

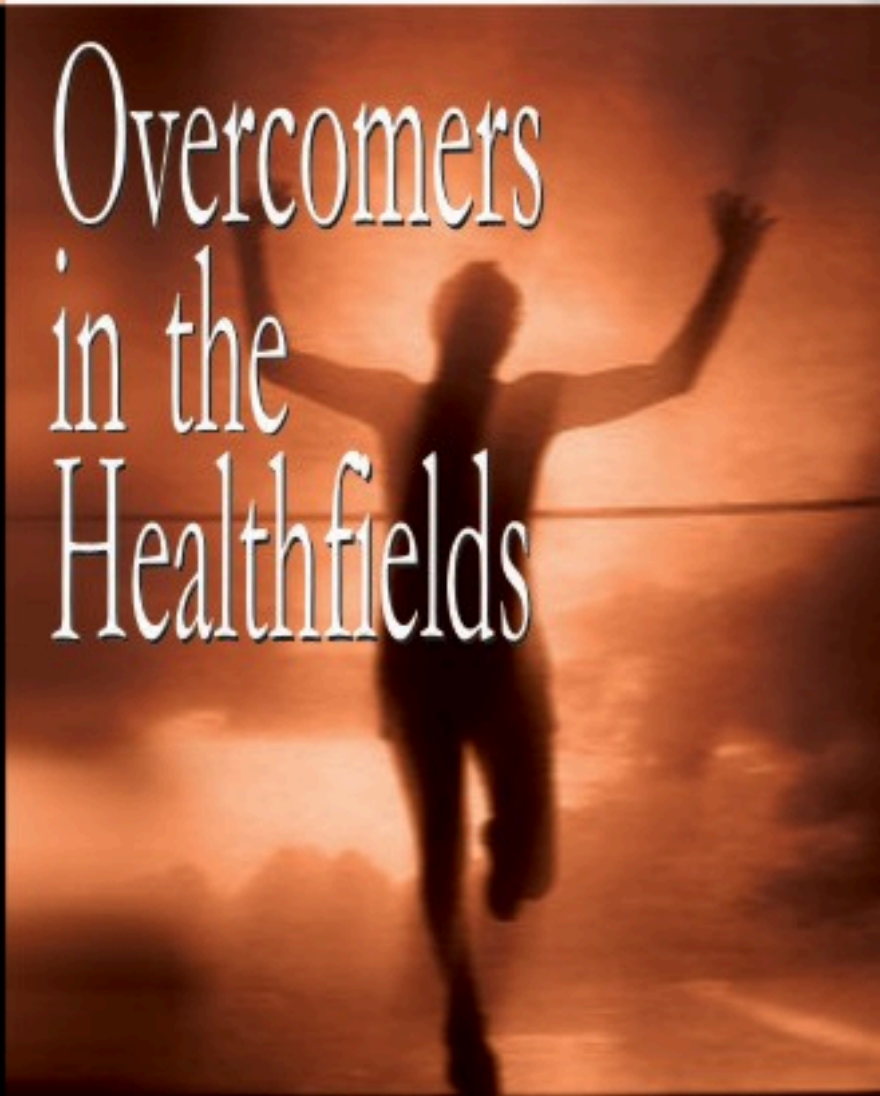


"And He who overcomes and keeps my word until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations"



HEALTHCARE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
INTERNATIONAL (SOUTH ASIA) MONOGRAPHS

Overcomers in the Healthfields



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For Healthcare Christian Fellowship International, South Asia



Overcoming in Healthcare

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Introduction

Overcoming is not a message to a special group of Christians distinguished by their spirituality and power in contrast to genuine Christians who lack these qualities. It is a general description of that which is normal, to be expected among all those who are true followers of Jesus Christ.

Scripture :

“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” - Revelation 1:17-18

Overcomers

The word 'overcome' comes from the Greek word Nike, Ni-ko or Nikao. It means to subdue or to have victory over. This word is mentioned seventeen times in the book of Revelation and it comes with a promise to those who are overcomers. Rev 21:7 promises that 'he who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son'.

Jesus Christ emphasizes in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Book of Revelation that He knows what is happening in the 7 churches. "I know" is mentioned repeatedly 7 times. Nothing escapes the eye and knowledge of God. The struggles and problems of every church and every child of God is known to the Father. He 'walks amongst us'. As we serve in the hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, quietly giving a cup of



cold water to the thirsty, sponging the sick and infirmed, the Lord is not only aware of what we are doing, he is watching and taking note of our deeds.

