In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Revelation 5:3-6

And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Revelation 14:1-3

*Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. And they *sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.*

Brothers and sisters know that my burden is to share with you on being an overcomer. Someone asked me a question, “In the Bible it seems there is no such word as ‘overcomer’.” That is correct, that exact word ‘overcomer’ is not in the Bible, but the Bible is filled with that meaning. Just as it says in the Book of Revelation Chapter 2 and 3, “those who overcome”, that is talking about the overcomers.

Yesterday, we talked about the calling of an overcomer. In these last days, God is calling on a group of people to follow Him. God is seeking a group of people in the church who cares for His will. Yesterday, we shared on what an overcomer is. I don’t know if what I shared was clear, but I shared to the best of my ability. Today, I want to approach this from a different angle and talk about the life of an overcomer.

God’s propose in creating humans

What is the basis for someone to become an overcomer? When I was thinking about these manifolds of questions, perhaps God has already revealed to us His will at the very beginning. Let me ask a very simple question. I think even the Sunday school children can answer this question. We are created by God. We see the story in the Garden of Eden. Brothers and sisters, why did God create humans on the earth? Of course, we have many answers. The most important answer is that God loves man. Is that right? That is correct. God wants to be with man. God wants to fellowship with man. Right? Of course, that is right. But we cannot just stop there. We know that when God created every person, or to say when God created Adam and Eve, God wants them to be overcomers. Do we agree? Adam and Eve enjoyed the full abundance of God. They enjoyed the presence of God. They could understand the heart of God. They could talk with God. But it is not just that. When God created Adam and Eve on earth, God wants to gain an overcomer.

When man was created, what did God say? “I want them to have authority over all the creatures of the sky and on the earth. Everything will be in submission under them.” What does that mean? It means man subdues all created things. In Psalm 8, what did David say? “What is man that You crown him with glory and majesty! You have put all things under his feet” On the one hand, David saw the glorious Christ, but he also saw us. “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained”, then I said, “What is man that you are mindful of him?” What a position You have placed him in. You placed him in the position as an overcomer!

Brothers and sisters, we know this story. How did the archangel rebel? How did he become the archenemy of God? How did he become Satan, that he opposes all the works of God? Our elderly brother has told us: it is easy for God to deal with Satan. Just one breath from God and Satan is completely gone. For God to take care of Satan is so easy. But God did not do that. God did not exercise His mighty power over a created angel. God has created a group of people, and He

uses the created beings to deal with that which is created. Brothers and sisters, we all understand the story, right?

When God created Adam and Eve, God had many purposes for them. We can understand the heart of God. We can have fellowship with Him. We can enjoy the presence of God. All these are blessings of God. Then there is one thing very important. God desires for us to be an overcomer so that we can overcome the enemy, Satan, as God's representative and to manifest His power and authority. Brothers and sisters, if we look back, we see each one of us, the saved, the children of God, we are also under the same principle, are we not?

On the one hand, we thank the Lord, our sins have been forgiven. We thank the Lord, that we obtained Sonship. Thank the Lord, we have a glorious hope. We thank the Lord, that we are partakers of the heavenly inheritance. These are the manifolds of heavenly blessings. These are prepared for us by God. Before the foundation of the earth, He has chosen us in Christ Jesus, and He saved us in order for us to obtain these heavenly blessings, isn't that right? Of course, that is true. But that is not all. Our Lord has a desire. When He created Adam and Eve, God wanted them to be overcomers. Brothers and sisters, be clear on this.

The condition for being an overcomer

When God created Adam and Eve, He has arranged all the conditions for them to be overcomers. Yesterday, I already talked about this, God has prepared for every child of God, every believer, the conditions to be overcomers.

What is the story of the Garden of Eden? We all know, in the midst of the garden there is a tree called the Tree of Life. How can you be an overcomer? How can you overcome the enemy? Adam and Eve had to make a choice. They had to choose the fruit from the Tree of Life. What does that mean? It means they do not lean on themselves and they submit to all the arrangements of God. When they eat the fruit from the Tree of Life, this fruit from the Tree of Life becomes their strength, and they can be overcomers.

