

Title: They Are Called Overcomers

Brandy Helton, Garden Gathering, 4/30/23

“The world is large, so what can a few do? They are called overcomers.” Amen. Say, “That is me, in Jesus name.”

Revelation 12:11

These are a sold out company of believers, and saints in the family of God. He has chosen to reveal Himself to His family. He has chosen to work through His family to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth. Here we are, right. We are so grateful. Say, I am an overcomer.” We are going to unfold what He is saying today.

Romans 5:15

“But the free gift is not like the offense.” The offense that they are talking about here is a great transgression when sin entered mankind. So, the great offense is a transgression. It is a sin and an offense. “But the free gift is not like the offense. For by one man's offense,” sin and disobedience, “many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace,” which is forgiveness and obedience, “of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.” Here is the good news. We are going to unfold it.

Jesus Christ took the offense of sin into His body, and nailed it on the cross in Himself. *He* destroyed it by His love, by His forgiveness and His obedience. He took the offense of all mankind from the beginning when Adam and Eve fell, to the end and the last soul. Yes, this is the glory. The offense is sin and disobedience. That is the great transgression.

Now there is a gift that comes from Heaven and from our Heavenly Father, to take that offense in Himself. Allowing His son to carry that and become “a worm cursed and crucified” on the cross. Taking sin, sickness, disease, hell and everything that goes with it, into His body. That He could bring forgiveness, healing, wholeness, recovery, peace, shalom, freedom and liberty. You hear it? It is a glorious Gospel and eternal life. That is what Jesus Christ has done.

There is an old Marine statement that says, “We are looking for a few good men and women.” Maybe we need a few good men and women you say? What are they called? The world is so large, what can only a few do? But, Jesus Christ has called us, His family, His saints, and those who follow Him. He has called us forth. We are born again to overcome and thrive in the midst of adversity and trouble, because “it is Christ in me.” Say, “I have been born again to thrive, especially in the midst of adversity.” Oh, nobody wants to say that, “especially in the midst of adversity and trouble.”

We will say it again. “We are born again to overcome and thrive in the midst of adversity and trouble, because it is Christ in me. You bring a little bit of adversity to Jesus, and He comes alive! What adversity He took on the cross was violent. They

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tortured Him. They destroyed His body. Do you understand? He bore the pain. "Christ in me," that is the love of God taking our sin upon Himself to save us. Because He lives inside of us, I was born again to overcome!

Revelation 12:11

"They overcame," Satan. *Jesus* hit the "chief of the party" there. He did not just hit the spirit of fear, the spirit of bondage, or your troubles. He hit the "head." He says, "we the body of Christ, *are* the overcomers. We overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb, because the Lamb took the offense. Amen. Because of Christ in us, now we are going to overcome.

Romans 5:1-2

What are you looking to see in this life? My *desire* is *to see* the glory of God. You can have that, too. You can share it. It is my desire to see the glory of God, and the glory of God is in the face of Jesus Christ, amen. We come to Him by faith, and we receive this peace through Jesus Christ. We have access to this grace, and we stand in what He has done. I cannot stand in my own strength. I will never make it. We can only stand, because He stands and is currently at the right hand of God Almighty waiting, amen.

Romans 5:3-8

That is the summation of what I just told you. Christ died for those who hated Him, and were fallen from God, in sin, 100% lost. He took everything that we have ever done into Himself with love, joy and obedience to the Father. Yes, this is our great salvation.

Romans 5:9

Hallelujah. There is a wrath of God coming. There is a wrath of the Lamb coming. But, to those who are in Christ Jesus, we are not appointed to that wrath because of what Jesus Christ has done, amen. Praise God for the blood of Jesus!

Romans 5:10

We are saved by His life. We are saved by His life, and we can we can receive that every day. Every day, we know we are being saved by His life. We receive the life of God in us every day. Yes, life and life abundantly.

Romans 5:11

We are reconciled back to God. We have an eternal promise of being with God in Heaven forever. This is good news. If we do not know the Lord Jesus, then we do not have that promise, and that is why we preach this gospel. That is why we are being saved. That is why we need to know the truth. We are entrusted with this truth, and we are going to be giving it to others, because God the Father desires that none would perish, right? Here is the charge of the church. You can meditate on this chapter for a while, because Romans is just loaded with truth.

Matthew 7:13

I love this verse, because this is the verse that *led me to be* born again, saving me from hell and being a good person. This verse means something to me, and it means something to all believers. Jesus is saying, "I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life, but it is a lordship issue. You *must* believe in Him. He *must be* Lord of your life. You have to give Him your whole heart, and everything. I mean, everything belongs to Him when you get born again, and you make Him Lord.

