

John 16

The Overcomer

Good morning, Church.

It is wonderful to be here with you all today.

On Sunday Mornings, we have committed ourselves to studying through the New Testament Books.

We are currently going verse-by-verse through the Gospel of John.

Please turn in your Bibles to John Chapter 16...

Remember, from Chapter 13 through Chapter 17, we are looking into Jesus's last evening with His disciples.

It all began with a Passover Supper and the discussion in the Upper Room.

We are now past the Supper, and Jesus is still giving His final teaching to the disciples.

Many believe Jesus has left the Upper Room and is now talking along the way to the Garden, where He will be betrayed and arrested.

It is fascinating that John gives us so much detail about Jesus' final evening with His disciples.

It takes up almost a third of his entire Gospel Record.

John will write at the end of his Gospel... **John 21:25**

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

And we can see that this is not far from the truth because this one evening takes up several chapters here in John's Writings.

Jesus has been teaching many important realities... one of the main points of this final discourse is Love for One Another.

Through the disciples' questions, we have seen that they are focused on one main thing Jesus keeps saying.

They are concerned that Jesus is telling them He will leave them.

Almost all the conversation is lost because they are worried about Jesus's departure.

What I like about what Jesus will say this morning about His departure... is that He does not give the disciples false hope or illusions of grandeur to pacify their worry.

No, Jesus will give brutal truths for them to consider...

The main point He will make is that if He can Overcome this cruel and hostile world, no matter what comes to His followers in this fallen world, we, too, can be Overcomers.

Jesus is the ultimate Overcomer, which allows us to be Overcomers as well.

Let's pray...

I read a quote this week that got me thinking...

"If you are brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello."

That made me think back to all the tough goodbyes Jess and I have endured.

I remember leaving the Church in Lake Havasu to return to California to serve in Apple Valley.

It was a tough goodbye; we had made some extraordinary friends there.

But we believed God was calling us away, and we went. The goodbye was difficult, but we did have some new hellos... and even more friends and special people came into our lives.

Then, when God called us from Apple Valley to here, the goodbyes were difficult again, but there were more special hellos to come here in Victorville.

Our brave goodbyes were always rewarded with new hellos.

Well, Jesus is telling His disciples that He is leaving. He is saying goodbye to them... But they will have a very special Hello because of His departure.

Over and over again, Jesus has promised another Helper, another of the same kind, the Holy Spirit.

The Helper or Comforter will take up where Jesus leaves off in teaching, training His disciples, and building up His Church.

Jesus said last time we were together...

John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."

And Jesus will now tell them why they will need the Holy Spirit.

Times were about to get tough, immense trials were ahead, and life and ministry would be heavy.

So, in John 16 verse 1, Jesus starts by saying...

Jesus Warns and Comforts His Disciples

16:1 "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. 3 And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. 4 But these things

I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.

"And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

Jesus did not want to give false hope here.

Sometimes, a young person will enter the ministry, believing that the world is just waiting for them to start preaching.

They envision crowds of people coming to hear their great words and marvel at their oratory skills.

Many must go through a Great Unlearning, especially out of Bible College or Seminary.

Jesus tells His disciples, "Don't think the world will celebrate you... in fact, they will hate you..."

Jesus tells them this in advance so that when it happens, they will not be offended...

Really, in any Christian service, there will be hardship and trials... immensely so.

When a Christian resolves in their heart to start serving the Lord in Children's Ministry, as an Usher, an Evangelist, whatever it is, not only does spiritual opposition come, but often, God allows trials to come to us in the physical realm.

But understand something: those trials and hardships keep us in a usable place... a place of humility... where the ministry never becomes about us...

Paul said it like this... **2 Cor. 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,**

My wife and I can look back over 20 years of serving the Lord, and the most significant lessons have come from failure and immense affliction.

In fact, any more, when things are running smoothly, and there are no road bumps in life or those brief

seasons where there is no one mad at us... we feel like things are off...

Something isn't right, things are going to good...

Jesus warned His disciples of the tough road ahead, and for them not to be surprised or overwhelmed by it.

And Jesus was right, in every synagogue in every land where Christians went all throughout the Roman Empire, the followers of Jesus were met with severe persecution.

The Jews felt they needed to stamp out this New Sect of Judaism quickly... and everywhere the missionaries went, and Jews were already there, and beatings and hostility followed.