But we all know the failure of our ancestors. They did not choose that fruit. They did not choose the fruit that would make them overcomers. And as a result, they did not overcome. And they failed. They failed in all aspects. All creation should have been under our authority. We do not have that authority today, do we? We are unable to control many things in this world. We have lost this glorious authority from God that we should have. We failed. We lost to the enemy. God desired for us to be an overcomer, but Adam and Eve were not able.

The Lamb of God is the true Overcomer

But thank God, He gained a true overcomer. In the entire universe there is only one true overcomer. Even though yesterday we talked about many overcomers, but in the universe there is only one who overcomes. As we read in Revelation 5, John saw a vision. He saw a scroll sealed with seven seals. No one in the universe was worthy to open the scroll. No one was worthy to break its seals. When the elderly John saw this, he became anxious, and he began to weep greatly. An angel came and said to him, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." When John heard this, he must have been very excited. There is a Lion from the tribe of Judah. What is a Lion? The Lion is the king of all animals. I love to watch animal related television programs. I don't like to look at little animals. I like to look at strong animals. I like to look at lions. Lions are very powerful. With one strike of his paw, the other animals fall down. A lion is an overcomer. As a lion strolls through the forest, all the other animals will retreat. When John heard what the angel said, he thought, "This is so great! The Lion from the tribe of Judah!" But as he looked, where's the lion? He did not see the lion. He saw a lamb. There was a great change in the scene. He expected to see a magnificent lion, but instead he saw a lamb. This Lamb stood before the throne as if slain, and the blood was still on Him. That is the Lion from the tribe of Judah. Brother and sisters, do you understand? Our concept of a lion and God's concept of an overcomer is so different. To God, what is an overcomer? That overcomer is the Lamb of God.

Brothers and sisters, in Revelation 5, we see the Lamb of God. He stood before the throne. He took the scroll. He was to fulfill the eternal purpose of God. As we read from Revelation 14, "the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand." What does that mean? This glorious overcomer, not only did He overcome, He was leading a group of overcomers to walk in the path of overcoming. This is so glorious. Zion speaks of our Lord reigning as king.

Brothers and sisters, as we come to the end of Revelation, in chapter 22, we see the Lamb seated on the throne. In chapter 5, the Lamb was standing. In chapter 14, the Lamb was walking on Mount Zion. We thank the Lord, all His work has been completed. He has overcome. He can sit on the throne. At that time, the purpose of God is totally fulfilled. What did John say? I did not see a lamp in the city of Jerusalem, because the Lamb is the lamp. I did not see a temple, because the Lamb is the temple. What does that mean? The Lamb has filled the new heaven and new earth. This glorious Overcomer is bringing all those who follow Him into overcoming today.

The grounds for Victory

Brothers and sisters, what is the basis for us to overcome today? We all know none of us are able to overcome. As I am standing here, I know I am not able. But I thank the Lord, I know I am not relying on myself. When we look at ourselves, we know we have no strength at all. Yesterday, when we were sharing on the calling of the overcomers, I don't know if you were stirred up in your heart and said, "I want to be an overcomer."? Did you say to the Lord, "From this day on, I want to make a change in my life. From this day on, I want to have a different way of looking at things. I want to be an overcomer before You."? I don't know if you prayed this way before the Lord last night. Did you pray, "Oh Lord, I have lived too many days of failure. From this day forward, I have heard your call, I know that I need to be an overcomer. Lord, I want to be an overcomer."? If you had this prayer, I thank the Lord. But there is one thing for sure: If you relied on yourself, very quickly you will not be able to continue. Very quickly you will no longer be an overcomer. What is the basis for us to be an overcomer? There is no other foundation, brothers and sisters. It is not by our efforts. It's not by our diligence and pursuit. It is not by our wisdom. It is by this glorious Lamb of God. He has overcome. He has become "that" overcomer, therefore, we are able to overcome.

