

**2019 WCCC**

**Brother Timothy Kwok**

**Be an Overcomer (1)**

*2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth the crown of righteousness is laid up for me, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will render to me in that day; but not only to me, but also to all who love his appearing.*

*Revelation 3:12 He that overcomes, him will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more at all out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven, from my God, and my new name.*

*Revelation 21:7 He that overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be to him God, and he shall be to me son.*

By the grace of the Lord, I thank Him for this opportunity to have fellowship with brothers and sisters. Before fellowshiping on the word of the Lord, I would like to especially thank the brothers and sisters who have been praying for me. When I saw brothers and sisters at this conference, they told me they were praying for me. I am really grateful. Some brothers and sisters said to me, "Brother Kwok, you are going to speak this afternoon." And I said, "I know. I won't try to hide." But I truly appreciate your love and care. The vessel is weak but I believe in the mighty power of the Lord. He has words He wants to speak to His people.

Some brothers and sisters know that it was supposed to be Brother Wong who shares in the afternoons but his health is not good. I had been praying for Brother Wong and hoped that he would feel better and take up this responsibility. When I visited our elderly brother, I saw that he was really weak physically. Therefore, I will learn to accept this burden. In regards to Brother Wong, I would like to speak a few more words. Many years ago Brother Wong was leading a summer conference at our fellowship. I noticed a young person was taking notes, and he kept writing without a break. I asked him, "Do you understand Brother Wong's words?" He shook his head and said, "I don't

understand at all. But I know there is something in it.” Life does not only lie in the expression of words; life is also something we can feel within us. I hope for the sharing this afternoon, brothers and sisters will not just understand in your head, but you can feel the Lord speaks to us within our hearts.

I did not choose this topic; it was Brother Wong who chose it: Be an overcomer. If it were up to me, I would not dare to choose such a topic. But since our brother has chosen it, I accepted the burden to share with brothers and sisters what it means to be an overcomer. Let us read a few Bible passages.

*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 3:12*

*He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.*

*Revelation 21:7*

*He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.*

## **What does it mean by overcomer?**

Brothers and sisters, these are not all the Bible verses on overcomers. There are many more verses that speak of the overcomers. Today, I am only using a few verses to share with you. Brothers and sisters, concerning overcomers, we need to first have this concept. What does it mean by overcoming? What is your understanding of it? Literally it means you have won. A brother who is knowledgeable in Greek told me the meaning of an overcomer is someone who can persevere, then come out on top and win. Initially something was on top of you and would not let you get out from underneath it, but through perseverance you were able to come out from underneath it, get on top and win. Who are the overcomers? It is a very simple concept: You have an opponent and you defeat him. Perhaps he was on top of you and was suppressing you, but eventually you come out from underneath him and then on top of him. This is a concept about overcoming.

In our everyday life, we have different kinds of pressure. I do not need to describe them because we all know them very well. Many types of pressure come upon us, some come from ourselves, some are from the world, and some are from the enemy. And they all become different kinds of pressure that press on us and we cannot get out from underneath.

So who are the overcomers? Overcomers are the ones who are able to come out from these pressures. In the New Testament, John especially mentions overcoming. He said that overcoming is, "Our Lord has overcome this world, we need to overcome the evil one, we can overcome the spirit of the antichrist." In the Book of Revelation, John told us many things about the overcomers. When I read the Bible, it seems John is the only one who mentions about the overcomers. But I found it is not only John. Paul also speaks about overcoming, and so do Peter and James? Why? Because they all speak of the crown.

## **A Crown**

Brothers and sisters, do you know what a crown is? When we read the New Testament, we know there are two words for a crown. One is referring to the crown that a king wears. When someone becomes king, he will put a crown on his head. But for the most part, this is not the type referred to in the New Testament. What is the other type? It is a laurel wreath. We know in the old days the Greeks had many athletic competitions, just like today's Olympic Games. It could be running or wrestling. There were different kinds of competitions. When you compete against many others, you cannot be the only one, but you need to compete against many people, and you win at the end. There were no gold or silver medals back then. They used olive branches to make a crown and put it on your head. With a crown made of olive branches on your head, people know you are a winner, an overcomer.