When he was on trial before Agrippa, Paul said he was once caught up in the frenzy of opposing Christians.

Acts 26:9-11 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast

my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

After Paul converted to Christ, I think it is fair to say that he got the worst of this persecution from the Jews.

The Jews thought they were serving God's Will to destroy Christianity... and this is what Jesus warns here.

Jesus is being truthful about the cost of ministry and following Him.

And really, history shows us that the Jews were not the only antagonists against the Church.

The Mighty Roman Empire also put the followers of Christ in its crosshairs.

For 325 years, under the Romans, Christians were chased and hunted, forced to live in hiding and in underground Churches.

In AD 325, 318 Church leaders met in the Persian city of Nicaea to solidify and codify the doctrine of the Trinity and the truth of Jesus's deity.

They composed one of the most explicit statements on Jesus's deity in History.

Jesus is said to be "very God of very God."

For the first 300 years, Christianity fought tirelessly against the many false doctrines creeping in and out of the Church.

Finally, under the ruler Constantine, Christianity had become legalized.

For the first time, Church leaders openly gathered without fear of persecution or reprisal at Nicaea.

But it is interesting to consider what that gathering looked like.

Sometimes, we see a gathering of Christian leaders, some of the most well-dressed, refined men on earth.

Consider what the first pastor's conference looked like in Nicaea after 300 years of persecution.

A pastor from Egypt had one eye. The Romans had plucked it out of its socket when he refused to renounce his loyalty to Jesus.... Three men had ugly scars on their faces... A few of the pastors limped on one leg...

Most everyone in the room had lost an appendage of some sort - an arm, a hand, a finger, an ear...

A lot of the pastors had burn marks from scalding oil... Every man's back was a crisscross of scars...

These men had weathered decades of persecution.

Members of their churches had been slaughtered by gladiators and fed to the lions. Yet now, these leaders were proof of Christianity's triumph.¹

But Jesus here in our text warned that hardship would come.

But the tribulations and trials would also be a great revelation to them and can also be for us.

¹<https://www.sandyadams.org/sermon/john-16-17-3/>

During these seasons of hardship, we realize we are not alone, and the promise of Jesus that He would send a Helper comes to light.

Jesus was leaving, hard times were coming, but that means Another Helper was coming...

Look at verses 5-7...

The Work of the Holy Spirit

5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

This is an interesting comment by Jesus, “None of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’”

Both Peter and Thomas asked Jesus where He was going.

Their hearts were not in the right place about Jesus leaving.

They were more questions, such as, “What will happen to us when you leave?”

When people are only inward-focused and look at how things will benefit or not benefit themselves, they miss what matters.

They should have wondered, “Jesus, what will happen to You when you leave.”

But the disciples asked, worrying about the consequences for themselves.

Seeing their great sorrow, Jesus excused their lack of interest in His well-being.

They had sorrow because of what Jesus was saying, what would happen to them...

But Jesus wanted them to know that their future would be brighter... Jesus’s departure was an essential step in the disciples' maturing process.

If Jesus did not leave, they could not learn to fly independently with the Holy Spirit.

They were to be the ones Christ built His Church with, but as long as Jesus was around, they would continue to be His disciples, not the Apostles...

A disciple sits under and learns...

Apostles are sent with the message... doers of the work...

Also, as long as Jesus was in a body, His ministry and work were limited to the body and the material world. He was limited by space and time.

But when Jesus ascended into heaven, He left the limiting Laws of this Universe... and entered a timeless, spaceless existence... where His Spirit could be everywhere at once...

Remember the reality Jesus left them with before He departed this world...

Matt 28:20 "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Some Apostles went to Rome, others to India, Africa, Germany, and worldwide, but the truth was still the same: Jesus was with them all.

He said **Matt 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.**

And you see, Jesus is here with us this morning, right now... because Jesus is Spirit...

Not only is He here, but with other Christian gatherings are in the community in different Churches.

All who have gathered in Jesus's Name to Worship Him, He can be with all of us.

Jesus said it is to our advantage that He went away because if He did not, the Helper would not come to us...

Jesus made it clear that His departure meant the arrival of the Helper.

And now Jesus will give a little more detail about the role of the Holy Spirit...

Verse 8...

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

We see here that one of the Holy Spirit's main missions is to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Usually, when we think of sin, we think of breaking the Law of God... the Ten Commandments...

