

They follow the Lamb wherever He goes (3)

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The Call for Overcomers

As we have reached the end of this conference, we just experienced the climax of this conference in the worship time that we had before the Lord. By His grace, if we continue in His presence, that is all we need to do. I always feel that it is not necessary to speak after this; but the brothers have commanded me to speak, so I have to comply. I hope you have patience to wait and to listen.

Revelation 14:1-5—And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing upon mount Zion, and with him a hundred [and] forty-four thousand, having his name and the name of his Father written upon their foreheads. And I heard a voice out of the heaven as a voice of many waters, and as a voice of great thunder. And the voice which I heard [was] as of harp-singers harping with their harps; and they sing a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one could learn that song save the hundred [and] forty-four thousand who were bought from the earth. These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins: these are they who follow the Lamb wheresoever it goes. These have been bought from men [as] first-fruits to God and to the Lamb: and in their mouths was no lie found; [for] they are blameless.

May we have a short word of prayer:

Dear Lord, we do thank Thee for this conference. We thank Thee for the climax in the worship time. Thou hast brought us to Thy very presence, and if we should stay there, that is all we need to do. So we pray for all the brothers and sisters as they go back to their various places that they may be a witness and testimony to Thy great name. We pray that Thou would bless them. We pray that Thou would use them that in their various places they would be a witness for Thee, preparing Thy people for Thy imminent return, until that day when we shall all be raptured to the throne. Oh dear Lord, we thank Thee for all that Thou hast done, and we want to be used by

Thee in this last moment, that we may be those who prepare the hearts of Thy people that when Thou shalt return we will all go to be with Thee. We give Thee all the worship and praise. In Thy precious name we pray. Amen.

The Last Call of God

I would like to share with you on this matter of our testimony. We are here to witness for the Lord which is our responsibility. So wherever we go we are to be God's witnesses. As we read the book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, we find the message is one—we are to be His testimony.

Sometimes you may wonder why the Lord has delayed His return. We know that it is not because of Him; for He was ready to return even at the first century. Unfortunately, His bride was not ready. But thank God, we know that we are now in the last days, and the Lord is going to come back to receive us to Himself. This is our blessed hope.

When you come to the last book of the Bible, we find that the call is for overcomers. Our Lord Jesus is *the* overcomer. He overcame, and He calls His people to follow Him. If you read the whole book of Revelation, you find the last call of God to His people is for overcomers. In the first three chapters of the book of Revelation, in Christ's letters to the seven churches, at the end of every letter there is the call to overcome. So the last call of God to His people is that we overcome as He has overcome. In Revelation 2 and 3 you find that whatever the situation of that church is, the call is the same; it is the call to overcome. By His grace, we are to overcome day by day the situations we are in.

The term *overcomer* simply means "allowing the Lord to have His way with us." Do we open ourselves to Him and allow Him to do whatever He deems necessary? Is there something in my life that is still an offense to God? The Psalmist prayed, "Search me and know my heart. See if there is anything evil in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." I hope this will be the prayer of every heart.

Again, I will say we are living in a very thrilling time. The Lord is coming, and He can come at any moment. This is good news! However, the very urgent question is: are you ready? Is there still something in your life that is holding you back? If so, let it be cleared up. I want to emphasize again, the Lord can come at any moment. We are safely sitting here, but if the Lord should come now, where will we be? Will we be raptured to the third heaven? Or will we remain behind? It depends on whether

we are ready for Him or not. I hope every brother and sister here is ready. I hope the cry of our hearts is the same: “Come, Lord Jesus.”

Is that the cry of your heart? Or are you like the bad servant? When the Lord delayed His return, he began to eat and drink and beat his fellow workers, and suddenly the Lord returned. He will be cast into outer darkness instead of going into the kingdom to reign with Christ for a thousand years.

Reigning with Christ for a Thousand Years

I often think that the few years on this earth is nothing compared with a thousand years reigning with Christ. Should we love these few years here and take the chance of losing those thousand years with Christ in the kingdom? I do not believe anybody wants to do that. So again, the problem is: are you ready? If you are ready, you will be looking for His return. If you are not ready, this is the time for you to get ready.

