

The Overcomer in the “Eternal” Plan of God Part III

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Living Out the Victory of Christ

At the end of Part I in our series *The Overcomer in the Plan of God*, we emphasized how the believing overcomer functions in the Church universally.

Paraphrasing Col. 2:19: “. . . the Head – Christ Jesus, from whom all the body, being *supplied and knit together through the joints and bands, increased with the increase of God.*” The joints are for supplying, while the bands are for knitting. The Head holds the body together through these joints and bands. *And these joints and bands are the overcomers.*

The Cross of Christ needs the body of Christ, the oneness of the church. If a believer only accepts the Cross objectively, i.e., believes and receives eternal life, they alone will gain.

But if the believer receives the Cross *subjectively*, allowing the Cross to overcome the power of the flesh, the world, and Satan, God too will gain. The Cross of Christ acts like a sword which cuts off all that is of the old creation from us; the resurrection of Christ gives us a new beginning. These are the elementary basics for living in the divine life in Christ Jesus.

The victory of Christ includes:

- 1) crucifixion – the putting away negatively all belonging to the old creation,
- 2) resurrection – the bringing in positively of a new beginning, and
- 3) ascension – the obtaining of a victorious position.

The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth was commissioned to give the believer everything that pertains to life and godliness, especially to overcome the works of the devil.

2 Peter 1:1-4 (NKJV/JDRV) ¹ Simon Peter (*his given and appointed name*), a bondservant (*freely committed*) and apostle (*called and chosen*) of Jesus (*salvation of Jehovah*) Christ (*the Messiah*), To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the *righteousness* (*required by God's Law*) of our God and Savior

Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us *all things that pertain to life and godliness*, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you *may be* (*the free will is maintained*) partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust. *Emphasis mine*

The promises of God have been exploited to mean something different than what the verse actually said. If our first love and motive is of God and for God, the results should be, in all the promises, *“that through these we may be partakers of the divine nature.”*

As a partaker of the divine nature, each believer is in the Body for a divine purpose. The fullness of the Godhead is in Christ; each believer has a part.

Colossians 2:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹ *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily*; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. *Emphasis mine*

If I am understanding John the Baptist inspired words correctly, only Jesus of Nazareth had the Spirit without measure.

John 3:34-36 (ESV) ³⁴ For *He* whom God has sent utters the words of God, for *He gives the Spirit without measure*. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given *all things* into His hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. *Emphasis mine*

Every believer is spiritually connected and, in Christ Jesus, has the measure of faith, which is probably more than enough to fulfill their calling. Apostle Paul does warn us if an individual measure appears to be more than another's.

Romans 12:3 (ESV) ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you *not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think*, but to think with sober judgment, *each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned*. *Emphasis mine*

Romans 12:4-5 (ESV) ⁴For as in **ONE BODY** we have many members, and the members **do NOT all have the same function**, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. *Emphasis mine*

What do we need to keep in mind to stay grounded?

Jesus tells us.

Luke 12:48b (HCSB) Much will be required of everyone who has been given much. And even more will be expected of the one who has been entrusted with more.

Apostle Paul showed us how to stay in our lanes and not make the mistakes of others.

2 Corinthians 10:12-18 (NKJV) ¹⁴For we are not overextending ourselves (as though *our authority* did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; ¹⁵not boasting of things beyond measure, *that is*, in other men's labors, but having hope, **that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere**, ¹⁶to preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond you, and **not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment**. ¹⁷But "*he who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*" ¹⁸For not he who commends himself is approved, **but whom the Lord commends**. *Emphasis mine*

The Eternal Plan of God is revealed to us and encourages each one to live by the living water each has. At times we can hear a truth, but the truth must be given from a divine source with His nature of LOVE, as the Apostle Paul stated.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (HCSB) ¹⁵But **speaking the truth in love**, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head — Christ. ¹⁶From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by **every supporting ligament**, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part. *Emphasis mine*

The Achilles Heel

The overcomer fulfills their functions by taking their supply from the source of life, and that is from the Head. As a tendon binds muscle to bone and ligaments bind bone to bone, an injury can inflict harm to the whole body. One simple cure

for damage to the Achilles tendon is rest. Spiritually speaking, if Satan can cause an overcomer to get beside themselves, the Body cannot function as effectively until it is healed. The Old Testament has an example.