The victorious love

Brothers and sisters, we can speak on many things when we talk about the overcoming of the Lamb. But I just want us to meditate on this. I am sure you have heard this before. This is nothing new. When our Lord came to this world, what did He reveal? He revealed the overcoming love. Do you agree? The power of love is mighty. Only love can overcome many, many things. For those who are parents, we understand, no matter what your son turns out to be, no matter how your daughter rebels against you, you still love them. This love overcomes all external things. This is what Paul says, "But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us." Our Lord said when He came, He came to manifest this overcoming love. On the cross, He demonstrated the pinnacle of this overcoming love. I don't need to explain too much. This overcoming Lamb, He told us and He revealed this to us, His love is an overcoming love. His overcoming love surpasses all our weaknesses and all our ugliness. When I was young, I was ignorant. I didn't know any better. I said this to the Lord, "Lord, it was right for you to save me. Look at me. If you didn't save me, who else would you save? I'm pretty good." But brothers and sisters, after being a Christian for these many years, one day looking in the mirror, I said to the Lord, "Lord, I am a sinner from head to toe. I am material for hell. Why did You love me? Why did You save me? What did You see in me that is worthy of Your blood and Your life?"

The Victorious Life

Brothers and sisters, I don't know how you see yourselves. But for God, He has this overcoming love for us. It overcomes our weaknesses. It overcomes all our despicableness. It covers all the things that we should not have. And on the cross, He manifested this overcoming love. And not only that, our Lord also resurrected. What does that tell us? This tells of the overcoming life.

There is too much to say about that. But there is one very important thing I would like to say. This is so wonderful. Only our Lord can destroy the power of death through death. Do you know what the most powerful weapon of the enemy is? What is the enemy's most powerful authority? It is to kill you, right? That is his most powerful weapon. The worst thing he can do to you is to kill you. That is what he did in the Garden of Eden. Why did he want them to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Because he knew, "The day you of it you shall surely die." The maximum extend of the work of the enemy is to bring forth death. Brothers and sisters, it is so glorious, our Lord destroyed him who holds the power of death through death. That is what it says in the Book of Hebrews, "That He might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery." When our Lord came to this earth and was hung on the tree, His death is the greatest mystery. We can never understand, how could this Lord of life die? This Lord who could raise the dead, how could He die? The Lord himself said, "No one can take away my life." Who can take away His life? "But I lay down myself." When the Lord laid down His life, He resolved our sin and death; and, when the Lord resurrected from the dead, we thank the Lord, we no longer need to fear death.

As we read in the Book of Revelation, what does this resurrected Lord have in His hands? The keys of death and of Hades are in His hands. This is so glorious. Now let's say, if all the doors to this room were locked, then no one can come in. Then people would ask, "Who has the key?" If you want to go into a room and the room is locked, you cannot go in. You would ask, "Who has the key?" Now let's turn it around, if we are all trapped in this room, and we want to get out. All the doors you push on does not open. Is it not the pain of all generations? It does not matter how wise you are, or how mighty you are. Many kings and many valiant warriors, when they came into this room, they could not leave. This room is called death. We thank the Lord. This overcoming Lamb, He took from the enemy's hands the keys of death and Hades. If Satan held on to these keys, it would be terrible. You could never leave. We thank the Lord, today He holds the keys of death and of Hades. He can open the door and we can leave. We are no longer afraid of death. 1 Corinthians 15 describes it so gloriously. But I cannot talk about it now; otherwise, it becomes another topic.

What does it say in John 12? "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies," What happens? "It bears much fruit." This

resurrected Lord gave every one of us who believed this overcoming victorious life. For us who believe, what did we gain? We gained this overcoming life. It is not just empty talk, “Overcome, overcome.”, but with no inner strength. He has overcome and He gave us the overcoming life. This overcoming life was initially in the Lord. It was initially only in the Lamb. He resurrected from the dead, and He gave this overcoming life to all of us who believe.

The Victorious power

We thank the Lord, He resurrected and the church is born. We can see the first Adam failed. He cannot satisfy God’s heart. Then we see this last Adam. We see the birth of the church. This is a new man who is able to hold all the blessings of God. And not only that, this glorious Lord, when He ascended, He demonstrated His power. This is the power of overcoming.

What does it say in Ephesians 4? “When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives.” Have you thought about how glorious that is? He did not ascend alone. When He ascended, He led a host of captive enemies. “When He ascended on high” means He has overcome all things. He has taken captive of all enemies. We see that He is in heaven now. What does that mean? This overcoming Lord has taken captive of all the enemies. Not only this, this Lord who ascended on high is our merciful high priest. He lives, intercedes, and help us. The Book of Hebrews reminds us He can sympathize with our weaknesses. We can draw near with confidence to the throne of grace so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Isn’t that the word of our Lord? And not just that, He is also our mediator in heaven. What is a mediator? On the one hand, He guarantees all the blessing of God will be sent to us. All the New Testament blessings are ours. Another responsibility for the mediator is to call us all to walk in the path that God has planned for us. I cannot go into details. But this glorious Lamb of God, that Overcomer, He has become the basis for all our overcoming.

