

I. Review

- a) Premise #1: We can experience a taste of the worship that takes place in heaven now through the Holy Spirit.
- b) Premise #2: The Lord has always intended for His house to be a “Jacob’s Ladder” that connects earth to heaven by His Spirit.
- c) Premise #3: The worship that takes place in Revelation 14:1-5 is a model for our worship in this new season.
- d) The Invitation: Come up here. Come into My throne room.
- e) Today, we will resume our study of Revelation 14:1-5 and look again at the components of our new worship model.
- f) So far, we have looked at:
 - #1: Holy of holies worship that ministers to the Lord.
 - #2: Become worshipers who worship.
 - #3: Build a spiritual Zion.
 - #4: Become a corporate worshiper.
 - #5: Accept our priestly responsibilities.
 - #6: True worship flows out of our secret place relationship with Jesus.

II. #7: True Worship Flows Out of An Overcoming Lifestyle.

- a) Revelation 14:1 states, “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.*”
- b) “Having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads” is a promise to the overcomers at Philadelphia.
- c) Jesus told the church at Philadelphia, “He who overcomes...I will write on him the name of My God... and My new name” (Rev. 3:12).
- d) Thus, the worshipers in Revelation 14:1-5 are the overcomers. When I use the term “overcomers,” I mean the believers who actually overcame what Jesus listed in Revelation 2-3.

III. Defining the Term “Overcomer”

- a) It is biblically accurate to use the word “overcomer” to describe being more than a conqueror in Christ, referring to our potential of overcoming anything that comes against us because of the power of Christ’s indwelling life (Rom. 8:37).
- b) It’s also biblically accurate to describe an “overcomer” as a true believer, for true believers have overcome antichrist teachings espoused by false religions and ideologies, such as Gnosticism, Islam, Jehovah’s Witnesses, humanism, and atheism. Overcoming these false teachings to believe that the eternal, uncreated Son became a Man is how we become a true believer and overcome the world (1 John 4:4; 1 John 5:4).

- c) However, having the potential to overcome because we are more than a conqueror and correctly believing that Jesus is the eternal Son who was incarnated in human flesh does not automatically mean that we have overcome what Jesus listed in Revelation 2-3.
- d) We still have a choice and a responsibility. Therefore, when I use the word “overcomers” in this teaching, I don’t mean our potential to overcome whatever comes against us nor do I mean overcoming the world and false, antichrist ideologies about Jesus Christ.
- e) I am using this word specifically to mean born-again believers who have actually overcome what Jesus listed in Revelation 2-3.

IV. Summary of the Overcomers

a) Overcomers overcome:

- Losing their first love (Rev. 2:4-5);
- The fear of death (Rev. 2:10);
- False teachings that lead to compromise (Rev. 2:14-15);
- Jezebel’s influence in their sphere of authority (Rev. 2:20);
- Apathy, complacency, indifference, and carelessness (Rev. 3:1-2);
- Lukewarmness and self-satisfaction (Rev. 3:16-19).

b) As a result, the overcomers are characterized by:

- First love for Jesus—a love so deep that they love Him even more than they love themselves (Rev. 2:4-5; 12:11);
- Faithfulness to the Lamb that transforms them into living martyrs who are willing to die for their faith (Rev. 2:10);
- A love for the truth that is so consuming that all of their heart will be in full agreement with the Word, removing all forms of compromise (Rev. 2:14-15);
- An intolerance for the ways and works of Jezebel in their sphere of authority (Rev. 2:20);
- A deep and driving hunger for God that overpowers apathy, complacency, indifference, and carelessness (Rev. 3:1-2);
- A disciplined lifestyle that helps them maintain their victory until the end (Rev. 3:11);
- A fiery passion for Jesus that consumes self-satisfaction (Rev. 3:16-19);
- A crucified self-life whose heart and soul is fully possessed by the Spirit of God (Rev. 12:11);
- The kingdom of God fully established within them, where the Lamb conquers them internally and brings their entire being under His dominion (Rev. 12:5);
- Christ-like humility, meekness, self-sacrifice, obedience, and love that overcomes the nature of the proud, independent, rebellious, self-serving, and accusatory nature of the dragon (Rev. 12:11).

b) Let’s look at these ten traits of the overcomers in more detail.

V. #1: First Love for Jesus

a) See Revelation 2:4-5.

- b) Loving God with all of our heart is the first commandment—not the first suggestion—because a love relationship with the Lord is His first priority for our lives. If we ever allow the first

commandment and the second commandment to swap positions, then we will eventually experience burnout.