A Fiery Dart: Slander of the Delegated Authority

Numbers 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. ² So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard *it*.

Our thanks to Miriam and Aaron for helping us understand the difference between spiritual gifts and spiritual delegated authorities. Now, for those who compare themselves to Moses as being a delegated authority in their locale, here is the number one attribute you must have.

Numbers 12:3 (NKJV) ³ (Now *the man Moses was very humble*, more than all men who *were* on the face of the earth.) *Emphasis mine. Note: This trait was godly given because of necessity. God knew his stiff-necked people, notwithstanding the truth, that everyone, even Moses, had a breaking point.*

The message God gives to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam was an *eternal message*. What is not so obvious to us in the church age is that some overcomers will function in the local church, but not have a title delegated by the people.

Numbers 12:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶ Then He (*the LORD*) said, "Hear now My words: "If there is a prophet among you, *I*, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. *Emphasis mine*

Acts 2:17-18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

It amazes me sometimes that we cannot take what we have been given and help the Body of Christ when and where as directed by the Spirit of God who gives it and can certainly take it away. *Note: Move the Lampstand out of its designated place.*

Not only is the requirement of being humble and a contrite spirit required of the delegated authority, but one must also be faithful in God's Body, the church (*as a whole*).

Numbers 12:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ "Not so with My servant Moses; *He is faithful in all My house.* ⁸ I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. *Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?"* *Emphasis mine*

Apostle Peter was generous enough to show us that just because you are filled with the Spirit and your shadow can heal people, your actions can be an Achilles heel to the Body of Christ as well.

Fear of Religious Affiliations

Galatians 2:11-14 (NKJV) ¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I (*Paul*) withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ *And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.* ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?" *Emphasis mine*

It might not be relevant to some, but we have to notice that Paul maintains his high regard and respect for Peter, because he does not call him by his natural name, Simon. Paul could have easily said Simon Peter, as the Holy Spirit sometimes calls him, but he does so for a purpose of emphasis.

I do not want to pitch a tent or build a tabernacle on this point; however, religious affiliations are a powerful weapon that Satan employs in the Body of Christ. God does prepare and appoint the overcomers to be intercessors just as Moses did.

Numbers 12:13 (NKJV) ¹³ So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!"

Unfortunately for us, we are not centrally assembled as the children of Israel. We are in the latter days of the church age, positioned for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. As so vividly described in Revelation chapters 2 & 3, our diversity was well known by the sovereignty of God. Therefore, there is a need for encouragement to hold on and make the necessary corrections.

Why is it so important to understand the examples God gave us throughout the Old and New Testament?

God's Word is LIFE to us, but that divine life must flow from the life of Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

Ecclesiastes 3:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does *it*, that men should fear before Him. ¹⁵ That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past.

Ecclesiastes 6:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Whatever one is, he has been named already, For it is known that he *is* man; And he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he.

The Heartbreak of the Wilderness

The overcomers of God are not exempt from going through whatever judgment God administers to His people, whether it is universally or locally. They will, however, be empowered to go through the environment and not suffer spiritually. In Caleb and Joshua's case, they did not suffer physically.

Pastor David Wilkerson, the founder of Times Square Church in New York City, gave two inspiring messages entitled *The Window of Faith, Part I & II*. The scriptural basis was Numbers 14. This was the occasion when the children of Israel refused to believe the report of Caleb and Joshua, the overcomers, but instead believed the faithless report of the other ten spies' assessment of the inhabitants of Canaan.

Numbers 14:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. ² And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! *Or if only we had died in this*

wilderness! ³ Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" ⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." *Emphasis mine. Note: Their judgment came out of their mouths.*

Okay, truth be told, this situation here is a clear reason why God did not choose me to be a Moses. I would be saying to the complainers, bye, see yaw, don't let the door knot hit yaw, where the God Lord!

