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OVERCOMING: THE ASSURANCE OF THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom life is the life of an overcomer.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:4-5)

The preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom is in direct confrontation with the powers of darkness. Satan is not happy whenever Christ is preached because the message affects his kingdom. Multitudes are set free from his power and bondage.

All the early disciples who preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God were well aware of the enemy. They knew what they had to contend with. Still they were willing to give up their lives for the Kingdom.

Like Paul, they could say, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil 1:21) because all of them had experienced the Kingdom life. They knew that the body may die but the spirit lives on. The power of the Kingdom message made them fearless.

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. (Matt 11:12)

John the Baptist was beheaded. Jesus was crucified. All the 12 disciples except John were martyred for their faith in God. James was beheaded. Peter was crucified upside down. And so it has been through the centuries.

How could they preach with such zeal and conviction? Because they had already seen the things of the Spirit of God. Steven was stoned for preaching the truth (Acts 6:8-15; Acts 7) but he was able to withstand because he had already seen heaven.

The early church was not at all deterred by persecution, or even death. They knew they belonged to a kingdom that could not be shaken. Despite strong opposition, multitudes still came into the Kingdom. The enemy had been defeated.

Casting out demons is one of the ways in which we overcome the powers of darkness. Every time a demon is cast out, Satan's power is weakened and a person is set free.

But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. (Matt 12:28)

We need the power of God to overcome the power of the devil. Jesus never sent His disciples out without first giving them power over the enemy.

And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. (Matt 10:1)

And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach,

And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils. (Mark 3:14-15)

And He called unto Him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits. (Mark 6:7)

And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them. (Mark 6:13)

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name.

And He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:17-20)

How did the 70 disciples overcome? They obeyed the Master and exercised authority over the demonic realm. **Whenever they cast out demons, Satan's power was affected.** That was why Jesus said He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. But even more important than that was the fact that their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20).

Kingdom people are expected to overcome. Jesus spoke to all the seven churches in the book of Revelation about overcoming if they wanted to ensure a place in the Kingdom.

He that bath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (Rev 2:7)

He that bath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. (Rev 2:11)

He that bath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. (Rev 2:17)

THY KINGDOM COME!

And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations. (Rev 2:26)

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. (Rev 3:5)

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new name. (Rev 3:12)

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)

The Christian life is victorious and glorious when we know the authority invested in us and live the Kingdom lifestyle. Our faith is not passive but alive and active, obeying and acting on the word of God.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. (Rev 21:7)

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. (Rev 12:11)

On the following pages, we have the testimony of the healing of Eugene Hoe, Pastor Jean Lim's son-in-law. When Eugene decided that he would not love his life to the death, he overcame an aggressive onslaught of the enemy against his life and learned to move in a new dimension of Kingdom life and power.