How to be an overcomer

How to be an overcomer is actually a very simple thing. What is the basis for an overcomer?

In Christ

It is very simple because we are all in Christ. I spent more than half an hour talking about this overcoming Lord. I talked and talked. This overcoming Lord has placed us in Him. How many times did Paul say, “In Christ Jesus”? Apart from Christ, there is no chance for us to overcome, there is no condition to overcome. In the first Adam, all had failed, all had given ground to the enemy. But in this last Adam, in Christ, you can overcome. We thank the Lord, when He calls us to be overcomers, He did not say, “You go out to work and strive. I will

be here to watch you. I will observe how you fight and see how badly you get beaten by the enemy.” No, the Lord did not do that. Our Lord has overcome. He is the glorious Lamb of God, this glorious Christ. He has overcome and He wants us to overcome. How do we overcome? He gave us this position: We are in Christ.

Let me tell you a short story. When I was younger, I liked to play soccer. One year our team was the champion. When we played, we never lost a game. Every time we went out to play, I could hold my head up high. Actually, I was not very good. But on my team there were three professional athletes. They were very good. The three of them was the entire team. But every time they gave out the awards, did I take part in receiving them? Every time they got a medal, did I get a medal? Did they only give it to the three athletes? You three played the best so we will only give them the medals. They would not do that. This was a team and I was in the team. So, every time when we received a trophy, my hand was on the trophy. Truthfully, I was not a very good player. The only thing I did right was to be part of that team. That was the only thing I did right. I did not play well. But as long as I was in the team, I was the champion. Brothers and sisters, do you understand? If I was not in that team and I started my own team, I would be in trouble. If I had gathered my best friends together and said, “Let’s start a team”, we would lose for sure. I was grateful that these three professional athletes accepted me into this team.

Do you understand? What a glorious thing it is to be in Christ. All the fullness of God dwells bodily in Christ. All of God’s plans are in Christ. All of God’s purposes are in Christ. All the love of God is in Christ. Apart from Christ, God has no interest. We thank the Lord, He has placed us in Christ. Brothers and sisters, how glorious it is!

Have you ever thought that it is wonderful just to be saved? Don’t you agree? We don’t have to go to hell. That is so great. In this life we receive strength. That is so great. If I don’t feel peaceful, the Lord gives me peace. Isn’t that great? The Lord gives me rest when I am restless. That is great! When I am weak, He gives me strength. It is all great! But God says that it is not enough. He did not give these to us separately. God said, I have put you in Christ, Christ has overcome death, in Him is the overcoming life, the Lord has ascended on high, and our Lord will return in glory. Brothers and sisters, we are all in Christ. That is the first thing. That is our basis.

Christ in us

We have another basis: Christ in us. If this victorious Lord and King is in you, could you lose? How could you lose? This glorious Lord and glorious Christ is in you. This is what Paul described in Colossians. The original language said, “Christ in me, Oh, the glorious hope!” This is so glorious. Christ in me. Objectively, we are all in Christ, we all stand on the ground of victory, we can all overcome. That is the position that the Lord has given. We can be overcomers. But subjectively, as Christ is in us, how can we lose? How can we not be

overcomers? Where is Christ today? The glorious Lord is in heaven. Where is the Lord? We thank the Lord. The Lord is in us, a group of lowly people.

He dwells with us through the Holy Spirit. He becomes our strength and He sustains us. Brothers and sisters, I have told you repeatedly, from the moment you believed in the Lord, He has already provided all the requirements and conditions for you to be an overcomer. Brothers and sisters, forgive me for saying this, we have no reason and no excuse for saying, "I cannot overcome." You may say, "The responsible brother of an assembly, he should overcome. That sister who loves the Lord so much, surely, she should overcome. But for me, that has nothing to do with me. It's not for me." No! As long as you are in Christ, as long as Christ is in you, you cannot fail. You must be an overcomer because you have all the conditions for an overcomer. This glorious Lord, how He will put on this glorious crown in the future, He wants us who follow Him to receive the same crown. That is the basis of our overcoming.