We can literally see and hear the heartbreak of Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb.

Numbers 14:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. ⁶ But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *who were* among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes;

Joshua and Caleb spoke to all the congregation, but it was to no avail *at least for the moment.*

Numbers 14:5-6 (NKJV) ⁷ and they (*Joshua and Caleb*) spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out *is* an exceedingly good land. ⁸ *If the LORD delights in us, then HE WILL BRING US into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'* ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and *the LORD is with us.* Do not fear them." *Emphasis mine*

Anger mixed with fire, add some fear, throw in some disappointment, add an easy road expectation, culminate in no willpower to overcome Satan's poison in the flesh; The result is always unrealistic hopes and dreams of material stuff. These attitudes will cause one to attack you viciously.

Numbers 14:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.

If an arrow can be shot and hit the Achilles heel of the Jews, to cause division and move out of the protection of the Almighty, the consequences are enormous.

Fortunately for them, it hit the muscle, and not the joints and bands, representing the overcomers. *These lessons are still for us.*

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 (NKJV) ¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and *they were written for our admonition*, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. *Emphasis mine*

We know what happened next: God shows up and is ready to destroy them all and begin again with Moses.

Numbers 14:12 (NKJV) ¹² "I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you (*Moses*) a nation greater and mightier than they."

Moses, of course, does his intercessory prayer, but God's righteous judgment is still passed upon the people. God also distinguishes Caleb from the others.

Numbers 14:20-24 (NKJV) ²⁰ Then the LORD said: "I have pardoned, according to your word; ²¹ but truly, as I live, *all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD*-- ²² because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, ²³ they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. ²⁴ *But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.* *Emphasis mine.*

The LORD did not leave out Joshua, nor the innocent little ones.

Numbers 14:28-31 (NKJV) ²⁸ Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: ²⁹ The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. ³⁰ *Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun*, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. ³¹ But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, *I WILL BRING IN*, and they shall know the land which you have despised. *Emphasis mine*

In the above, we see delayed judgment, but at times there is an instant judgment that the LORD administers for all to see and take heed.

Numbers 14:36-37 (NKJV) ³⁶ Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land, ³⁷ those very men who brought the evil report about the land, *died by the plague* before the LORD. *Emphasis mine*

The people mourned that night for the loss of their loved ones. It appears that in their minds, since the LORD had passed judgment and they were sorry, they could go in now to begin conquering the land of Canaan.

They had literally missed the window of faith to be the warriors God had called them to be. We must remember, God's righteous ways have not changed. We might not die like the faithless ones, but we might lose the chance to enjoy Christ like a land flowing with milk and honey when we miss certain opportunities.

But here they come again to Moses. We commonly hear this in the Body of Christ: well, you know, God knows my heart. God is love, gracious and merciful. Surely, they did not know that grace only rules or reigns in our lives by the righteousness of the Life of the Lord Jesus in us. Jesus said, *"If you love Me, keep my commandments."*

Numbers 14:40-45 (NKJV) ⁴⁰ And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, "Here we are, and we will go up to the place which the LORD has promised, for we have sinned!" ⁴¹ And Moses said, "Now why do you transgress the command of the LORD? For this will not succeed. ⁴² Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the LORD *is* not among you. ⁴³ For the Amalekites and the Canaanites *are* there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; because you have turned away from the LORD, the LORD will not be with you." ⁴⁴ But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop; nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed from the camp. ⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah.

Let's fast-forward forty-five years later, and see the reward of the overcomer. Caleb comes to the delegated authority, Joshua, to receive the promise from the LORD.

Joshua 14:10-15 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, *eighty-five years old*. ¹¹ *As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.* ¹² Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fortified. It may be that the LORD *will be* with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said." ¹³ And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. ¹⁴ Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because *he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel*. ¹⁵ And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (*Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim*). *Then the land had rest from war.* *Emphasis mine*

I pray that all will notice that Caleb is not going to his promised portion to sit down. Did I fail to mention that Caleb was in the tribe of Judah?

Joshua 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Then *the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal*. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.