What does Paul say in 1 Corinthians? He said he was not after a perishable wreath, but an imperishable one. What does it mean? A wreath made of olive branches will dry up and perish one day. But if you receive a crown from God, that is an imperishable crown.

Brothers and sisters, we know that the Lord has been calling us. And not only is John calling, Peter is also calling. What does Peter say? "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." What does James say? "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life." These crowns tell us we have to face battles. They tell us they are the rewards for the overcomers. And of course, Paul mentions about this even more. What does he say to the church in Philippi? "Brothers, you are my joy and my crown." What does he say to the church in Thessalonica? "When I see you in the presence of the Lord, you are my crowns." There are many details to this, but there is one important point. This is how the

Lord calls us. One day before the judgement seat of Christ, the Lord will ask us how we have run the course of our lives, and how we have wrestled in the fight. If we have won, we will become an overcomer and will receive a crown.

## **Who is the overcomer?**

What does the theme of this conference tell us? There is a crown of righteousness. Paul has this faith and he says, "In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing." Brothers and sisters, my heart is comforted when I read these verses; at the same time, I also have some fear. What is my comfort? I tell the Lord, "Lord, I thank you because there is a crown of righteousness and its requirement is quite simple." It does not ask me to do many things. If the Lord says I can only receive the crown if my service is as effective as Paul's, I will be finished. There is no way I can serve as Paul did.

I have no way to matching James' and Peter's service. But thank the Lord. The Lord told us through Paul there is a crown called the crown of righteousness. And there is only one thing that is required. What is required? It is your heart. What does it ask of your heart? It asks that you have a heart that loves the Lord's appearing. A heart that truly long for the Lord's appearing.

Brothers and sisters, we thank the Lord. We see many brothers who came before us were very faithful. They had very good service and testimonies. In our hearts we are sure they would be counted as overcomers by God. But for me, I am so far behind them. My service is not like the service of my brothers who came before me. My testimony seems to fall short of his. Can I possibly receive a crown? Brothers and sisters, have you thought about receiving a crown? You might think this has nothing do with you. It is enough for you to just be a Christian who goes to heaven. It is not your desire to gain a crown. But brothers and sisters, this is not the case. The Lord wants each one of us to be an overcomer. Today, we need to ask this question: Do you love the Lord's appearing? If you love His appearing, it would make a difference. If you love His appearing, you are an overcomer. If you love His appearing, there is a crown of righteousness laid up for you. This is indeed beautiful. Just as our Brother Dana mentioned last night, it is so wonderful that the Lord has already prepared a crown especially for some people. These are not the ones who have done many great works. They only have one thing: They love the Lord's appearing. Brothers and sisters, these are the overcomers. If we are filled with the love of our Lord's appearing, we are the overcomers.

## **Do you love His appearing?**

Brothers and sisters, here comes this question: Do you love His appearing? This is a question we need to ask in our heart. When I was young, I was most afraid when the brothers share on these three topics. First, it is the Holy Spirit. It is because I did not understand this at all. Second, it is the church. I did not understand this either. Third, it is the Lord's return. I understood but was most afraid of it. When the brothers shared on the return of the Lord on the pulpit, I felt very scared. Lord, when you return, what should I do with myself? I looked at my daily living and the conditions of my life, how could I desire the Lord's appearing? Brothers and sisters, loving the Lord's appearing is not passive.

If you love someone, you will not be passive, right? If you love, you will be very proactive. If you love the Lord's appearing, you long for the arrival of this day. You will long for this time to come. When I was young and heard that the Lord will return, I thought, "Lord, you are going to return and I can't tell you not to. So come and I'll just wait here." I had no love for His appearing in me. I had no choice but to wait. But brothers and sisters, this kind of people cannot be overcomers. This type of people will not receive the crown of righteousness. Dear young brothers and sisters, the Lord wants us to be proactive. We are to love the Lord's appearing. Just as our elderly brother shared in the morning, he loved the Lord's appearing.