Abide in the Lord

Now, I want to talk about the life of an overcomer. How does an overcomer live? I don't think there is any new doctrine here because I have already said an overcomer is a normal Christian. So, a normal Christian is an overcomer. As I have already said, we are in Christ. Therefore, the first condition of an overcomer, the first condition of living as an overcomer, is to abide in the Lord. We all know this. If you are not in the Lord, you will fail. Today, our abiding in the Lord is already prepared by Him. I often tell brothers and sisters not to think about how to dwell in Christ. When I was young, I did not understand this. I strived to abide in the Lord, but I still find myself outside of the Lord. I was in such pain. I asked the Lord, "Did I not pray enough? If half an hour is not enough, then I will pray for 45 minutes. If 45 minutes is not enough, then I will pray for an hour. I never fasted before, now I will fast." I struggled and struggled but I still found myself on the outside. How was I still not in the Lord? I thank the Lord, He opened my eyes one day. You are already in there, what are you struggling for? You are already inside, why are you trying to get in? This is one key. Don't leave. The key for abiding in Christ is: Don't leave. Don't exit. We talk about the prodigal son in Luke 15. We often use that to preach the gospel. But in the house of the Lord, there are many prodigal sons. They have left the abundance in Christ, and as a result, they had to endure many hardships. The key is not to leave. It is not about entering because the Lord has already done it. The Lord said, "I am the true vine." We are the branches. We are already in Him. That is the first point.

Love the Lord

Secondly, we need to be the ones who love the Lord. This is the key. The one who loves the Lord can be an overcomer. Why? It is because the one who loves would be mindful of the needs of the one he loves. Do you agree? In the past, you don't care about this person because you didn't love him. But if you love

that person, that person is on your heart. You will think of him often and you will be mindful of his needs.

My child always tells me, “Don’t talk about me on the pulpit.” But I cannot help myself. I have to say a few words. My daughter is away for school and she comes home during school breaks. I love her so I would think about what soup she likes to drink. We Cantonese love soup. So, I would tell my wife, “Our daughter is coming home. What soup does she like?” What I like is not important. What matters is what my daughter likes. And I will ask my wife to cook that soup for her. Also, my daughter loves my fried rice very much. Usually, I don’t go into the kitchen. But every time she comes home, I go into the kitchen to cook a piping hot bowl of fried rice for her. I will look at her and ask, “Does it taste good?” Brothers and sisters, why? Because I love her. I care for her needs and I know what she likes. I would give her everything that is within my power: a bowl of soup, a bowl of fried rice. I would provide for her everything this is within my ability.

Brothers and sisters, if you love the Lord, you cannot help but be an overcomer because you know what He wants. When you see the Lord is grieved over the church, this burden is placed in your heart. The Bible describes when Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, there is this paradox. People are waving their palm branches and shouting “Hosanna, Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” They laid down their garments on the road. If I was riding on that donkey, my smile would never end. Such glory! But when people were shouting, the Lord saw Jerusalem and He wept. It was not a weeping with tears. No, it was wailing. Wailing for Jerusalem. He wept for Jerusalem. Brothers and sisters, given the condition of the church and God’s people today, who will care for the heart of the Lord? Who knows the heartache of our Lord? Who sees the Lord’s sorrow? Is it not those who truly love the Lord? Those who are close to the Lord? They know His sorrow. They know the church has not reached the Lord’s desire. They are willing to put themselves in the hands of the Lord.

I did not have time to talk about the churches in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 yesterday. But we surely know the characteristics of the first and the last church. Our Lord rebuked the church in Ephesus, “You have left your first love.” What is the Lord seeking? The Lord is seeking that first love. In the church of Laodicea, how did the Lord rebuke them? “You are neither hot nor cold.” Isn’t this our condition? If you say we are cold, we are not. The fact that you have come to the West Coast Christian Conference says you are not cold. The airplane tickets are not cheap. If you are sitting here, you are not cold. But if I ask you, “Are you hot? Are you hot in your heart?” Probably not. The Lord is seeking those who truly love Him. This is the calling to the overcomers.