Not only chapters 2 and 3, but the whole book of Revelation is telling us to be ready. We have no time to go over the whole book of Revelation, but as you read through it, you will find that throughout the book God is looking for overcomers. And these overcomers will reign with Christ for a thousand years. Is it not worth it to live for Christ by the grace of God these few years on earth so that we can reign with Christ in heaven for a thousand years? This is the promise of God to each and every one of us.

The Lamb of God on Mount Zion with the 144,000

In Revelation 14 we see the Lamb standing upon Mount Zion. This is not the Mount Zion on earth; it is Mount Zion in heaven. With Him there are 144,000 people having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. The 144,000 is a full number; it is the multiple of twelve. It does not mean that there are only 144,000 with the Lord. The Jehovah Witness group say that the 144,000 has already been filled, and if you believe in the Lord Jesus today, you will be a second-class citizen. But we know this is not true because 144,000 is not a fixed number; it is a multiple of twelve, and that is fullness.

The Overcomers are not Hidden from the World

So thank God, throughout the centuries, God has His overcomers. One day these overcomers will stand with Him on Mount Zion in heaven. They will have the name of God and of the Lamb upon their foreheads. If anything is on your forehead, everybody will see it. In other words, they are not secret Christians. Oh, how often we dare not show our identity! We try to hide ourselves; but where is the testimony? These overcomers of the ages have the name of God and the Lamb upon their foreheads. That is to say they have open confession.

Dare we confess the name of the Lord before the world? We know the world is against the Lord, and Satan is behind it. But where is our testimony? We must dare to testify for God. Because these overcomers have the name of the Lord upon their foreheads, everybody can see it. Do we hide ourselves before man? Do we dare to show ourselves that we are the Lord's? This will be our testimony.

Again, I will say that this 144,000 is not a fixed number. It is the multiple of twelve which means a full number. Throughout the ages, from the first century until now at the beginning of the twenty-first century, all who are overcomers will be there. They will be with the Lamb on Mount Zion in heaven.

The Ten Virgins

They sang a new song which is a song they have learned during their lives. Nobody else can learn that song because they do not have that experience. What they experienced of the Lord becomes their song, and this song is like a mighty water. They bear witness for the Lord throughout the ages.

The Bible tells us that these 144,000, which is a perfect number, have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. We were adulterers, but by the grace of God, our Lord Jesus died for us, He has cleansed us, and we are now like virgins.

You remember the story of the ten virgins in Matthew 25. This represents believers throughout the century, and they all have torches in their hands. There was oil in the torches of these virgins which includes all believers. It is our testimony of the life of Christ that is in us. When the cry came that the Bridegroom was coming, all ten of the virgins went out to meet Him; but five were wise and five were foolish. The wise ones not only had oil in their torches, but they had extra oil in their vessels. In other words, they were prepared. When the Lord returns, they will have enough

oil to light their lamps and go forth to meet the Bridegroom and enter into the millennial feast with Him. But the five foolish virgins thought that was not necessary. In their vessels they had other things which they considered as more precious to them. But because the Lord has delayed, they all went to sleep. In the Bible, sleep speaks of death; they all died.

At midnight, there was the call: “The Bridegroom cometh.” So they all rose up from their sleep and began to tend to their torches. Of course, the torches had run out of oil, but the wise ones had extra oil in their vessels, so they could refill their torches. That speaks of having the extra preparation of the Holy Spirit so that we can be ready to meet our Lord.

The foolish virgins thought there was something more important than extra oil, and their vessels were filled with other things. But when the Lord came, they woke up and discovered that their torches were dying. So they wanted the wise ones to share with them. Unfortunately, this cannot be shared, and they had to go and buy oil. We do not know whether they were able to buy oil or not. Most likely not. But the Lord came, and the wise ones entered with the Lord into the kingdom, and the door was closed when the foolish ones came back. I wonder if they got extra oil or not. Most likely not.