Lying, Stealing, Coveting, Anger and such...

But Jesus names the greatest sin here... of sin... because they do not believe in Him.

That is the one sin that cannot be forgiven.

On Friday night, we were out eating ice cream with Justin and Danielle Heck, our Jr. High leaders.

Some High School boys were there, and they heard us talking about the Lord...

And they came up to us concerned...

One boy said, "I have a question. We were just in the store next door, and some ladies saw that we had these, and they said we were going to hell because of it."

And he holds his hand out to show me secretly what he had, maybe drugs or something crazy...

And he flips open this little wallet and shows me his Pokémon collection.

We all laughed, but I could see that for the boy, it was no laughing matter; he did not want to go to hell...

So, we got to share a little with them... and it was really neat. Justin gave them his number and said to call him anytime he had questions about Jesus.

My wife wanted to find those false evangelists and set them straight about preaching the Gospel of Works for salvation.

If it were one of you, our Elder John Dydel teaches a class on sharing your faith... You should probably take the class...

The boys said those ladies told them, “God sent us to tell you this.”

We said, “Well, God put us here to correct that false message.”

When I asked them if they worshipped those cards, they laughed and said, “No, we trade them.”

I don’t know about you... but it is so fun and exciting to share God’s Grace with people...

But this is the reality: trading Pokémon Cards will not send you to hell... there is only one sin if left undealt with that will eternally damn you, and that is not believing in Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Of course, changes do naturally come when we surrender our lives to Him...

Jesus said in another place...

Mark 3:28-29 "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; 29 but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"

The Holy Spirit points us to our sins, the solution to our sins, and our Savior.

If we blaspheme His witness for Jesus, we will be condemned.

All roads do not lead to heaven...

There is only One Way, and the Helper points to Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life...

Jesus said... Matt 7:14 narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Jesus is the only solution to our sin problem...

The Holy Spirit testifies to sin, the great sin of refusing to believe in Jesus Christ as God's provision for our salvation.

The Holy Spirit also testifies to righteousness because Jesus goes to the Father.

The ascension of Jesus to heaven demonstrated that He had perfectly fulfilled the Father's will and had proven Himself righteous – and exposed the lack of **righteousness** in the world that rejected Him. The Holy Spirit shows the world the **righteousness** of Jesus and its own unrighteousness.²

Notice to the Holy Spirit will testify or convict of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged.

The Holy Spirit warns that judgment is coming...

The world and its prince is judged...

To reject Christ and His sacrifice for your sins is to join the world and Satan in that judgment.

Look now, starting in verse 12.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but

² <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/john-16/>

whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Jesus very clearly tells them that His teachings were incomplete.

Have you heard someone say, “I only read the Red Letters and discount the rest of the Bible?”

They only want to take what Jesus said as Truth.

Well, Jesus says that there would be further instruction given by the Holy Spirit later...

This leads me to believe that He was anticipating the formation of the New Testament.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul and all the other New Testament writers taught us many things, including many things that Jesus speaks of.

On many occasions, Jesus mentioned in veiled statements that other sheep not of the Jewish fold would be brought in...

But it was under the fuller revelation of the Apostle's writings that God would bring Jews and Gentiles together in the Church Age...

Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will guide them in all truth.

In one way, this was fulfilled when the New Testament was canonized.

But in another way, the Holy Spirit continues today to lead us into all truth...

Now, understand that He will never lead us to Truth outside God's Word.

The Scriptures are God's Authoritative Revelation... and the Holy Spirit reveals Himself when we are in His Word.

Notice here, too, that the Holy Spirit does not speak on His own authority, but He will Glorify Jesus, take what is His, and declare it...

The Holy Spirit's ministry reveals Jesus to us; He bears testimony of Jesus....

Once again, understand that the Holy Spirit is blamed for many silly and outrageous things in the Church today, but His main mission is to bring Glory to Jesus.

And we should not budge on that truth... if someone is off doing strange things in the Name of the Holy Spirit... The Scriptures should reveal that it is not of God at all.

You have the parameters of what He does here given by Jesus Himself.

He gives us the truth, using God's Word, and brings Glory to Jesus... Never to Himself...

Jesus gives the wonderful news of the Holy Spirit's coming...

But, He goes back to what this means about Him physically being here on earth...