There are many things about first love and we can at least speak on two points. First love is that first feeling, that interest, you have towards our Lord. If you love someone, you would be interested in them. Do you agree? When you

first start to date a girl, you are very interested in many things about her. When I started dating my wife, I didn't know how to ask her when her birthday was. I was interested in her and I went to the record room at church to dig up her record. I didn't feel comfortable asking anyone, but I was interested in her. Brothers and sisters, may the Lord cover me with His blood for saying this: Our Lord will never lose interest in us. After we have believed in the Lord for ten years, His interest in us is just as fresh as the first year. We are saved for fifty years, His interest in us is just like in the beginning. How are you living? How is your life growing? The Lord has never given up His interest in us. What about us? Perhaps our heads are getting bigger and bigger. We know more and more truths. We know many spiritual truths, but sadly that love has disappeared.

What is the Lord looking for today? It is that first love. What is first love? First love does not only speak of time. First love speaks of its quality. It is an everlasting love. First love means that it will never grow old. It is always this love. How did the Lord call out to His people in the Book of Jeremiah? "I have loved you with an everlasting love." John 13 says, "Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." Brothers and sisters, we can fail, we can forget, and we can secretly love the world. These are all possible for us. But the Lord never lets us down. What He has for us is the first love. It is an everlasting love.

In pursuit of Christ

Brothers and sisters, what is the life of an overcomer? It is a life of loving the Lord. It is a life of abiding in the Lord. The life of a true overcomer is a life that seeks and pursues in order to gain Christ Himself. Paul is the best example. Paul had already possessed all the things esteemed by the world. He was the Pharisee of Pharisees. He was taught at the best school. In today's terms, he graduated from Harvard with first honors because he was more advanced amongst his contemporaries. He had such a bright future in the world. But what did Paul say? "I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ." This is the life of an overcomer. His pursuit is to gain Christ. This is the lie of the enemy: he wants us to gain many things, as long as we do not gain Christ. For an overcomer, gaining Christ is the only thing he treasures.

I have said this before. How do you measure how rich a person is? You don't look at what he has. You look at what he throws away. I remember when I was in college, I didn't have much money. My classmates and I would look around and see if someone was throwing away a mattress. If it was still usable, we would take it home. We didn't have much money. But we did not just go anywhere looking for one. You need to go to the rich neighborhoods. If you go to the poor neighborhoods, there is nothing good. But if you go to the rich neighborhoods, you will find many things you like because the rich people don't want them anymore. They didn't want a TV anymore and they would throw it away. A radio that was too old? They threw it away. They didn't want a mattress? They threw

it away. It was because they have newer and better things. Brothers and sisters, what do you throw away? How rich you are does not depend on you saying, "I have this and I have that." But it is when you tell others, "This I don't want anymore, you can have it." "This, I no longer use, take it." "I don't care about this anymore." What did Paul say? "I don't care about all these things. Gaining Christ is the only thing I treasure."

When we read Revelation 2 and 3, what did the Lord show us? He showed us Himself, a true overcomer. I have said this yesterday: What do you need to see? We need to see the glory of Christ, the loveliness of Christ, and the preciousness of Christ so we will pursue and gain Him.

Seek Him first the kingdom of God and His righteousness

Two more points. When you are listening to me, do you have this question, "Brother Kwok, you spoke well, but what about my own life? As I am sitting in the WCCC, I am greatly encouraged. But when I go home, I have to work, I have a family, I have a mortgage to pay. That's life. That's the reality of life. What do we do? It's not that I'm not willing. I want to care about the house of the Lord. I want to love the Lord, but the pressures of life is too heavy." Some people tell me, "You preachers don't understand." How can I not understand? I don't have a life that is easier than yours. Brothers and sisters, what do we do? Life is real. Pressures are real. Needs are real. Our lacking is evident. How do we resolve that? How do you be an overcomer in the midst of this? How do you do it?

A while ago, I was serving elsewhere. I was heavily burdened with the load of service. I had a few things I couldn't figure out for a long time. I couldn't come up with a good way to solve them. I brought these problems with me when I went to serve. I prayed to the Lord, "Lord, what am I going to do? If these things are not solved, they will entangle me. I have to serve You and I have to preach. How do I serve You? If this is unresolved, how do I go on?" Then the Lord said to me, "You need to put My business in your heart. I will take care of your business for you." I was set free right away. I said to the Lord, "I am not able to fix these things. If I am faithful in Your things, would You not help me with mine?"