He describes the state of the 7 churches. Here is his diagnosis:-

- ♦ Church of **Ephesus** - He acknowledges their hard work, their refusal to quit and their persistence and courage in the cause of Christ.

- ♦ Church of **Pergamum** - He knows the street where they live. He calls them never to deny His name, even in martyrdom.
- ♦ Sardis - He knows the deeds of the church of **Sardis** and the fact that a few have “not soiled their clothes”.
- ♦ **Smyrna** was in pain and poverty as they were surrounded by the lies of those pretending to be pro-church and pro-God.
- ♦ **Thyatira** is marked by love, faith, service and perseverance in the Lord and doing far more than they did at first. A model of many modern churches.
- ♦ **Philadelphia** kept His word and did not deny His name in any way, keeping His commandments faithfully.
- ♦ **Laodicea** however was luke-warm and deceived, believing something about themselves that they are not!

Every affirmation to the churches was accompanied by the call to repentance and a promise of blessing to those who obeyed (see table on opposite page).

What will Jesus’ pronouncement be on you, your fellowship group in the healthcare institution, your family, your career? How do we measure against His plumbline?

Repentance

The call to repentance is to each church. His Spirit is at work . He prods us or reveals sin and will not allow us to remain as we are. As we listen and obey, we are to promptly repent. In ministry as in our personal walk with Him, this attitude is mandatory for healthy living.

Churches	Affirmation	Negative Feedback	Promise
Ephesus	Hard working Refusal to quit Weed out apostolic pretenders Persistence, courage in cause of Jesus Christ	Left their first love	Tree of life
Pergamum	Bold in His name Bear His name, even in martyrdom	Indulge in Balaam crowd Put up with Nicolaitians	Sacred manna to every conqueror Stone inscribed with new name
Sardis	Have not 'soiled' their clothes	'dead' & not alive Incomplete deeds	Dressed in white raiment Name acknowledged before Father & his angels
Smyrna	In poverty & pain, yet rich. Live amongst pretenders		Crown of Life Not hurt by the 2 nd death
Thyatira	Faithful in service, perseverance Doing a lot more	Tolerate teaching of Jezebel	Authority over nations Morning star
Philadelphia	Kept His word Did not deny His name Kept His commandment		Kept from the hour of trial Name of God, name of city of God A new name
Laodicea		Luke-warm Deceived	Right to sit on the throne with Christ

Possessing a war-time life-style



Four times Jesus spoke of Satan's presence and work in the churches. Satan has a throne in Pergamum. And for that matter, in the territory of healthcare. Christians working in healthcare face opposition, con-

flicts, divisions, disunity, apathy, prayerlessness. Hospital staff experience stresses from busyness and the drive to perform. Attendance of fellowship meetings, prayer tri-plets become increasing difficult. Some are prohibited from holding meetings. There is a spiritual battle in the midst of ministry. Every effort to serve the Lord is contested. We are not only to be aware of the presence of our enemy but to live with an enemy that requires us to be alert, in a war-time mode and not a peace-time life-style as most Christians are used to. Satan has synagogues on earth. Some in church belong to Satan's crowd and have bought into Satan's deep secrets.

Know our enemy, his tactics and refuse to allow him a door into our lives. He is a vanquished foe. Stay vigilant and remain a conqueror in Christ at all times.

What to overcome?

- Temptation to forsake our first love
- Persecution, death for His sake
- False teachings – courage to expose and withstand them
- Idolatry, worldliness- Jezebel spirit
- Deadness whilst being alive & busy
- Impatience – we are to endure patiently

Luke-warmness & spiritual blindness

We are cautioned against a passionless walk with the Lord. Substitutes

such as busy activities can easily replace times spent with Him, the reading of His Word and stillness in His presence. Mindless busyness drains our energy, and leave us an easy target of our enemy.

Some suffer persecution for their faith and possibly death threats. A greater threat is to give up the faith or run away. He calls us to remain faithful and strong in the milieu of fear and intimidation and not to deny His name.

Enemies of the Cross dressed in false teaching have invaded healthcare. Some complimentary/alternative medical proponents cite energy theories; others are more subtle in advocating situational ethics in issues of care for the aged, terminally ill, organ transplants, euthanasia etc. May men of faith have the courage to expose these slanted teachings and make a stand for biblical-based, compassionate healthcare.