The Bible tells us they were cast into outer darkness. I know people are interested in outer darkness because young people often ask me this question. But since the Bible is silent, what can I say? You have to find out yourself. The foolish ones were shut out of the kingdom to come, and the Bible says that they were cast in outer darkness, weeping and repenting. Of course, people always ask the question: “What is the outer darkness?” In all the books that I have read, there is only one book that told us what the outer darkness would be, and it was Govett’s book. However, I am not going to tell you; you have to find out yourself.

But one thing we are certain, outer darkness is the place where we gnash our teeth and repent. On the one hand, it is a punishment because we cannot enter into the kingdom and reign with Christ for a thousand years. But on the other hand, God still gives us a chance to repent. God’s purpose is perfect. Once He sets His hand upon us, He will never stop until He fully completes us. Romans 8 tells us, “Whom He has called, He has justified, but whom He has justified, He will glorify.” God’s purpose is one. How we thank God for that! Once He lays His hand upon us, He will not let us go until He has completed His work in us. So the outer darkness on the one hand is a punishment, but on the other hand, it is still the grace of God. God

gives us another chance. If we do not repent today, one day we will have to, but it will be a little too late to enter into the kingdom for a thousand years.

The Characteristics of the Overcomers

But thank God, these 144,000, which is a complete number, were able to enter into the kingdom, and they were singing a new song. They were harp singers, and we know harping is heart music. When you are harping, it is out of your very heart. So these were harp singers, and they were singing out of their hearts the song that they had learned on earth. This is a song nobody can learn except the 144,000 because it comes out of their own experience; they sing a new song unto the Lord.

These people are the first-fruits of the Lamb. In their mouth there was no lie. In other words, they were faithful to the Lord.

More than that, they are blameless. It is not that they are without sin, but it is because they know the worthiness of the blood of our Lord Jesus to cleanse them. We find in Revelation 12:11 how they treasured the blood of the Lamb. The blood of the Lamb has saved us, but that does not mean after He has saved us, we are done with the blood of the Lamb. As a matter of fact, daily, hourly, we need it.

Martin Luther, the reformer, had a dream in which he saw Satan coming to him with a book in his hand. The book was filled inside and out with his sins. And Satan said to Martin Luther, "Look at this book with all the sins that you have committed. How dare you do the work of reformation!" Thank God, Martin Luther knew the Lord, and he took a red pen and wrote upon that book: "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses me from all sin;" and Satan disappeared.

Even though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. It is the blood of the Lord Jesus that cleanses us, and we need His blood every moment. We cannot say that we have no need for His blood now. No, we need His blood all the time so that we may be cleansed before Him.

They overcame Satan because of their testimony. They have a testimony to give, and because of this testimony, Satan will retreat.

They loved not their life even unto death. That is to say, they are willing to lay down their soul-life and allow the Lord to work deeply in their lives that they may be ready for the Lord.

These are blameless, not because they are blameless but because they treasure the blood of the Lamb.

Overcomers are Those Who Testify of the Lord Jesus

These people will be with the Lamb on Mount Zion in heaven. May this word encourage us as we go back to our various places! We are to be His witnesses to testify of our Lord Jesus in the place where we live until His return. As you go back, the Lord goes with you and will use you where you are to be His witnesses until He returns. Thank God, He is coming, maybe today, and hopefully, this auditorium will be emptied because we have all been raptured to the third heaven. What a glorious Gospel this is! May the Lord bless you all as you go to your various places that you will be His witnesses until His return! It will not be long. The Lord is coming! Thank God for giving us this opportunity to be together. Are you ready? May the Lord make every one of us ready! The Lord bless you as you return home. It will not be long, for the Lord is coming in our lifetime. Thank God for this opportunity to be together to prepare us for that day!

Shall we pray:

Dear heavenly Father, we do thank Thee for this conference. Thou art preparing us for Thy imminent return. Lord, we open our hearts to Thee; come and take possession. Do everything that is necessary to prepare us for Thy imminent return. Dear Lord, give every one of us a heart to look forward to Thy return. The cry of the church is: "Come, Lord Jesus." We thank Thee, Lord. In Thy precious name. Amen.