Brothers and sisters, are we not familiar with Matthew 6:33? Even our children know how to sing it. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." Do you believe these words? Yes, we have many needs. We have different needs. How many times have we tried? Can you fix them on your own? Can you really fix them? The Lord has given us the best way, the best method. You need to seek first My kingdom and My righteousness. Do you know what that "first" means? I invented a phrase: Priority by faith. It is by faith you prioritize. Do you put your difficulties first? Then you will never be an overcomer. If you put your needs first, you can never

become an overcomer. But if you put the needs of God first, if you put the priority on His kingdom and His righteousness, then you can be an overcomer.

Not loved their life even unto death

Lastly, a very important quality for an overcomer. In the Book of Revelation, there was a group of people. They followed the Lord. The Lord said these overcomers overcome by three things: the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony, and they did not love their own lives. I don't have time to talk about the first two. But the ones who followed the Lord were truly the overcomers. They did not love their life even unto death. "Life" in the original text is the word "soul". An overcomer does not love his own soul life. This is the last burden on my heart. Many people ask, "How should a Christian live?" Many ask, "How can I live a Christian life?" "How do I live amongst people?" "How do I live in the world?" "How do I live in the midst of temptations?" My young brothers and sisters, I hope you listen to my words. The question is not, "How do you live?" The question is, "How do you die?" After you die all is well. The problem is that you didn't die. Do you understand? The greatest freedom from the Lord is that we can die. If our flesh continues to live, the old man continues to live, there is no condition to overcome. Today we need to die. When you die, then you can live. Today we cannot live because we have not died yet. Do you understand? If today we can die, then we are alive. In Romans 6, Paul says it very clearly. When sin comes and works together with the old man, we become a factory for sin. This factory produces nothing but sin. This is troublesome. How do you deal with sin? You cannot solve sin. It is not something we can solve. How do you solve this? Simply put to death the old man. As soon as the old man dies, sin no longer has a partner. Today, we need to die but our flesh does not want to die. We are so sensitive. We are hurt when someone says something. We are hurt by one look. We are hurt when someone criticizes us behind our backs. It is because your old self is so active. But if you have died, there is no reaction. Because you are dead. So, what is the problem today? You don't want to die. What is the method? You need to die.

Brothers and sisters, is this world lovely? Truth be told, we secretly think it is quite lovely, isn't it? This world is intended to draw our hearts. What did Paul say? There is only one way: Either you die to the world, or consider the world dead to you. Paul said, "For me, this world has already been crucified. And for the world, I am crucified. To this world I am dead. As I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God."

Present your bodies a living sacrifice

What is a normal Christian life today? The normal Christian, as it says in Romans 12, you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing unto the Lord, for such is the reasonable service. Brothers and sisters, what is the problem here? We don't want to die. We don't want to go to the altar. We care

about our own feeling. We care about ourselves too much. That is why the life of the Son of God, the life of the Lamb of God, cannot flow from us and the glory of the overcomer cannot be lived out in our lives. John the Baptist looked at our Lord and pointed out to his disciples, "Behold, the Lamb of God." Every Jew knows if a lamb is called the Lamb of God, he has only one future and end. He will not be the lamb chop on your table. He can only be placed on the altar. He has only one ultimate ending. His destination is the altar. His blood shed and His flesh burned, in order to fulfill God's will. That is the Lamb of God.

The 144,000 people had a characteristic. They have followed the Lamb wherever He went. Where is the Lamb of God? The way of our Lord is the way of the cross. On the cross, He gave to us the position of an overcomer. If you do not walk on the way of the cross, how can you overcome? Our Lord said, "Where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him." Serving the Lord is not how much work you do. It is about whether you are where the Lord is. If this is the way of the Lord and we want to be an overcomer, is there any other way for us? If the Lord Himself is to be placed on the altar, to be the Lamb of God, if you want to be an overcomer, and you do not present yourself as a living sacrifice, is there any other outcome?

Let us bow for a word of prayer

Oh, Lord, in this darkest time, with so little time left, He who is coming is coming soon. Lord, we cry out to You. Put this love in our hearts. We no longer love other things. We love Your appearing. Because when You appear, we will not care about any cost. We will be willing to offer up ourselves once again. Oh, Lord, hear our prayers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.