Worldliness & idolatry are like killer diseases. They destroy relationship with God and bring leanness to the soul. The world's standards of getting and consuming is part of the fabric of healthcare. Pursuit of knowledge, a higher standard of living, promotion and wealth are part of the matrix and culture of healthcare globally. A self-centric life-style revolving around work, extra diplomas/degrees, family can consume & choke our lives. A world filled with such treasures is fruitless & spiritually barren. We can intentionally resist the world's lust of the flesh and eyes and choose not to follow the ways of the world. Scripture provides us with the tools for daily living. They are God-given, God sanctioned and definitely blessed.

Discouragement is an effective weapon of the enemy for God's people in ministry. It is easy to throw in the towel when things go wrong or when things do not turn out the way we expect. Dwindling attendance at meetings, disunity amongst committee members and a host of situations can drive a wedge in our souls. Spiritual lethargy and blindness creep in subtly. Tired of waiting for answers to prayers, many have grown cold and left God's calling, citing change of direction in a new



season of their lives. But we must search our motives before the Lord. God uses the difficult experiences in our lives to help us grow into His likeness. Jesus though He was a Son, suffered, learning obedience to Father. Heb:5:8

Perseverance is a mark of spiritual maturity. Do not give up, neither grow weary in serving the Lord.

How to overcome

Scriptures teach that it is our faith that overcomes the world. 1 John 5:5. The apostle John spoke clearly about exercising faith in overcoming.



The faith that overcomes is characterized by:

Belief that God is in control of everything

Having a personal relationship with our Father

Releasing to God that which we do not or cannot understand

Realizing that we have access to God wholly based on Jesus' death on the cross for our sins

Seeing our inadequacy & God's adequacy

Unbelief can sabotage our best intentions and the work of our hands. Zechariah had unbelief in his heart when the angel appeared to him announcing the birth of a son. Luke 1:19 & 20 He was righteous,

devout and prayed a lot. Similarly, we can harbour unbelief in our hearts as we continue to minister to the Lord and His people. God's promises to us are sure. He cannot lie. Complete trust in His promises will prevent us from succumbing to the lies of the enemy. In the face of confusion, doubts and situations where we cannot understand fully, we can learn to rest in Him. We avoid settling into complacency or attempting to control others. Our sufficiency is in God, not our smartness, or ability to do things independently of Him. Being fully secure in God's sufficiency is a powerful tool in living a victorious life.

Closing Prayer

Abstract from John Piper's book entitled " *Spectacular Sins & their global purpose in the glory of Christ*"

Put the ballast of biblical truth
 In the belly of our little boats
 Lest the crashing waves of calamity
 In these changing times
 Cause us to capsize in the sea of trouble

Ignite our souls to treasure Christ in a way
 That destroys our sinful lusts
 And delights the deepest recesses of our being
 And displays His truth and beauty
 To a world that does not know
 That this is what it needs more than anything

And from this all-satisfying treasuring of Christ
May there flow a liberation from selfishness
And a triumph over bitterness and anger
And a freedom from worry and fear
And victory over depression and discouragement
And the severing of every root of sensual lust.

All this freedom, Lord, we seek for the sake of love
Grant that our contentment in Christ
Would be a dissatisfied contentment
Eager to expand by including others

Grant that the joy of the Lord would
Not be a solitary joy
But the strength to sacrifice
For the good of others
Even those who hate us.

May brokenhearted boldness
And contrite courage
Attend all our deeds of compassion
And all our commendations of Christ to a lost world.

Awaken in us tender affections
For those who hurt;
And self-forgetful attentiveness
For those in our presence

And in this treasuring of Christ for
His supreme glory,
And this overflowing love for others,
May Jesus be exalted above all things
Honored, admired, adored, esteemed, enjoyed
Praised, extolled, thanked, and worshipped

May our light shine in this world
So that people see you in our sacrificial deeds of love,
And our uncompromising words of truth
And give glory to your hallowed name,
Father.

Through Jesus Christ
Your Son
Amen



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“This message was first given at the Healthcare Christian Fellowship International team meetings in Malaysia in 2009. Our hearts and minds were warmed and touched by the content as well as the tender anointing of the Spirit by which it was spoken. The writer Dr. Boey Mee Leng is a devoted Christian, Chairperson of HCF Singapore and a Consultant Rheumatologist in active practice. She is also a Board member of Healthcare Christian Fellowship International, and a beloved friend and sister to many in HCFL.”

In whom (Christ) are hidden all the treasures
of wisdom & knowledge -Colossians 2:3 (NKJV)

Then the Lord replied:
Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so
that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an
appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove
false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come
and will not delay. -Habakkuk 2:2,3 (NIV)