- c) Overcomers love Jesus as their first love and this love is so deep that they actually love Jesus more than they love themselves.

VI. #2: Faithfulness to the Lamb

- a) See Revelation 2:10.
- b) Faithfulness to Jesus can be expressed in many ways. For example, we are called to be faithful with the gifts, talents, resources, connections, ministry calling, relationships, and finances that He has entrusted to us.
- c) We are also called to be faithful and loyal to Jesus Himself, making Him the supreme Lord of our lives and giving Him all of our allegiance. This includes holding fast to the truths that He is fully God incarnate born of a virgin, that He lived a perfect and sinless life, that He was crucified as a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins, and that He was raised from the dead on the third day. Staying faithful to the person of Jesus Christ certainly involves clinging to these essential truths of the faith.
- d) As John Piper said, "Your calling is not to stay alive, but to stay in love."¹
- e) Overcomers stay faithful to the Lamb no matter the cost. This unwavering devotion transforms them into living martyrs who are willing to die for their faith (Rev. 2:10).

VII. #3: A Love for the Truth

- a) See Revelation 2:14-16.
- b) Compromise, due to false teaching and doctrines of demons, has penetrated deeply into the modern-day church. We are witnessing the beginning of the great falling away from the faith.
- c) There are numerous examples of compromise today, such as TV preachers entangled in sex scandals, materialism, and greed; worship teams getting drunk after leading God's people in worship; Bible studies focused on God's grace as joints are passed around the room; a famous preacher accused of abusive gay relationships with teenagers; an evangelist having an affair and divorcing his wife after leading revival meetings that touched a million-plus people from over 40 nations during a period of 6 months; renowned religious organizations and churches caving into the surrounding culture's beliefs about homosexual marriage, with some even ordaining gay ministers to preach from a pulpit. These are just the tip of the iceberg.
- d) Overcomers have a love for the truth that is so consuming that all of their heart will be in full agreement with the Word, removing all forms of compromise.

VIII. #4: Intolerance for Jezebel

- a) See Revelation 2:20.
- b) The demonic queen of heaven (Isa. 47) wants to defile the bride of Christ so that she can retain her position of power and influence in the heavens. For when the bride of Christ overcomes and makes herself ready, it will mean the end of her rule forever.
- c) We are to overcome Jezebel's influence in three areas: 1) Sexual sin; 2) pride, independence, and rebellion; and 3) witchcraft.
- d) Overcomers have an intolerance for the ways and works of Jezebel in their sphere of authority.

IX. #5: A Hunger for God

- a) See Revelation 3:1-3.
- b) There are four areas where we need to overcome. These are: 1) Relying on our reputation; 2) complacency; 3) indifference and apathy; and 4) carelessness and negligence.
- c) Overcomers have a deep and driving hunger for God that overpowers apathy, complacency, indifference, and carelessness.

X. #6: A Disciplined Lifestyle

- a) See Revelation 3:11.
- b) Not only are we called to overcome all that Jesus stipulated in Revelation 2-3, but we are also exhorted to maintain our victory until the end. This could very well be the most challenging admonishment of all! Overcoming and then living as an overcomer until Jesus returns requires serious focus, a relentless fight against complacency, apathy, and indifference, divine seriousness, and self-discipline.
- c) Overcomers live a disciplined life that helps them maintain their victory until the end.

XI. #7: A Fiery Passion for Jesus

- a) See Revelation 3:15-16.
- b) Lukewarmness is a lack of hunger for God; a lack of passion for God and for fulfilling the unique calling God has given us; a lack of desire to become who God has called us to be and to accomplish what He has called us to do; a lack of interest in studying and meditating upon the Word, meeting with God in the secret place, engaging in corporate prayer, pressing into the Lord's presence during worship, and advancing the kingdom of God through evangelism, discipleship, and missions.
- c) Overcomers have a fiery passion for Jesus that consumes all forms of lukewarmness and self-satisfaction.

XII. #8: A Crucified Self-Life

- a) See Revelation 12:11.
- b) Overcomers allow the cross to crucify their self-life, resulting in their heart and soul being fully possessed by the Spirit of God.

XIII. #9: The Kingdom of God Established Within

- a) See Revelation 12:5.
- b) Overcomers allow the kingdom of God to be established fully within them, where the Lamb conquers them internally and brings their entire being under His dominion.

XIV. #10: Christ-likeness

- a) See Revelation 12:11.
- b) Overcomers have the nature of the Lamb formed within them, including Christ's humility, meekness, selflessness, obedience, and love.

¹ <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-beast-the-book-and-the-beauty-of-the-lamb>, referenced on 2/9/2016.