

OVERCOMING

(Symposium from 1909 Convention report, page 32, on subject of overcoming.)

Brother Shield H. Toutijan

I stand before you with a heart filled with thankfulness and gratitude to our Heavenly Father for the abounding favors that we received and enjoyed during these convention days. Surely the words of the Psalmist are especially appropriate in this special occasion, “Who crownest thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfieth thy mouth with good things so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles.” Indeed, our mouths have been satisfied with very many “good things,” “new and old,” for which we thank our dear Pastor and all the dear friends who contributed for the success of this blessed convention. Above all we praise and thank our dear Heavenly Father, the Father of all mercies.

Our text is found in Rev. 2:11, “*He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*” We believe, that to a consecrated believer, there is no other subject of greater importance than the subject of overcoming. It is indeed so important that *only the* overcomers shall not be hurt of the second death. Who composes this overcoming class—all nominal Christians? No, dear friends, the Apostle answers the question in 1 John 5:4, “Whosoever is born [begotten] of God overcometh the world.” It is the *begotten* class that overcometh, a little flock in all, to whom it is the Father’s good pleasure to give them the Kingdom.

Many of us didn't realize the importance of our consecration vows—what it really meant. Our consecration implies an exchange of our reckoned perfect humanity and all which that implies for a spiritual existence. Therefore to all those that are consecrated and are baptized into Christ’s death by being begotten of the Father, through the word of Truth, have before them two propositions, life or death! Oh, what a solemn thought, what a responsible undertaking! specially, as we realize that only at the most, three or four more years before the last member of the “Feet of Him” to be glorified enter into His rest. Then, what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and God-likeness, sobriety and dignity, and above all being “clothed with humility.”

By what power do we overcome? The Apostle tells us in Phil. 2:13, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” And again the words of our Lord for Zech. 4:6, “Not by might nor by power [human might or power] but by *my Spirit*, saith the Lord.” It is God’s power of His Spirit of His Word (2 Pet. 1:4 [and Eph. 1:13]) and providence; this is God’s part in this overcoming work. Is it all; have we anything to do with this? Yes, dear friends, the Apostle answers the question in the previous verse (Phil 2:2), “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” Yes,

we have to work very hard. How shall we work, work by sight? We find the answer in 1 John 5:4, “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our *faith*.”

Indeed it is the faith, because “without faith it is impossible to please God.” Faith, is all important, it is the foundation of all Christian virtues. We “walk” by faith, “run” by faith, “rest” by faith, “look” by faith, “taste” by faith, “satisfy” our “hunger” by faith, “see” by faith, “hear” by faith and “fight” by faith. So you see everything that we do as new creatures in overcoming, is by *faith*. “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” (Eph. 6:16).

Who are our enemies? Scriptures tell us that they are as follows, as our dear Brother Haskell quoted, The *World*, the *Flesh*, and the *Devil*. Indeed, they are very mighty foes! I tell you if it was not on account of God’s promises and His daily sustaining power, we cannot gain a single victory over our foes; thanks be to God Who giveth us the victory through Christ our dear Lord. The Apostle tells us that we must fight a *defensive* warfare against the *world* and the *devil*, but an offensive toward our own *flesh*, as he says, “I keep my body under, bring it into subjection,” and again mortify (kill) the deeds of the flesh, but nowhere does He tell us to mortify the world or the adversary. Dear friends, the suggestions that come from these foes to the new creatures are so blended together that I cannot separate them and know one from another. If there is any such thing as “trinity” it must be these, viz., the World, Flesh, and the Devil; these three are one.

Just now I remember the testimony of a dear Swedish Sister in the Truth. How she oftentimes repeated these words, “Oh, how I want to Come-over;” yes, indeed, in order to overcome, we must come-over. So you see we have to do much hard climbing “up to the Mountain of Heaven’s cloudless light.”

Though round us tempests gather,
And storms are raging high,
We will travel on together,
My Lord and I.
And when the journey’s ended,
I rest in peace at last;
When every thought of danger
And weariness is past;
In the kingdom of the future,
In the glory by and by,
We’ll live and reign together,
My Lord and I.

Amen.