He says, "Listen, this is good news that I just told you, but it is a narrow way." It is narrow, because there is only one man, Jesus Christ, and His Word and His blood, that you get there. It is a narrow way. You cannot bring anything of yourself to it. You cannot bring in your good works, your righteousness, or your good looks. You cannot bring in your money. Nothing will give you this, but Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The One we are speaking of now. "It is a narrow way, and few there be who find it."

Now, what do you see? I told you earlier I see glory. The world sees darkness. I see light in the face of Christ. So, if you gaze at the darkness, your eyes will be filled with darkness and that will penetrate your entire soul. If you gaze in the eyes of Christ, and you gaze into the eyes of fire, and you gaze into His love and light, then you yourself will manifest that light and great will be your light. Jesus said of the Church that we "are a city set on a hill." He cannot hide it. "You are the salt of the earth." So, "Shine, Jesus, shine." This is the call of the overcomers of the Church.

Where do we go from here? We have prayer, and we have to pray. We have to abide. We have to remain, right? We have to do all these things. Just abide in Him and His Word, and you will bear much fruit. We have to know that each and every one of us were born for this time, if you are alive and well. God put you here for now. God put us here for now. It was not an accident. We were born for such a time as this. If you are here, it is here. You are here for a purpose. We all have purpose, do we not? We have a call, and we have to understand where we are going. So, we have to abide and remain in Him, in His Word and Spirit. We have to move in what we call the "prayer of faith."

Why pray if you do not believe? We have to believe what we are praying. We have to believe God. We have to be faithful in what God has given us to do. We also have to be accountable. Yes, we must feed that flame. We have been talking about that since last Fall. What has God put inside of you which is His love, His passion, His zeal, and His Word. Feed that flame. Jesus said that He would "vomit out of His mouth the lukewarm."

Revelation 3:16

So, we want to be hot, and we want to be all in for Jesus. We want to be obedient and do whatever He has called us to do. We are supposed to stay connected and submitted to God and all of our spiritual authorities. We need to know our sphere of authority and be faithful in it. All these things go together as God is calling us overcomers. All of this goes together.

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We need to stay clear of offense. I touched on that last week. We talked about being offended with one another and judging one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. We understand this, and we need to stay clear of offense, right? You know, it just is what it is. Someone says, "Well, they are just carrying their emotions on their sleeve." It does not matter what you do. You look at them wrong, and they are hurt. Yes, that is the spirit of it, but it is deeper than that. The actual *definition of the word offense* is "a snare or a trap." *Author John Bevere* calls it "the bait of Satan." Well said.

According to the concordance, it literally means, "any impediment placed in the way causing someone to stumble or fall." An offense is "any impediment set in the way, to cause you to stumble, a stumbling block." We have all heard of that before. "Any person or thing by which one is entrapped or drawn into error or sin." An offense is "an enticement to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom they ought to trust and obey." Saying, "I should trust and obey you, but I am offended, so I am not sure I trust you anymore." An offense "can cause one to fall away." We know that today many Christians have "fallen away or gone back to the world or sin." They do so because "they have been offended and they have never been healed," correct? It is a pride issue.

It also means "to cause to fall away when one sees in another what is disapproved of and what hinders *them* from acknowledging their authority." Little disagreements go a long way sometimes to "cause judgments unfavorably or unjustly of another." Your feet are "entangled." You are "annoyed." "To cause one displeasure or to be indignant and displeased. Now, that is a long *description* for "offense." But, if we check into it, you are going to see how it applies across the board. Remember where we started. You are going to be loving Jesus more than you did when you walked in today.

Romans 5:15

He would not be offended with us, because we fell. He took our offense, saved us, and loved us. It says, "but the free gift is not like the offense," which was the sin and the disobedience, a great transgression. "For if by one man's offense," Paul is referring to Adam and Eve, "much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many."

Romans 5:16-21

Sin cannot defeat Jesus. He defeated sin. Right? So again, please stay in that chapter this week and meditate on it's richness. Jesus was even considered a stumbling stone and a rock of offense.

Romans 9:33

Isn't this amazing? His own people say "you are a stumbling stone and a rock of offense" to me. Not even knowing what was coming.

Jesus, who was not offended with our sin, but literally became the offense and bore the wrath of God in Himself, so that we might live forever, amen. Because, we can never

attain to the righteousness of God in our own strength, but only through the blood of Jesus and through faith in Him and His Lordship.