Brothers and sisters, what do you love today? If you are to make a list of things you love, you can write down many things. You can write that you love your family, your children, your work, and your wife. You can put down many things on the list. Forgive me for saying this, not many brothers will write they love the Lord's appearing. Brothers and sisters, Paul is different. In his old age, Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." And then he concluded, "I have a love. A love for the Lord's appearing." I remember when I was a child, I waited for my dad to return home every evening. Sometimes my dad worked until very late and my mom would tell me not to wait for him and go to bed. But I said, "No, I want to wait for dad to come home." Very often my dad would buy me a small bun on his way home. I still remember the taste of it until today and I cannot find any bun as tasty as it was anymore. I was just sitting there waiting for my dad. I was standing by the window and watching. I was watching for my dad to get off the bus. Sometimes it was very late and I saw some shadow passing by. "Is that my dad?" It was not. Another shadow passed by. "Is that my dad?" It was him! So I rushed to get his slippers. I set them down by his chair and waited for him to put them on. How I loved my father's return!

Brothers and sisters, how is your love for the Lord's return? Or do you say, "Lord, please wait a little. I have many things that I have yet to do. I have not enjoyed myself enough. My son has yet graduated from college."?

How did Paul remind brothers and sisters? Love the Lord's appearing. In your heart, you say, "Lord, all is well when you come. I will be rejoicing when you return." Thank the Lord.

Of course, my love cannot compare to our elderly brother. But I am different from before. I know the Lord is returning and I am happy in my heart. When I hear the Lord is returning, my heart rejoices. I thank the Lord that He is returning. I will see Him and I know that His work is accomplished. Brothers and sisters, why do we need to love the Lord's appearing? I often say this: our salvation is like our five fingers in our hand. The first one is the birth of our Lord, then His death, His resurrection, His ascension, and His return. These are the five aspects of salvation. We have already processed the first four aspects, right? We have already seen these four aspects. But brothers and sisters, our salvation is not fulfilled until the Lord returns.

If we are to gain the complete salvation from the Lord, the fifth aspect has to be fulfilled. It is because only when the Lord returns, He can complete His work of redemption. Even though the first four aspects can satisfy our different needs: our sins are forgiven, we receive the life of the Son of God, we have a glorious hope for the future, we have this glorious High Priest in heaven interceding for us, we have this Mediator to guarantee for us to receive all the blessings in God. Our Lord has accomplished all these four aspects and we have enjoyed their riches. But as long as the Lord has not returned, the Lord's will cannot be completely fulfilled. The Lord cannot completely accomplish what He wants to do in us.

If we are to be overcomers, we are the ones after the Lord's heart. If we are to be overcomers, we know that the Lord is coming and His redemption work will be fully accomplished.

## **A Normal Christian**

Brothers and sisters, what does it mean to be overcomers? Overcomers are not a special group of Christians. It does not take an extraordinary person to be an overcomer. An overcomer is a normal Christian. He or she is not a unique Christian. In other words, not being an overcomer means being an abnormal Christian. So are you normal or abnormal? Let us think about it.

The Lord has already prepared all the conditions for us to be overcomers. This is what I will share on tomorrow. I will share on the basis of being an overcomer and the life of an overcomer. But we need to know the Lord has already prepared all the grace for us to be overcomers today. As long as we are normal Christians, we are the overcomers. Brothers and sisters, when we look at the brothers who

came before us, and we see the spiritual giants who are of great stature, we are sure they are the overcomers. And we look at ourselves, we are only an insignificant brother or sister in the church. Perhaps when we speak, people do not pay much attention. When we make a suggestion, it seems no one hears us. Then how can I be an overcomer? Overcomers must be the responsible brothers.

Overcomers are the servants used by God. No, this is not the case. They could be overcomers. But overcomers are all those who live a normal Christian life. In other words, without exception, every brother and sister sitting here can be an overcomer. Before the judgement seat of Christ, the Lord has prepared a crown for the overcomers. This crown tells us we are the ones who love the Lord's appearing; we are the ones who live a normal Christian life.

### **Hold fast until the end**

Brothers and sisters, there is another requirement for an overcomer. Overcomers need to persevere until the end. I loved to exercise when I was young. I liked all kinds of sports. I knew very well that winning at the beginning does not guarantee a win. It is only when you crossed the finish line you win. Correct? If you are in a running race, you run very fast in the beginning, then you lag behind and the other runners run pass you, then you will lose. Or like in a soccer game, I might be able to score a few goals in the beginning. But as long as the game is not over, you cannot claim you have won. Because the other team may be able to score some goals also. When do you win? It is when you have finished the course. What is an overcomer? They are the ones who can continue on this course until the very end by the grace of the Lord.

