

NOTES:



LOVE NOT THEIR LIVES

by Ron Brick

Revelation 12:11

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

The Christian is called to overcome. We are called to overcome our sin nature, called in scripture the flesh, the world and Satan and his kingdom of darkness. We are called to overcome in these three realms. The world, and the spirit of the world, is anti Christ. It is this spirit of rebellion against Christ that works in the sons of disobedience. The rebellious or disobedient are not like Christ. Christ was the obedient son, the lamb of God, that was willing to die in order to fulfill obedience to the Father. He went to the cross and surrendered His life to the will of the Father. It was through this willingness to die, to lay down His life, that His life was returned again to Him. He now rules and reigns at the right hand of the throne of power and glory. In His death He has purchased for every Christian the power to rule with Him. If we are willing, as He was to die, we shall also reign with Him in Him.

2 Timothy 2:11-12

11 This is a faithful saying:

*For if we died with Him,
We shall also live with Him.*

12 If we endure,

We shall also reign with Him.

If we deny Him,

He also will deny us.

The Christian overcomes in Christ. We overcome by the cross. By or through the shed blood of the Lamb. It is the victory of the cross, that we share with Christ, if we are willing to take up our cross and follow Him. We can only follow where He leads. He leads us to obey. To follow the will of the Father to the cross. It is the will of the Father that Christ followed and is following. He is the Lamb that humbly and obediently lays down His life for the Fathers will. The goal of the Fathers will is to save the lost.

John 10:11

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

The Christian is called to overcome for the same end. The purpose for overcoming is to become more equipped to win the lost and advance the kingdom of salvation. The motivation is love and love is selfless. Love is the cross. It is here that we are forged into an identity with Christ who was first willing to die for love. This

full salvation is revealed through the overcoming Christian. The process is put forward in our text in three steps.

1. The blood of the lamb

2. The Word of their testimony

3. They did not love their lives unto death

We align our soul with the blood of the lamb, the cross, the shed blood of Christ. Christ gives Himself to win us back from death. It is finished here. Christ bows His head and states from the cross, *“It is finished”*. It is Christ’s part that is finished. Number one, **“The blood of the lamb”**, is done and we by faith receive His death. His death is His victory. The victory is His cross and it is as we receive it as ours, that His death becomes efficacious for our salvation. Now from this place, this position of victorious death, we begin to walk daily in the power of His death, His cross to make it our death, our cross and in doing so overcome our selfish life our old man, the Christ hating world and Satan and his kingdom. We show this victory daily by our words and our deeds. Our words are generated by our thoughts and our thoughts and words supersede our deeds. Our deeds reflect our submission to the will of the Father. Our ongoing obedience reveals a living true faith alignment with Christ and the cross. We obey as He obeyed and obeys.

This positions us in the victory of the cross. We are willing to die to self as Christ did. This willingness to position the old man in death daily, positions us in the victory of the cross over our sin nature. We, by faith, revealed through our thoughts, words and actions, become one with Christ. This is step number two in the equation: **“The word of their testimony”**. We reach this step and live it daily because of step number three: **“They did not love their lives unto death”**.

It takes all three steps to overcome. One step is dependent on the other. All work together in a synchronicity of power to have the believer overcome his or her flesh, the sin nature and therefore the world and the devil. It is here through the sin nature of man that Satan rules the world of man. It is here that every soul must overcome it and therefor the world and Satan himself.

Revelation 19:10

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

The word of our testimony is the testimony of Jesus Christ. It is the Word of God. It is a live coal of fire. The burning of God. When we

preach the testimony, give witness to Christ, we release the burning coal. It is a living Word of fire that produces conviction in the heart of those who hear. It is this testimony our speaking, preaching of the Word of Christ alive, that cuts to the heart and produces a harvest. It cuts the wheat in the field down and brings the grain into the barn. It is by taking hold of the spirit of the prophetic, the spirit of prophecy, that we wield the sword of God and overcome.

2 Timothy 4:1-2

4 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Preach the Word, give testimony of Jesus Christ. As you do the word you speak will come alive in your mouth and produce after its kind. It is this preaching that is the testimony of the cross or the shed blood of Christ for the remission of sin.

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Proverbs 12:14

14 A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth,

The fruit of His mouth is the word of his testimony. It is the Word of Christ, the sword of the spirit.

Ephesians 6:17

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. The word of your testimony and the helmet of salvation is the blood of Christ, the blood of the lamb. Loving not your life unto death is what it will take to preach, to speak, to proclaim the Word of God. It is this surrender that will drive the sword. Without this kind of devotion to Christ we will not preach. In the face of opposition, and there will be opposition, we will not continue to give testimony and we will not overcome. This is how all three steps to overcoming work seamlessly together and move the believer into the position of overcoming victory.