John 6:61

All of this chapter is awesome, because Jesus was “laying it down.” He says, “If you want to believe in Me, this is it. You are going to have to eat My flesh and drink My blood. You are going to have to covenant with me, and you are going to receive what I am going to do. He had not gone to the cross yet. You are going to have to eat My flesh and drink My blood. Right? He is referring to His body, His sacrifice, and His offering for all to be saved.

Many were offended. It says “when Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this. He said, Does this offend you?” This is before the cross. After the cross, their eyes are opened, and they are flooding to Christ. Before the cross, they are saying, “Whoa, this is a hard saying, who can be saved?” They are offended with His “straight and narrow” way. “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. If you believe in Me, and you receive everything I am giving you, I will give you eternal life. You will never die in Me.”

He wanted their whole life, and they were offended, because He wanted all of them, right. They followed His miracles. They followed the salvation and the great mighty works that He did. But they were offended when He claimed Lordship and that narrow way, saying “I am all you need. I am your all in all. I am God in the flesh. I am the Son of God. You are going to have to believe, I am Messiah.” Now “offense” is out of the box of just being between a husband and wife.

Matthew 11:5-6

Matthew 13:57

He went back home and brought the word of the Lord, and they did not receive it because, “He was Joseph’s son. He was Mary’s son. He was a carpenter.” The entire city of Nazareth was offended to call Him a prophet. “A prophet is not without honor, except in His own country and in His own house.”

Matthew 15:12

He had a destination as He continues to teach and debate over traditions. His disciples came saying, “Did you know you ticked off the religious leaders, the ones that are supposed to be Your authorities? Did you know you offended them with the life in the Spirit and the truth that you are bringing, because, the word is the law.” But, it was added on to and built on traditions of men and that was not of the Lord. He nailed it, didn’t He?

Matthew 18:7

Oh, my goodness, I do not want to be that stumbling block. I do not want to be that offense. I do not want to be that trap. I do not want to be that snare. I do not want to walk in my flesh. Right? You understand that? Jesus said it again, “Woe to the world.”

Remember, I started out asking, “How big is the world? What can a few people do? What is our job?”

Matthew 24:10

In the end it is going to get worse in this respect. So, He is directing us to the word of the Lord. You have to remember who He is, and what He has done. When you stand in truth, stand therefore, in His Word, in His life, and in His kingdom, then it will pass over you. Not that you won't feel that hurt, when they hate you, betray you, curse you, persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you for His sake. But, you have to remember what He has done, and what He took for all of us. This is encouraging and we have to remain faithful in prayer. We have got to hold the line. We are praying to go forward and upward. We are advancing, but we are holding the line.

We have to continue to pray. Pray the prayers in the Bible. You have to remain and abide in His Word. You have to be steadfast. You have to be immovable. You have to be faithful. You have to be loyal. You have to be hard working and never quit. You have to believe that God does above and beyond what we could hope, think, or imagine. You have to be faithful unto death. He said, “I will give you life. Your life is not your own. You live for Christ to accomplish His will. Die daily, He says. As He lives, I live for Christ.” Not your own strength, but God's.

“Evil abounds, but grace abounds all the more.” Do you hear the steadfastness of God, encouraging you and encouraging us? “Stand therefore, stand fast.” Know what is going down. Jesus offended everybody more than anybody else. He is truth. He is love. He is good. He is God. His Word will offend the flesh. Truth will offend your soul, until you lay hold of that truth. Then you say, “Oh, my God, this truth saved my soul.” You give up and you yield to God. You turn from your wicked ways. You lay hold of “what has been laid hold of for you.” Knowing He took that offense.

At first, when you are offered salvation, you say, “Oh, woe is me. I am a sinner. I am done. I do not deserve God. I am guilty as charged, but, grace abounds all the more!” then He adds to that grace, “like icing on the cupcake.” He says, “I am not going to just save you, but you are going to receive My righteousness.” He will clothe you in it, as a breast plate. He will make you like Himself, because of His blood and His name. He calls us His Bride. Bone of My bones, flesh of My flesh. Wow, what an offense to the devil who hates this, right? But, this is the goodness of God.

1 John 2:15-17

We know that most humans if you are alive and breathing, struggle, and have struggled with the world. The Apostle John lays it out clearly in all of the book of First John. So, just reading that your flesh feels offended. You start going down the list of all the things you do in this life. Was that what God wants me to do? Just go be a monk? You think or say, “I cannot play anything. I cannot do anything. I cannot eat anything. No, He is after the root of it and the love of it. This is not your Lord. He is, right? We have to be about our Father's business. It is good news! Say, amen!