Dear brothers and sisters, I have seen many brothers and sisters that I knew personally who had a love for the Lord in the beginning. They had given up much for the Lord, but gradually they were devoured by the world and the enemy came to do the work of destruction. Slowly they gave up, and their hands became feeble, and they became more and more distant to God's household. They were walking at the front and they were like overcomers in the beginning. However, to be an overcomer is not just to persevere for a short time. We need to continue on this course until we see our Lord. This is how an overcomer ought to be.

Perhaps, as we age, we are no longer able to do many works like we could when we were younger. Our memory may not be as good as when we were young. But we thank the Lord, Paul tells us, even though we may not be able to do as much on the outside, there is one thing on the inside we cannot give up on: To love His appearing. Brothers and sisters, often times we see our work as our satisfaction and we boast about our behavior, but what do we really love in our hearts? If you truly love the Lord's appearing, it does not matter how old you are. Perhaps you are young or you are advanced in age, thank the Lord, we are still walking on this course of an overcomer.

## **Fasten together with God's eternal purpose**

When I was preparing on this topic of an overcomer, I had this feeling that an overcomer is the one who connects himself/herself to God's eternal purpose. An overcomer does not only care for himself/herself, he/she unites himself/herself to God's eternal purpose. What is to overcome? It is not just to prevail over many things around you; it is to be united with God's eternal purpose.

We have been coming to the WCCC for many years. This is the 33rd year of WCCC. If someone was born on the 1st year of WCCC, he/she would be 33 years old this year. A teacher for children ministry at WCCC once told me, "The children here are something else. Whatever question you ask them with, they will tell you it is about God's eternal purpose. We cannot be sure whether they really understand, but whenever you ask them a question, they will always say, "the answer is the eternal will of God." There may not be many brothers and sisters here who have attended the WCCC for 33 years. But there may be some who have attended ten times? Fifteen times, maybe? Some maybe twenty times? You have heard so much. Let me ask you, "What is God's eternal purpose?" You might say, "Don't ask me. I will be afraid." Let me put it in a simple way (I know I have not covered it fully and our brother has explained it very completely): The eternal will of God tells us all that God does is for His beloved Son. All that God does is for Christ. Apart from Christ, it seems that God has no other interests. The Book of Ephesians tells us God will cause all things to be summed up in Christ in the fullness of time. Whether it is visible or invisible, things that are known or unknown, power or dominion, things imaginable or unimaginable, they will all be summed up in Christ. This is the eternal purpose of God. What God does is for His Son. Thank the Lord, even though we do not fully understand it, we still know about this. Our mind is too limited. I am often puzzled about what it means by the unfathomable riches of Christ. If it is unfathomable, then it is impossible for me to know.

How do I know something that is unfathomable. Therefore, I do not fully understand the eternal purpose of God. But I thank the Lord because God's heart is for His Son. In God's will, there is also the church. God's eternal purpose is for Christ; and Christ is for the church. Then I understand this: There are two things in the heart of an overcomer. One is Christ and the other is the church. Because this is God's eternal purpose. Besides these two things, nothing interests God. And the overcomers should not be interested in anything other than those two. In Ephesians chapter three, God tells us it is through the church that the manifold wisdom of God is made known. The church is a great vessel for God's use. The church is united with Christ to manifest God's will in the universe. Brothers and sisters, we know God is to accomplish His purpose and He is to sum up all things in Christ. It is through the union with Christ that the church will fulfill God's purpose on earth. We all know this.



What about the overcomers? I hope I can explain it clearly. I remember about thirty years ago, I heard our brother speaking on God's eternal purpose. I was very excited. I heard it once and again. After I listened to it-- I was fearless because I was young—I came before our brother. I think our brother must have forgotten it. I asked our brother, "Brother Kaung, your message was very good. But it was all up in heaven and not on earth. What does it have to do with me?" Our Brother looked at me once and then twice, shook his head, smiled, and walked away. I was left standing there. "Where was my answer?" Brothers and sisters, I finally understood after a while. Our Brother must have thought, "How do I explain it to you? You will not be able to understand even if I explain it to you. No matter what I say you will not get it. I might as well not say anything."