Verse 16...

Sorrow Will Turn to Joy

16 "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father."

17 Then some of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" 18 They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying."

19 Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'? 20 Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. 21 A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you

again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

The disciples did not understand that very soon Jesus would be arrested and then crucified...

But because He had to go to the Father, they would see Him again after He arose from the Dead.

During that brief interval between Jesus's death and resurrection, the disciples lost faith and their spiritual clarity...

In Mark's account, Jesus told them... **Mark 14:27**

"All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.'

But Jesus, in John's Gospel, assures them that their eyes will be open and that they will eventually see Him.

They were confused, of course.

They wondered what Jesus meant...

They could not accept the fact that Jesus would die, and they did not fully understand the ascension into heaven...

They did not see clearly until the Helper clarified for them.

They would understand that Jesus going to heaven soon meant they would be gathered with Him one day in Glory.

This is the hope of every Christian... we all have eternity in our hearts...

I get goosebumps every time I am next to the deathbed of a Saint... and the assurance they have...

Three weeks ago, after Church, we took our kids to say goodbye to G-Pa... my Grandpa Ed...

We stood around his bed... 91 years on this earth had taken its toll...

I asked him, "Grandpa, are you ready to see Jesus and Grandma."

He struggled to open his weak eyes but looked at me and said, “Yes!”

Like, get me out of here... He was ready...

I said, “I love you, Grandpa,” and he opened his eyes again, “I love you too, Gar.”

But he had such confidence, and there was no fear...

I am going to see Jesus!

Jesus knew that His disciples did not quit having that assurance...

Not until they got on the other side of the cross...

Jesus tells them, “You are going to weep and lament, and the world will rejoice.”

Notice what He says in verse 20: “You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.”

Their sorrow would be directly connected to their coming joy...

Even as that momentary pain and sorrow comes during childbirth... it is almost immediately forgotten once that child is in their mother’s arms.

When they see Jesus hanging on the cross, there will be great sorrow... but Sunday would come, and the resurrection would bring them great joy.

Then Jesus starts talking about the relationship He is bringing to us with the Father...

Verse 23...

23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

The disciples had been asking a lot of questions.

It was the time for that...

But Jesus tells them, "In that day..." The day their joy is made full.

When the resurrection comes, the joy they will have will leave them speechless... they will ask for nothing.

At the same time, the Way to God and answered prayers will never be more open than on that day.

The prayer and access we have through Jesus Christ will be solidified forever.

None would dare approach God on our own, apart from Jesus Christ.

Paul writes...

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Christ made the way...

In the Old System of sacrifices, only the high priest was allowed to go into the Holy of Holies once a year, on Yom Kipper...

The ordinary person would not dare enter, or they would die.

Man could not approach God because of our sinfulness.

But through Jesus, we can approach the Father.

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

We can come boldly now to God through Jesus Christ. Because of Jesus' great work, disciples have unlimited, undeniable access to God through Him. The disciples had yet to pray in Jesus's name, but He would teach them.³

He brings us in, gives us access... and Jesus assures us that whatever we ask in His Name will be done, and our Joy may be full.

Then, in verse 25...

Jesus Christ Has Overcome the World

25 "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; 27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. 28 I came forth from the Father

³ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/john-16/>

and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father."

Jesus tells them He will no longer speak to them in parables or figurative language.

He will speak plainly about the Father.

And now, this is interesting: Jesus says we don't even have to ask in His Name... because the Father Himself loves those who love Jesus and believe that He is from God.

Think about what Jesus is saying here; this is an amazing revelation.

God loves me, and He loves you, those who have put their faith in Jesus.

So often, in our hearts and minds, we put God off somewhere, sometimes angry, unapproachable, fierce even...

And we go to Jesus, who persuades the Father to do things our way or to move on our behalf.

But that is so far from the Truth...

The one thing that separated us from God was our sin.

Jesus said... **John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

The breach or separation between us and God was healed.

There is a way for us to have a direct relationship with the Father....

John wrote in his epistle...

1 John 1:3-4 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

Jesus is saying here that we can go directly to the Father...

And think about this: If Jesus is teaching that we don't even need to ask Him, but we can go directly to the Father... where does that put the intercession of the Saints, as some sects of Christianity believe?

When Pastor Josh and I were in the Republic of Georgia, we visited some 16th-century Orthodox Churches that are still very active...

