

## How Can I Overcome ?

*"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21).*

Did you notice **the 'rangements of that?** "Set with Me in My throne," **not "on My throne."** **"In My throne,"** that's in His domain. And now, as **Christ is the Ruler,** throne Ruler at this time, of the **complete domain of God,** so will the **Church be with Him, the Bride be with Him, in His throne, in the entire domain.** See? Not "on My throne," but **"in My throne,"** where His domain reaches. **A throne is over a domain,** and a domain reaches just as far as its boundaries does. **And this is from Eternity to Eternity.** Just think of it!

But when we come here, we are here for one specific purpose. **This is the house of correction. This is the throne. This is the throne of God, and judgment goes forth from the house of God.** And here is where we come together, **gather in love, with one another, as only Christians can love (John 13:35).** But, in here we are under a **leadership of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Ghost is among us. And we're here, to take **reckoning among us,** to see where our **short places are, our shortcoming, and how can we catch from where we should be, over to where we ought to be now; where we are, and where we ought to be.** And that's what we study. **Ministers study those places, for their people. When they see the people, the lack, then they begin on that.**

Now, soon, I think that the church maybe should be taking **just a little step higher at this time.**

And now we're speaking **on this, "overcoming."** The word overcome, of course, you know what it means. **You've got to have something to overcome.** And this church age that the Holy Spirit was speaking about here, at the Laodicea Church Age, as we have just been through it, **needed a rebuking. Laodicea had to be rebuked, because of its indifference towards Christ.** It had **put Christ outside,** in their age. **And Christ was on the outside, trying to get back on the inside. That's love.** After He had been put out of His Own house, was trying to come back in, and said, "He that'll open the door, I'll come in to him." (Rev. 3:20). **The church, itself, in whole, had put Him out.**

But now notice. His call here is not to just the church. **"He that overcometh."** See? Not the church; that would be she, the church body. **But it's "he that overcometh," the individual that will overcome,** now. And Laodicea had it coming to her.

Now we see, then, knowing that **this is the Laodicea Age,** and knowing that this age **needs a sharp rebuke from God.** It needs a sharp rebuke. And when our clergy gets so soft and doty, like some aged grandfather to his grandchildren, ever what they do is perfect.

It's been said so much, that God is such a good God, until they try to make God just a big doty grandfather. But He is not. **He is a Father, and a Father of**

**righteousness, of correction. And love is always corrective. See? Love corrects. No matter how bad it hurts, it still corrects.** A real mother will correct her children. A real dad will correct (*Heb. 13:5-9*). See? If you just get soft and doty, and let it...

I was crossing an old log the other day, down a wash, or what is called a hollow. And I jumped up on this log. On the outside, it looked good, looked like a big old beech log. But when I jumped on it, oh, a great chunk of it fell off. It was real rotten and doty. I said, **"That's the way the Christians are becoming."** They've been dead in sin and trespasses, so long, till become doty. They can hold no weight, at all. They don't know what overcoming means. I begin to think of this text, then. **Overcome, keep Life in you. When life went out, that's what brought that log to that condition.** See? And it made it worse than ever when it laid in the branch where the water was.

And then, there, you take a Christian, **that's supposed to be a Christian, let the Life of God go from him, and the experience, the joy of serving Christ;** and, living in a church where such is going on, he rottens twice as quick, right, living right under.

So, **if we are trying to follow the Message of the hour, or at least this part of the Message, we should live constantly in the Life of Christ.** See? Cause, if it don't, you lay around, and know That, these things that you're supposed to do, **and don't do it.** The Bible said, "He that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it's sin." (*James 4:17*). Then you become doty, rotten, when **you're separated from the Life of God.** So, strive with all that's in you, **to stay in the Life of Christ, that you are fruit-bearing** (*John 15:8,16*).

**It's a time that we should never let the Spirit of revival die. We've got to keep in revival, constantly revived, every day. Paul said he had to "die daily, that Christ could live."** And we must never let that revival die, within us (*Rom. 8:35-39*).