Brothers and sisters, what am I trying to say? An overcomer only cares about God's affairs. An overcomer does not care about his/her affairs only. If you are only mindful of your own affairs, this is not a life of an overcomer. What is our understanding of an overcomer? I am always overcome by sin. If I can overcome sin, I will be an overcomer. I am always angry with my wife, and I do not know how to control my temper. I want to be an overcomer. I do not know how to teach my child and I beat my children without a reason. After beating my child, I am full of guilt. I want to be an overcomer. I say things at church that I should not say. I do not know how to control my tongue. So, I ask the Lord to give me power to control my tongue so I can be an overcomer. Brothers and sisters, is this what you have in mind? This was what I had in mind. These are right, but they are not enough. I feel that I could be wrong, God is of course interested in your affairs, but He is more interested in Christ.

Why are there so many things in our lives? God does not just want you to overcome all these trivial matters, but He wants us to go through these things for the sake of the church. Brothers and sisters, if we do not see this, then we do not have a deep enough understanding of being an overcomer. If you are only mindful of all of your needs, it is true you can resolve many problems, but what about God's purpose? Can God's purpose be fulfilled through all the things that you have gone through? I am not sure if I am explaining it very clearly. Of course, it is wrong for you to be overcome by sin; but do you understand the impact on the house of God when you are overcome by sin? You may think you are so bad because you are overcome by sin and wish you can overcome sin. Indeed, it is good for you when you can overcome sin, but it does not stop here. What about the house of God? What about God's purpose? What is the relationship between your experience and the house of God?

Your family is a mess and you plead to God to help you take care of your family so that you can be a good father and a good husband. Is it a right prayer? Of course, it is. But these are not the only things. Brothers and sisters, the purpose of being a good father and a good husband is not to build a wonderful family for you to enjoy. It is not only this. What about God's church? It is no

wonder our elderly brother just looked at me and did not answer my question. How can you understand? He could only walk away. Thanks to the mercy of the Lord, now I understand a little. Brothers and sisters, God only loves His Son and He wants to use the church. Apart from these, nothing seems to matter.

When God does His work in your life, of course it is for your sake; but it is not only for your sake, it is also for the sake of His eternal purpose and for the church. This is how an overcomer should be.

I have been studying the Book of Ephesians lately. The Book of Ephesians mentions about two new men. The first one is created by God and all men are placed in this new man, which is the church. This is a new man. But Paul reminds us in chapter 4 that we need to put on this new man which is created after God's image. What does it tell us? Here is a new man, who is in God's heart and created by God, and this is the church. Today in our daily lives, when we walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which we have been called and we live a life that is of the new man, then we can manifest this corporate new man. Brothers and sisters, these are the overcomers. An overcomer does not only see his own needs; an overcomer does not only focus on his spiritual achievement; an overcomer joins his heart with God's heart. An overcomer sees that God's work needs to be accomplished and God's glorious purpose is to be fulfilled in us.

## **God's calling to the Church**

Brothers and sisters, when we read the Book of Revelation chapter 2 and chapter 3, we see a group of people who place themselves in the hands of God and they see God's calling. We all know what the church's condition is today. This is a topic that I am unqualified to speak on. But if we look at the church today, she is filled with all kinds of things that are not pleasing to God. What is God's calling to His church? His calling is for her to repent. We think we have become rich. We think we have everything. We think we are able to see much light. We are proud of our deeds. We think we have the best doctrines. We think our eyes are the sharpest and we can discern who are God's servants and who are not. It seems like we have all these. But is the church today after God's heart? Brothers and sisters, if you understand the two main points I mentioned, that the eternal purpose of God has to do with the church. If this is the case, how can the condition of the church today bring about the eternal purpose of God?

Do we feel it is enough that we are good Christians? If we do well in studying the Bible, praying and going to gatherings, that will be enough? I also spread the gospel, care about those who are around me, take care of the needy, I think I am blameless. That is good enough and I am an overcomer. Is it so?

