



Part 10 of Luminous

Sunday, January 10, 2020

Life can be challenging; circumstances, struggles, and the battle we have with sin cause many hurdles. However, we have a testimony in Christ that can help us overcome the burdens of life.

Setting the Scene:

Do you really believe Jesus? Have you embraced his teaching and life? There is a difference between belief and faith.

1. A Victory Through Faith (1 John 5:1-5)

- Transformation comes from the Holy Spirit working within. Loving God's children and obedience is a symptom or fruit of someone who is in Christ. If God's commands are burdensome, it is because we are trying to live and obey with our strength.
- How Do we know if we need victory? Two statements: When "I" want something that is sin, it is time for victory. When the Holy Spirit clearly is saying enough! It is time to cry out to God.

νικάω (nikaō), GK 3771 (\$ 3528), 28x. nikaō means "to overcome, be victorious in a struggle." This verb occurs especially in the writings of John, in the context of struggle—most often in Revelation (17x). In Rev. 2–3, it is used in the promises given to "the one who overcomes,"¹ vanquish, subdue, Lk. 1:22; Jn. 16:33; absol. to overcome, prevail, Rev. 5:5; to come off superior in a judicial cause,² Notice this is the present tense. It is an ongoing change in our life.

- Our faith puts us in confrontation with the devil. We may get knocked down, but He cannot keep us down. Jesus Christ has overcome the world!

³⁵Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶(As the Scriptures say, "For your sake, we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep."³⁷No, despite all these things, **overwhelming victory** is ours through Christ, who loved us. Romans 8:35-37

We Overcome by...

- ✓ Claiming the promises of God.
- ✓ A passionate pursuit of God

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2:15-16 (NIV)

- ✓ Setting up good fencelines (World)
- ✓ Run Well, Flee from lust. (Flesh)

¹³The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. 1 Corinthians 10:13

- ✓ Stand Firm (Devil)

⁹Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers^[a] all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. 1 Peter 5:9

2. A Testimony to Consider. (1 John 5:6-8)

- ✓ Testimony: evidence in support of a fact or statement; proof. open declaration or profession, as of faith. (Dictionary.com) Historical: Written down from an eye witness, reports, and stories. John followed Jesus, walked with Jesus, ate with Jesus. We are not getting this information from someone who heard about Jesus!
- ✓ Three Testimonies: The Water, The Blood, The Spirit. (Testify that Jesus is the Christ)

¹ Mounce, W. D. (2006). *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (p. 493). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

² Mounce, W. D. (2006). *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (p. 1217). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

³⁴ According to Jewish law, the testimony of one person, is not a valid witness. Truth or validity has to be established by two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15). Since people believe human testimony when validated by two or three witnesses, John explained that surely they could believe the testimony that comes from God. The Gospels twice record God's clear declaration that Jesus is God's Son—at **Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:16–17) and at his transfiguration (Matthew 17:5)**. John said that if they believe testimony from people, then they can surely rely on the threefold witness of God (5:8). The three witnesses, described in 5:8, are united because God himself is behind them. All three form a single "testimony from God" that Jesus is the Christ.³

One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately **blood** and **water** flowed out. ³⁵ (This report is from **an eyewitness** giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to believe. John 19:34-35

- We hear from the Spirit every time we open the scriptures. When you read your Bible, you find Jesus Christ.

³⁸ And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth **with the Holy Spirit** and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Acts 10:38

3. A Choice to Make (1 John 5:9-12)

"LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered and that my life is fleeing away. My life is no longer than the width of my hand. An entire lifetime is just a moment to you; human existence is but a breath." Psalm 39:4-5

³⁹ "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! John 5:39

¹³ I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13

- Focus on what matters: The only thing that matters is eternal life. Where will I be spending eternity? Having the Son equals life, and not having the Son equals death.
- Eternity is about the quality of life (John 10:10)
- Eternity is about the duration of life (Forever in the presence of God)

¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.¹³ I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life 1 John 5: 12-13, NLT

²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. James 1:2

One Last Thought: Do you embrace this truth? Do you believe the testimony of Christ? We cannot say that we did not know as we are in the throne room of God.

³ Barton, B. B., & Osborne, G. R. (1998). [1, 2 & 3 John](#) (p. 111). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House.