We see this age that we're living in. It's one of the grandest ages of all ages. **This Laodicea Church Age is the grandest of all the church ages, because it's the ending of time and the blending of Eternity.** And, then, it's the greatest sinful age. **It's more sin in this age than there's ever been. And the powers of Satan is many times harder to fight against than it was in any age.**

Back there in early ages, a Christian could, for his profession of in a church, of belonging to Christ, could be beheaded for it. He could be killed, and put out of his misery, **and go to meet God, quickly.**

But now the enemy has come in, **in the name of the church, and it's so deceiving. This is the great age of deception.** When, Christ said so, **"The two spirits would be so close in the last days till it would deceive the very Elected if it was possible."** (*Matt. 24:23-24*). Remember, Christ spoke of an elected people for the last day. See? "It would deceive the very Elected if it were possible." So close! **People can live a clean, holy life;** not be sinful, adulterers, and drinkers, and liars, gamblers. **They can live above that, and still not with It.**

**This is the age of Life, personal Life of Christ, where, the chemical of His Body, what was in Him. First, under justification, the water baptism. Second, under the new Birth, of Wesley, sanctification, which cleanses. And thirdly, under the baptism of the Holy Spirit, putting that sanctified vessel into service. See? The word sanctify means, it's a compound Greek word which means "cleaned and set aside for service," set aside for service. Now the Holy Spirit puts it in service.**

And we'll notice, "When the unclean spirit is gone from a man, he walks in dry places." That's exactly what the church has done, Baptists, Methodists, **those who believed in sanctification. "Then," Jesus said, "the unclean spirit that went out, returns back to this church body** and finds the house garnished, swept clean, living pure, clean lives." All right. **But then if that house isn't filled, occupied, then he comes in with seven other evil demons worse than he was, and the last stage of this place is seven times worse than it was at the first place (Luke 11:24-26).** They had been better to stay Lutheran, **than it would be to receive that Light and fail to follow It.** So will the Pentecostals, you know what I mean, the house is garnished.

When the enemy, that went out under sanctification, that was washed out, returned back and **found the house not filled with the Holy Spirit, now the state of the church is joined** with the league of churches, **with the World Council of Churches.** And it's a state now that connects it with Roman Catholicism and all the rest of it, **and now it's seven times worse than it was when it come out of Lutheranism.** That's where man takes it.

And then look at the Laodicea Church Age **after it has received the Holy Ghost,** and with the knowledge and the Spirit of God within It, and then the works of God is denied by It, and call It "an evil work." Then what about that? **There is where Christ is put out of His Own church.** It never showed Him in the church until it come to Laodicea; and when He got to Laodicea, He had been put out of His church, trying to get back in.

Now, see, **justification never put Him in. Sanctification just cleaned the place for Him. But when the baptism of the Holy Spirit come, it put Him in the people.** And now they turned Him out, when He begin to show Himself, that **He's the same yesterday, today, and forever.** They turned Him out because they have denominated, and the Spirit of the Lord doesn't agree with their denomination. You understand now? That, they put Him out. "We don't want nothing to do with this telepathy. It's of the Devil. It's fortune-telling..." They don't understand. "Eyes and can't see; ears, and can't hear." See? **God only opens eyes as He will (Matt. 16:10-17). He hardens who He hardens,** He wishes to, and gives Life to those who He desires to (*Rom. 9:14-23*). That's what the Scripture said.