When we read chapter 2 and chapter 3 of the Book of Revelation, our Lord is dissatisfied. He is calling the overcomers. He calls people out to be overcomers. Why? It is because there are so many problems in the church. Dear brothers and sisters, what is the condition in the church today? Can the church satisfy God's heart? Can the Lord gain His rightful position in our gathering? Can the fullness of Christ be manifested in the church? When you see all the conditions, do you feel a little anxious within you? Do you say to the Lord, "Lord, how can Your eternal purpose be fulfilled?" Or, do you feel very comfortable? When you are sitting at the back, you feel quite good seeing two hundred and twenty people has come to church today when there were two hundred last week. There is a ten percent increase. And ten more people come next week. Thank the Lord! He is adding those being saved every day to the church. Then you feel very comfortable and you are complacent. Do you see the purpose of God? Do you know the work God wants to do in His church? Do you know what areas we have that are falling short of God's will?

Dear brothers and sisters, what is an overcomer? An overcomer does not only see his needs; an overcomer sees the lacking of the church. Overcomers are the one who respond to God's calling. Who are the overcomers? They are the ones who touch God's heart. They may not be very capable. They may not be able to do many works. But the overcomers know what God wants.

## **A Good picture**

There is a very good picture in the Old Testament and it illustrates a fact. The Jewish people were taken captive to Babylon after their nation was destroyed. We know that their lives in Babylon was good. The Babylonians did not persecute them much and they were living their own lives. They were able to engage in businesses. They were able to eat the food they liked. They were able to build their synagogues so they could gather. Brothers and sisters, were these good conditions? They were. How could they be bad? I can live my own life. I do not have any pressure. I can go to the synagogue every week and worship God. I can listen to the word of God. Is this not very satisfactory? What about Jerusalem? This is beyond me. This seems to be others' problem.

Then there were this group of people. The Bible calls them the remnants. They were different. After seventy years, when the fullness of time arrived, they were not willing to be satisfied by the life in Babylon. They rose up and determined to return. They wanted to return to the place that was desolate. The place that was so desolate that not even one building was left. What did they plan to do? They planned to rebuild the temple. They had touched the heart of God. This was the dwelling place of God's name. They knew it was God's desire to dwell with man.

It was God's will to be with man, but the symbol in this world was gone. Their hearts were stirred. They had forgotten all that they possessed in Babylon and

rose up to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Brothers and sisters, these are called the overcomers.

I often thought to myself, some children were born in Babylon during those seventy years. Is it possible for the people to return? There is a brother in our assembly and he has a son who was born in Canada. Our brother took his son to Beijing, which was our brother's hometown. His son told him, "Dad, let's not come to this place ever again. Once is enough. Don't come here again. It's terrible here." Brothers and sisters, for someone who was born in Babylon, he was educated in all the learnings of the Babylonians, he spoke the language of Babylon, he learned Babylon's culture, he ate the Babylonian food, and he was completely educated by Babylon. How could it be that he was moved in his heart so that he was able to leave all these behind and to leave all the comfort and glory, and to go to a desolate place in order to rebuild God's temple?

Brothers and sisters, we live a comfortable life in the United States and in Canada. For this we thank God. God does not want us to suffer. But God is looking for a group of people who are not satisfied by a comfortable life. They know God's will. When we read the Book of Nehemiah, Nehemiah testified that he was the king's cupbearer. For a person to be a cupbearer to the king, this person must occupy a much esteemed position. But he remembered God's house. He could not help himself but to have a sad face. Brothers and sisters, one was not allowed to have a sad face before a king in those days. Today, when do we have a sad face for the sake of God's eternal purpose? When do we shed tears for the sake of God's eternal purpose? We cry when we think we have lost many precious things. But we do not feel anxious when we see the eternal purpose of God not being fulfilled. Here was this group of people. They saw the heart of God. They understood the reality of God's desire to dwell with man. They were willing to leave Babylon, a place that gave them comfort, to return to Jerusalem and build the temple.