If you take it for what it is, in its obvious symbolic meaning, Caleb now has to fight from a higher ground or position than the rest of the sons of Israel.

¹² Now therefore, give me *this mountain* (*the higher ground*) of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fortified. *It may be that the LORD will be with me*, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said." *Emphasis mine*

The SEED of Judah will come, and for us, Jesus of Nazareth, has come to take His place to be the Head, and have the preeminence in all things. The greater news is what the Apostle Paul proclaims: what God the Father has done.

Ephesians 1:22-23 (NKJV) ²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* **to the church**, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. *Emphasis mine*

Many will add **Colossians 3:1**.

Colossians 3:1 (ESV) ¹ **If** then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

They state that the word "If" should be translated "Since" as per the NLT paraphrased version of the Bible.

The Greek word is εἰ, **phonetic – i**, *a primary particle of conditionality*. As we have said before, as others have, it states the realistic fact that "*If*" means *maybe we will, or maybe we won't*. I 100% agree we have been raised with Christ, but we do not always seek those things which are above as we should.

The Holy Spirit lets us know that God is showing compassion even to those who are unsaved, but the Day of the Lord must come.

2 Peter 3:9-10 (HCSB) ⁹ The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, **not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance**. ¹⁰ But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that [day] the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed. *Emphasis mine*

How can the whole world not see that God made a statement for all of creation to take notice and take heed? God has given to the world the free gift of salvation to escape the "righteous judgment" that must come. The Gentiles took notice and created a way to keep track of finite time. Our calendar has a central point of reference, the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. *The Jewish calendar does not. It is year 5786 on theirs.*

BC means "Before Christ" and counts years backward before the birth of Jesus. AD means "Anno Domini" (Latin for "in the year of the Lord") and counts forward from that estimated birth. There is no "Year 0"; the timeline moves directly from 1 BC to AD 1.

The eternal grace of God, i.e., the saving grace, was destined in Christ to bring to us God's salvation, the complete salvation that comprises: forgiveness, regeneration, redemption, justification, reconciliation, sanctification, transformation, and conformation; to redeem us, the sons of the first Adam, back to God through the sacrifice of the second Adam, Jesus of Nazareth.

God's eternal plan brings us into an organic union with God, in Christ, for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose.

Titus 2:11-13 (HCSB) ¹¹ For *the grace of God has appeared with salvation for all people*, ¹² instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jude gives us righteous advice because we are serving in a lot of God's permissive will, but His perfect will is always given to us to live by. It is still a sharp two-edged sword that heals us spiritually when the fleshy desires are brought under the control of the Spirit.

Jude 1:20-25 (HCSB/JDRV) ²⁰ But you, dear friends, as you build yourselves up in your:

- (1) most **holy faith** (*objective faith in which we believe*) and pray in the Holy Spirit (*by way of making intercession for us to build ourselves up*),
- (2) ²¹ **keep** (*build upon the holy faith and praying in and by the Spirit*) yourselves in the love of God,
- (3) **expecting** the mercy of our **Lord Jesus Christ** (*Note: The entire Blessed Trinity is employed and enjoyed by the believers in their praying in the Holy Spirit, keeping themselves in the love of God, and awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life*)
- (4) **for eternal life**. (*Referring to the inheritance and enjoyment of eternal life, the life of God, which is the goal of our spiritual seeking. Because we aim at this goal, we desire to be kept in the love of God and await the mercy of the Lord*)

The timing of Jude's gospel is reportedly to be approximately A.D. 69. It will certainly be needed to carry the believers through what is about to come to Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Jude's words are needed for us as well, and maybe because something worse is coming to the world. **But to all who have ears to hear, Jude says:**

Jude 1:20-25 (HCSB) ²² Have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching [them] from the fire; have mercy on others but with fear, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless and with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen.

Jude said in verse 2, *"Mercy be multiplied to you,"* instead of grace in the greeting, *may be due to the church's degradation and apostasy that existed in the Body of Christ.*

Let us end Part III with this benediction.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.

Tell me again, why is it so hard to explain the Trinity and the Oneness of God?