Now, we see these hours that we're in, this stage, and we see what it was. And the Holy Ghost is rebuking the age that put Him out. But, in all that, did you notice, **"To him that overcometh"?** Even in that worldly, wicked church age, **"Him that overcometh."**

**We find here that God has always had overcomers. He's had overcomers in every age. There's always, every time, in every age that there's been on the earth, God has always had somebody He could put His hands on, as a witness on earth. He's never been without a witness, though sometimes just one. But somebody overcome, now, like the saints of old.**

Now, think hard now. If you are laying around, getting doty, **get in. Hurry, quick, 'cause the door might close at any time.**

**And there's always been an ark in God's economy.** There was an ark in the days of Noah, for the saving of His people. **There was an ark in the days of the law, ark of testimony. In the days of the law, they followed the ark.**

And there is a third dispensation now; like Noah's time, Lot's time, **and now this time. There is an ark now.** And that ark is not a denomination, **neither is it good works that you do.** "It's by one Spirit" (*I Cor. 12:13*) "we are all baptized into one Body, in the domain of that Kingdom, one Spiritual baptism." (*Gal. 3:27-29*). **No matter how good, how bad, whatever, you're in that Kingdom by Holy Ghost baptism. That's the only way you overcome. It's all that is under the shed Blood is overcomers, 'cause you cannot overcome, yourself. It's He that overcome for you. You're resting.**

"How will I know then, Brother Branham, that I'm in There?" **Watch what kind of a life you're living.** Just look around. **See if it's just lived out of you, automatically. Or, you have to strain and pull, then you're doing it. But don't try to do it.**

Just like putting a little baby's arm in a sleeve hole, you see. He's just up, down, over, and everything else. See? He can't do it. "Put on your coat, honey." He can't do it. Little arm is up, down, around. It takes your steady hand. Oh, how glad I am, I can just yield my hand to Father, say, **"Lord Jesus, I can't get in There. You help me.** Put the coat on me." **I quit trying. Just let Him do it.**

If the little baby keeps trying, **"Oh, I can do it. I can do it."** And he's just everywhere. He can't do it. **Neither can you, neither can I, but if we'll just hold still and let Him do it. Just yield to Him, "Here, Lord, here I am.** Just let me be nothing. I yield. You put my hand in the right place." **That's the victory. That's overcoming.**

The thing you have to overcome is yourself, your idea, your thing, and surrender yourself to Him. He overcome for you. He knows the way; we don't.

Jesus gave us the example, how to do it. **Now we want to know how to overcome. Jesus told us how to do it. See? Humility! Girded Himself, took a towel, and washed the disciples' feet and wiped them** (*John 13:4-5*). The very **God of Heaven humiliated Himself.**

**We don't want to be humiliated.** That's the reason women don't want their hair to grow out; the reason they don't want to dress like ladies should dress. Like, men don't want to, see, it's the same thing. They don't. They get humiliated. But, Jesus, constantly! Look Who He was. Greatness! I'm going to say something. **Greatness humiliates itself. Great humbles itself. Greatness!**

I've had the privilege of meeting some great men. And it's these guys that got a change of clothes, and fifty cents in their pocket, and to rattle, that's the guy that thinks he's something when he's nothing. But I stood by great men, I mean great men with ragged sleeves, cuffs. They make you think you're the great person. See? **Greatness is humility. Don't forget that, Church. Greatness is expressed in humility, not how fine you can be...** I don't mean dirty, now. **I mean humble in spirit.** See? I don't mean just get out and not to wash and clean up. That, you should do that. You know that. But I'm talking about humility, **genuine humility**, not something is put-on. **Something that is, that's real humility.**

Jesus told us how to do it. **Overcome means "to stand the test,"** that's right, like all the old saints did; **like Jesus did: amidst of all of His enemies, He stood the test. Everything He was tested against, He stood it. In the very face of sickness, and Him being Messiah, He healed them.** In the face of death, He brought it back to life. In the face of Calvary, His Own death, He defeated it **by surrendering Himself.** Why? **By the Word.** Said, *"You destroy this Temple, and I'll raise it up in three days."* (John 2:19-21). **The Word said so.** And in the presence of death, He defeated it. **He overcome death.** In the presence of hell, He defeated hell and overcome hell. Yes. In the presence of the grave, He overcome the grave. Why? **All by the Word, and humility.** Oh, my! There's the real Man. There's the One to make your example. See? **He defeated everything, overcome it.** [1]

**We know that there is going to be a Bride, and there's going to be a wedding supper served in the skies** (Rev. 19:6-9). That's just as sure to be, as God is, because it's His Word. And we know that those that are going to make up that Bride is going to be His Church, **and they're going to appear before Him without spot or wrinkle** (Eph. 5:27). **And they have the material on earth now to make themselves ready.** If you notice, It said, **"She has made herself ready."** (Rev. 19:7).