But it was interesting to see the worshippers coming in and praying to Saints...

They even had supposed bones and body parts of these Saints that people prayed to.

Jesus clearly teaches that none of that is needed... We can go directly to the Father...

He has time for you... He is not distant... He is not angry...

He loves you this morning... and He loves to hear from you.

Let Jesus's own Words ring louder than the lies in this world and the superstitions that people live in, and let's press into the fullness of our God.

He loves you; He desires to hear from you... take full advantage of that reality.

So, Jesus tells them very plainly here that He came from the Father and will leave this world and go to the Father again.

Verse 29...

29 His disciples said to Him, "See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! 30 Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God."

Jesus' summary statement made them feel as though they now understood.

They believe Jesus came forth from God...

They seemed sincere in their beliefs, but as we will see, Jesus knew the Truth.

And people can be funny with their words and stances.

They can make commitments and promises... but when it comes time to put their feet to their words... they fail to do as they said...

The doing part is always the most challenging part of our faith.

Let's look at the last few verses here, starting in verse 31...

Jesus gives them the actual reality of what is to come...

31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Jesus did not doubt the sincerity of the disciples' belief but warned them that their faith would be tested and shaken before they were finally settled on Jesus.

It was much easier to believe in Jesus in the Upper Room with warm fellowship... even on the way to the Garden with all the conversation.

But once they get to the Garden... the trial that awaits them there will cause them to flee and scatter to their own, and Jesus will be alone.

Jesus did not say this to have an “I told you so moment,” but more so, after it happened, they would have His Words to fall back on and strengthen their faith.

Their memory of Jesus’s Words here would be very instrumental in them engaging in their faith once again.

Jesus tells them, “I know you think you believe, you think you know, but your faith will be shaken...”

Jesus knew their hearts better than they knew their own hearts.

Notice the purpose of Jesus’s Words to them...

Verse 33... “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the World, you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Did Jesus promise that those who follow Him would have riches and treasures here on earth?

Did He promise glorious gains for His followers?

No, He gave this assurance: we will have Tribulation in this world.

When we decide to follow Jesus, to receive His Free gift of salvation, and to serve Him in the ministry we can expect tribulation.

In our conversation over ice cream with our Jr. High leaders... they said ever since they have committed to serving the Lord in the ministry, their lives have been in complete chaos...

Tribulation has come...

And many of you know how comforting I am in those moments... I said, "Good! That is how you know you are on the right path."

I asked Justin, "How long do you suppose it will last until it gets easier?"

I set him up, of course... “I said not until heaven. It only gets harder... unless you tap out and quit...”

Many do that...

Martin Luther wrote this... “The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not at him, one little word will fell him. And that is the name of Jesus. He must submit to the authority of the name of Jesus because Jesus is God’s appointed and rightful King.”⁴

When we enter the Kingdom of God through faith in Jesus, we become citizens of a world to come... heaven...

Satan hates that, and in this world, where he has been given rule... He will fight against everything we are for.

You know, once we are in heaven’s Kingdom, heaven’s army, we have one main objective in this life...

We are to work and battle for the souls of men and women...

⁴ Edited & Highlighted from “The Word For Today” Transcription, Pastor Chuck Smith, Tape #8084

We are to bring as many with us from this fallen rock to our heavenly home as possible.

That is it...

We can Overcome the enemy in this world because the One We follow Overcame this world...

He had gone before us, ascended to Glory, and sent us another Helper, the Holy Spirit, who gives us the Power to Overcome the enemy.

You understand. We fight so hard to get comfortable in this world. We strive until we can make our lives good, and we aim to have more and build better for ourselves...

When a Christian gets caught up in that mindset... they become ineffective in their true mission...

They don't have to overcome anything because they opted out of the fight to focus on self-betterment instead.

But, when we are truly engaged in the battle, the battle for souls, goodness expects Tribulation; Jesus told us ahead of it would come.

But notice how Jesus ends that rough reality...

With hope... Be of Good Cheer Church; He has Overcome this world, and so will you!

Heaven is waiting...

I told the Pastors yesterday I had an idea for a New Shirt...

“It is all about the Bema Seat.”

It is not about us, what is happening to us, or what we are getting...

It is all about Jesus and what we are doing for His Glory...

Amen?

Let's pray...