



“To Him Who Overcomes - Part 2”

Revelation 2.2-7

April 6, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks ^[fn]among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 2 ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. 4 But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, & repent & do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you & will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. 6 Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’

1. The address to the Church at Ephesus.

1 “To the angel of the church in **Ephesus** write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.] [Eph 6:10-12 NASB95]

2. The condition of the church: “I know...”

2 ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them [to be] false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. [Rev 2:2-3 NASB95]

1) The positive aspects of the church in Ephesus”

Jesus knows...

(1) ...your Christian service under adversity.

2 ‘I know your **deeds** and your **toil** and **perseverance**,

☪ 10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. [Heb 6:10 NASB95]

(2) ...you have tested the pseudo apostles. - ψευδής

“and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test **those who call themselves apostles**, and they are not, and you found them [to be] false”

(3) ...you have shown loyalty to Christ’s reputation through spiritual warfare.

3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. [Rev 2:3 NASB95]

2) The _____ aspects of the church exhortation.

4 ‘But I have [this] against you, that **you have left your first love**. 5 ‘Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent. [Rev 2:4-5 NASB95]

(1) ...your fervent joyful love of the precious _____ of Christ

4 'But I have [this] against you, that you have left your first love.

- ☪ 1 **If I speak** with the tongues of men and of angels, **but do not have love**, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have [the gift of] prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed [the poor,] and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind [and] is not jealous; love does not brag [and] is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong [suffered,] 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails; but if [there are gifts of] prophecy, they will be done away; if [there are] tongues, they will cease; if [there is] knowledge, it will be done away. [1Co 13:1-8 NASB95]

(2) ...your fervent joyful love of the precious _____ of Christ - 3 imperatives

5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first;

✿ **"Remember"** - from where you have fallen

- ☪ 3 'So remember[G3421] **what you have received and heard**; and **keep** [it,] and **repent**. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. [Rev 3:3 NASB95]
- ☪ 7 Remember[G3421] those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. [Heb 13:7 NASB95]

✿ **"Repent"** - change of one's mind

☺ **May be accompanied with sorrow but is a change of mind to the will of God.**

- ☪ 9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to [the point of] repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to [the will of] God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For the sorrow that is according to [the will of] God produces a repentance without regret, [leading] to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. [2Co 7:9-10 NASB95]
- ✿ **"Do"** - the deeds you did at first
- ☪ 10 This took place for two years, so that **all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord**, both Jews and Greeks. [Act 19:10 NASB95]

3) The _____ positive aspect of the church.

6 'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. [Rev 2:6 NASB95]

- (1) Irenaeus took the Nicolaitans to be follows of Nicolaus of Antioch, one of the 7 original deacons, a Jewish proselyte, who is said to have apostacized. Balaamites of v15 a variety of sect? — added to Irenaeus, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Dorothesu of Tyre, Jerome, Augustine, Eusebius & others - a sect of licentious antinomian Gnostics - a heretical sect that retained pagan practices like idolatry and immorality
- (2) Nicolaitans lived a life indulged in the lust of the flesh and were and early sect of Gnostics.
- (3) Nikos - victor. Laos - people "conqueror of the people" Balaam maybe a Hebrew counterpart "devourer of the people". — forerunners of the clerical hierarchy
- (4) Gnosticism - Many of the so-called gnostic groups are characterized by a mythology that distinguishes between an inferior creator of the world (a demiurge) and a more transcendent god or order of being. Another frequently encountered theme is that there is a special class or race of humans that is descended from the

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transcendent realm and is destined to achieve salvation and to return to its spiritual origins. Salvation is understood as a revelation that reawakens knowledge (gnosis) of the race's divine identity; in the gnostic myths there is a far sharper dualism, involving a much more negative attitude toward the inferior creator god, the material cosmos, and the human body.

3. A concluding _____ for: “him who overcomes”

7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' [Rev 2:7]

1) The Spirit speaks to the _____.

7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

(1) The Spirit is the _____ Spirit identified in Rev 1:4

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and **from the seven Spirits who are before His throne**, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood-- [Rev 1:4-5]

(2) The Spirit is necessary for understanding the _____ man cannot receive.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual [thoughts] with spiritual [words.] 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. [1Co 2:12-14 NASB95]

(3) The Spirit _____ us into all truth and _____ what is to come.

13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and **He will disclose to you what is to come**. [Jhn 16:13 NASB95]

8 And when he is come, **he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment**: [Jhn 16:8 KJV]

2) _____ persevere and endure for Christ's name.

To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' [Rev 2:7]

(1) Our Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the _____.

33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; **I have overcome the world**." [Jhn 16:33 NASB95]

(2) You are called to His _____.

57 but thanks be to **God**, who **gives us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ. [1Co 15:57]

- ☞ 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is **the victory that has overcome the world--our faith**. [1Jo 5:4 NASB95]

3) Are Overcomers a special _____ of the redeemed?

To him who overcomes, **I will grant to eat of the tree of life** which is in the Paradise of God.' [Rev 2:7]

(1) The one who overcomes “_____” is synonymous with saving faith in Christ.

- ☞ 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. 5 Who is **the one who overcomes the world**, but **he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?** [1Jo 5:4-5 NASB95] — νικάω **nikáō**, nik-ah'-o; from G3529; to subdue (literally or figuratively):—conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory.

(2) The _____ of God is your future home.

- ☞ 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, **Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God**, [Rev 21:10 NASB95]
- ☞ 1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. **On either side of the river was the tree of life**, bearing twelve [kinds of] fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ... 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. [Rev 22:1-2, 14-15 NASB95]