So many says, **"If the Lord will take this evil spirit from me, from drinking, or from gambling, or from lying, or stealing, I'll serve Him."**

**But that's up to you.** See, **you got to do something, too.** "They that overcome shall inherit all things." **They that overcome. You have power to do it, but you must be willing to lay it down.** "She has made Herself ready." I like that Word.

You see, **God could not push us through a little pipe, pull us out on the other end,** and then saying, "Blessed is he that overcometh." **You had nothing to overcome; He just pushed you through. But you've got to make decisions for yourself. I have to make decisions for myself. In doing that, we show our faith and respects to God.**

Abraham was promised a child, but he must maintain this promise for twenty-five years, **the ups-and-downs that he had, and temptations,** in those twenty-five years. **But he held to the word of the promise.**

And Israel was promised a promised land, **but they had to fight for every inch of it.** "Wherever the soles of your foot treads upon, that have I given you"

(Joshua 1:3), God said to Joshua. It was all there. **The land was there, and God gave it to them, but they must fight for it.**

**The same way it is about Divine healing. God has got the power to heal you, if you've got the courage to accept it, but you'll fight every inch of the way.**

**God has got amazing grace to save you, and He will do it, but you'll fight every inch of your way.**

I've been behind the pulpit, going on thirty-one years, **and every inch of that has been a fight, constantly.** It certainly has.

**"But we must fight if we must reign." So we find out that the Bride has to make Herself ready.** "Be willing to lay aside every weight that does so easily beset us, that we might run with patience the race that's set before us" (Heb. 12:1-3). **We must lay them aside, ourself.** We can't say, "God, You come, lay them aside for us." **We got to do that, ourselves.** [2]

How do you overcome? Could you ever do it by yourself? **No. Somebody went before you and overcome for you. It's Christ. I'm just an heir of it.** I don't have to do anything. I'm an heir of the promise. **The only thing I have to have, is put my faith on His promise.** Do you see it? [3]

Some of you brethren, **God only knows your heart,** what you're standing here for, the things that you want to overcome. Now, you can do it, **if you'll just accept it this way.** And say, "Lord, I'm nothing now, and I'm just yielding myself to You, and here I come. By Your grace I'm going to do it." Now, you can't do it without Him. **There's nothing in the world you can do. You have to let Him do it. You just consecrate yourself to Him, and believe it with all your heart, then He will do it. He will do it for you, see, if you'll just take Him at His Word.** He wouldn't do one that way, and wouldn't do the other one that way. He'll do all of you that way. See? **He will make you, every one, the right thing.**

You know that the rain has fallen on you. You say, "Brother Branham, I danced in the Spirit. I spoke with tongues." That's truly. But look at, see, there is something ain't right there. See? You've got to get from this weed now, to a wheat: **humble, sweet, with the Word, obedient, see, obedient to the Word.**

Now just let the Holy Spirit come in, and **let God change you today from what you were, to what He wants you to be, as we pray.** [4]

Reference:

[1] "How Can I Overcome" (63-0825M), par. 33-52, 67-72, 99-103

[2] "The Marriage of the Lamb" (62-0121E), par. 53-62

[3] "Possessing All Things" (62-0506), par. 106

[4] "Presuming" (62-0117), par. 345-348

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Spiritual Building-Stone No. 202 from the Revealed Word of this hour, compiled by:  
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*There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.*

*[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]*