

## *Helping Others Overcome by the Word of Our Testimony (Rev. 12:11)*

### **I. HOW DO WE OVERCOME? THREE ACTIVITIES OF THE HEART**

- A. The call to overcome is a theme in Revelation (2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 12:11; 15:2; 21:7).  
*<sup>10</sup> The accuser (Greek: *diabolos* or Devil) of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night...<sup>11</sup> And they overcame him (Devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Rev. 12:10-11)*
- B. Blood of the Lamb: Our basis of victory is the fact of Jesus' finished work on the cross. Jesus gained victory over Satan on the cross and paid our debt, removing his "legal right" to accuse us.  
*<sup>17</sup> If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away...<sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)*
- C. Did not love their lives to death: We pursue 100-fold obedience and abandonment to Jesus.
- D. Word of our testimony: Our testimony or confession of faith is what we believe about who Jesus is, what He did on the cross, who we are in Him, and what we believe God thinks about others (including individuals, ministries, our city, our nation, and the end-time Church, etc.).  
*<sup>6</sup> I pray that...your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake. (Philem. 6, NAS)*
- E. We can stir up the faith of others as they hear the word of God from our lips. Their faith can become effective by the knowledge of every good thing in them. You can speak this to them.  
*<sup>17</sup> So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:17)*
- F. Jesus resisted Satan by speaking God's word (Mt. 4:4-10.) The power of the Word to change others is also in our mouth. We "prophesy" God's word to others in a supernaturally natural way.  
*<sup>26</sup> That He might...cleanse her with the washing of water by the word... (Eph. 5:26)*

### **II. EMBRACING A LIFESTYLE OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

- A. Encouragement: Speaking the word of our testimony about others is to speak affirming truths about them without flattery. We focus on budding virtues that have not yet matured in their lives.
- B. Encouragement puts courage in the hearts of others through these affirming truths. We start with our family and with those we are most familiar. It is not enough to just think affirming truths about them; we must speak the obvious to them because the Devil obscures these truths.  
*<sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily...that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. (Heb. 3:13, NIV)*
- C. Hardened: Our hearts will naturally harden unless we intentionally resist the process. Henry Thoreau wrote, "*Most men lead lives of quiet desperation*".

- D. It is our **sacred responsibility** to encourage those God sets with us. One way we consider others is by asking the Lord for insight into how He feels towards them (family, friends, etc.). Our love grows for others as we tell them of their virtue and destiny, even in their weakness.  
*<sup>24</sup> Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves...but exhorting (*encouraging*, NIV, NAS) one another... (Heb. 10:24-25)*
- E. We can set our heart to live as a son of encouragement to change the lives of those around us.  
*<sup>36</sup> Joses...was named Barnabas by the apostles...translated Son of Encouragement... (Acts 4:36)*
- F. Our words can release life or death. They are powerful in causing faith or fear to grow in others. Simply by speaking, we can help people come into agreement with God's truth about them.  
*<sup>21</sup> Death and life are in the power of the tongue... (Prov. 18:21)*

### III. ESTABLISHING A **CULTURE OF HONOR**

- A. As the guardian of the culture of the Body of Christ, the Holy Spirit requires that we dwell together in a **culture of honor**. God's love is experienced most as we honor each other. Part of our inheritance and what we lack is in the hands of others. We can receive this by blessing them.  
*<sup>18</sup> May be able to comprehend (*experience*) with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge... (Eph. 3:18-19)*
- B. **Out of honor comes blessing**. We must **demonstrate a culture of honor** in our personal families, ministry assignment (church, marketplace, school, neighborhood), and all of IHOP-KC.  
*<sup>10</sup> In honor giving preference to one another...14 Bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice...16 Be of the same mind toward one another...Do not be wise in your own opinion...18 As much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men... (Rom. 12:10-18)*
- C. **Honor**: This is translated in the margin of the NAS as “*out do one another in showing honor*”.
- D. **Bless**: We bless the budding virtues of all ministries regardless of their **deficiencies** and without needing to agree with or endorse their **differences** in ministry focus, style, and standards of excellence. The Holy Spirit forbids us to verbalize their deficiencies and differences.
- E. The Scripture makes it clear that there are times to bring righteous judgment to ministries with destructive doctrines and behavior (Mt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-11; 2 Cor. 11:12-15; 1 Thess. 5:14, 21; 2 Thess. 3:6-14; Rev. 2:2, 14-15, 20). We must do this in the right way and with a right spirit.
- F. **Same mind**: We “get on their team” by asking the Lord to show us who they are to Him. After we see their virtues, then we feel differently about their deficiencies and differences.
- G. **Do not be wise in your opinion**: We do not presume to understand all that God sees in them.  
*<sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? (Rom. 14:4, 10)*