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He spoke many things to them in parables. These words are all in red. I have been telling everybody every time I have an opportunity, read the words in red in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The words in red are Jesus's words.

Matthew 13:3-11

Wow. The mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. Why does He speak the way He does? Because we are supposed to know and receive the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven while we are on Earth. When you are in Heaven, you do not need the mysteries. There it is. Yes, it is a mystery on the planet.

Matthew 13:12-23

Wow, is that amazing? The offense has been settled by Jesus once and for all. The biggest distraction is the world. Right? The heart and the area of the flesh has to come into agreement with God as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Right? You cannot be in a hurry. Take time. You have to abide, and you have to remain. You have to receive His Word. You have to follow Him all the days of your life, but it always comes back down to those two things. "I am too busy, busy, dreadfully busy," says Madam Blueberry, in VeggieTales. That is what it looks like in the world of the flesh. Right? The cares of this life, offense, or because of the truth. Whatever it may be, He settled it all right there in those passages. We read back in Romans chapter five, what He did.

Matthew 16: 21-23, subtitled "*Revelation of Jesus's death*"

He settled it. He settled it, and that is what it looks like. Even when He says, "This is my purpose." They did not understand, yet. Peter loved Him. We would have done the same thing saying, "Lord, no! We do not want you to leave. What are you talking about?" Jesus knew He was not talking to flesh and blood, but He had to rebuke the flesh that the was enemy was speaking through. That is why Jesus addressed it.

Revelation 12:11, "They have overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb." Now, He addresses Satan, "Get behind Me, Satan. You are an offense to me, for you are not mindful of the things of God but the things of men." That right there. If you do not remember anything else I said today, remember that. That is where the offense lies. We have got to be mindful of the things of God. Not the world. Not the flesh. Not the devil. Not man, but "mindful of the things of God," because He had a plan. "You are a stumbling block to me." There it is right there. Jesus was the One that took our offense. Yet that offense tried to keep Him from going to the cross. One last try. "Oh, no, there has got to be another way." It amazes me.

Matthew 16:24-26

Wow, that is the battleground. Right? He is pointing to that cross. He was not even there, yet. But, they understood what the cross meant. "If anyone desires to come after me, if you are going to be my disciple, and follow me, you have to deny yourself and take up your cross daily." Yes, die to yourself daily. If you try to save your own life, you are going to end up losing it. But, if you will go ahead and die now and follow me, you will have eternal life. What profit is it going to be in the end, if we gained the whole

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world, all the riches therein, and whatever was a great life, to spend eternity in hell? That is the bottom line. That is it. That is where we are.

Matthew 16:27-28

For the joy set before Him, He came for us. The offense, He took it all. Now the flesh is having to work through earthly offenses. When you stand in truth, which we are called to do, and people are offended with the truth, then they are offended with Christ. They are offended with “the Way,” and you are just the flesh in the way, right? You are the first person, they are going to launch at. They are lost. They are blinded, and they do not know until that grace of God comes near them and uses us as human beings to tell them what Jesus Christ has done for us, so maybe they will be saved. Yes, it is the only hope.

Earlier I said that I had a vision in worship when we were singing, “Great, are you Lord,” of countless numbers of beautiful, glorious, silver colored steeds running. It was redemption. *They were a beautiful, glorious, silver color, and silver always refers to redemption and redeemed.* Swift steeds running, and each one with redemption. There was no turning back. They were not on the defense, but the “gates of hell shall not prevail against the church.” Amen! It is, “I have the answer. I have the gospel. I have the truth.” You share that redemption, and you go out to redeem and save them. Bringing them in!

That is the word of the Lord today. He is jealous for us, and it will continue on. I pray that you hear what He has to say. Let's stand up. Wow. How about that? We love you Jesus. Your word is truth, God, and we are not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Teach us Holy Spirit. Help us in our daily offenses. Teach us how to crucify and overcome those offenses through the blood, through forgiveness, through repentance, and through walking in the Spirit. By abiding, remaining, and being faithful, accountable, and submitted. We thank you, Lord, that the Truth is the truth. Thy word is truth. We love you with all of our heart. Settle it in our hearts, God. One Man, Jesus Christ, took man's sin of offense, took it all, and gave us His righteousness. We are so grateful for the grace of God. In Jesus' name, amen.