## **May His Will be done**

There is also another person: Daniel. If we read his story, we know that he was about fifteen years old when he was taken captive to Babylon. In man's eyes, he seemed to be raised up to one high position after another. But when he was about eighty years old, he continued to pray toward Jerusalem three times a day with his window open. He knew very clearly if he continued to live his life this way, he, an eighty-something year old man, would be sent to the lion's den. Brothers and sisters, will you be willing to take that risk? Will you do such a thing? Will you say to God, "Oh God, does it really matter that I pray a few days less or a few days more?" But this was not the case with Daniel. For the glory of God, for the testimony of God, and for the eternal purpose of God, Daniel prayed three times a day toward Jerusalem, just as he had been doing previously. At that time Jerusalem was in ruins. The temple was destroyed and the city wall

was destroyed. You might say to Daniel, “You are so old, why are you praying towards this ruin? You are so old, why do you still kneel down and pray three times a day?” Brothers and sisters, this is an overcomer.

Forgive me for asking this: What are we asking for when we pray every day? We ask for many things, is it not? We have many things we need to ask for in our prayers. If we are not healthy, we would probably be more diligent in our prayers. I remember one time I had a pain in my body, and I went to see the doctor. The doctor took an x ray, and he shook his head. When I saw him shaking his head, my heart sank. He told me, “You can’t go anywhere. You are at risk of dying at any time. I am going to make arrangement for another x-ray so I can figure out what is going on with your blood vessels.” I was planning to come to the WCCC, but he told me not to go anywhere. Let me tell you, I was very diligent in prayers during those three days. I got up in the morning and prayed. I prayed at noon, and I prayed at night. I prayed earnestly and I prayed unceasingly. I said to the Lord, “Lord, you need to heal me if you want to use me. “I was secretly saying, “Lord, you need to use me. You need to use me.” Thank the Lord, I am still standing here.

Brothers and sisters, we offer up many prayers for ourselves, and we cry so much to the Lord. We plead with the Lord to satisfy our many needs. But does anyone pray to satisfy God’s needs? Do we pray, “Lord, may Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”?

We thank the Lord. Here is a group of overcomers. They see the heart of God. God has a calling for the overcomers in the Book of Revelation chapters 2 and 3. They hear the Lord’s calling and they hasten the return of the Lord. They have a heart that love the Lord’s appearing. When we read the last part of the Book of Revelation, we thank the Lord, it says, “And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.” The remnants in the Old Testament gave themselves for the sake of Jerusalem. For this city and for God’s purpose, they gave up all the comforts of Babylon.

## **Where are the Overcomers?**

Brothers and sisters, for the coming down of the New Jerusalem, should there be a group of people who will live for God’s purpose? When they think of the church’s condition, they lay down themselves. They give up their enjoyment and give up things they deserve. They only have one thought: they want to see the fulfillment of God’s eternal purpose. They hear this loud voice from the throne, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men!” Brothers and sisters, God is calling the overcomers today. I was planning to share on the overcomers in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, but I think it is enough to share what I have shared

with you today. But I want to share one more point. The words spoken by our Lord to the churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 are very familiar to brothers and sisters. The Lord reveals who He is to the churches and then He calls the overcomers and tell those overcomes what will happen. Who is an overcomer? An overcomer sees who the Lord is. Brothers and sisters, this is not told by others, nor is this something you read in a book. It is not that others tell you who Jesus is or who Christ is. It is not. It is the Lord who reveals Himself to the church. Among the seven churches, the Lord rebukes five of them. But when the Lord calls the overcomers, the Lord shows them what kind of Lord He is. Today as an overcomer, what is your understanding of the Lord? What do you know about Him? What kind of Lord is He? It is not just head knowledge, but we need to see it with our spiritual eye. The Lord has different proclamation toward the seven churches. He tells them what kind of Lord He is.

Brothers and sisters, if we are able to truly see this glorious and beautiful Lord, then we will have this desire in our heart and say, "Lord, how I want to see You soon because indeed You are lovely." Brothers and sisters, those who love His appearing are the ones who will receive the crown of righteousness. Thank the Lord. The Lord has already prepared this crown of righteousness. It is up to us to qualify for wearing this crown on our head. Do you love His appearing?

## **Prayer**

Let us bow our heads and pray. Lord, we ask that You speak to our hearts personally. How can we, man of dust, enter into Your glorious will? Lord, we thank You with all our hearts. This is Your glorious will for us to walk in Your purpose. Today, You are seeking in Your church those who overcome. How we long to be those who hear Your voice. Lord, we have no strength at all. But Lord, grant us this heart to love Your appearing. We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.