

**TELEVISION SERMON FOR  
SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023  
"BE AN OVERCOMER"  
HEAD PASTOR BILLY HAN, JR.**

Thank you Melvin!

Indeed, TV viewers, it is very important to keep in touch with the Lord, as much as possible. In spite of the fact that many of us love the Lord and pursue righteousness, we still fall short of the glory of God. I hope and pray that you're joining us each Sunday in our weekly "Kingdom of God Crusade Telecasts" is a means, which helps to strengthen your vows with God or creates within you, the desire to make yourself right with Him. Perhaps, one day soon, you will become an instrument of the Lord and testify of His goodness and mercy to others. And now do join me in the reading of God's Word and today's sermon, **"BE AN OVERCOMER"**.

We are living in an exciting time. The curtains are ready to rise. Thus, God has positioned the nations, and the world for the last act. The Lord is winding up the final events, prior to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in power and in glory.

As I begin my message, let me emphasize one point. I do not attempt nor intend to reveal the exact day the Lord Jesus returns. I know not the hour, nor the day or year He comes. No one in this world knows that day or hour. We read Matt 24:36, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

God wants everyone to be thoroughly aware of the time in which they live. Today the world is heading for catastrophe. We read of world conditions in 2 Tim. 3:1-5, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors heady highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

The letter from Paul to Timothy, with its indisputable, detailed description of the conditions of society toward the close of this twentieth century, bears a stamp of divine revelation from God. The accuracy of these prophecies should be a challenge to the First Church founded on the day of Pentecost.

Time has already elapsed. There is no time left. In spite of the terrible conditions of the world, revivals, and the power of the Holy Spirit, working through the lives of true born again Christians, keep the world from becoming any more despicable. God has promised a mighty Holy Ghost revival will occur all over the face of the earth and it is taking place right now in our country and abroad.

However, the people of God must humble themselves as we read in II Chron. 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Four virtues are mentioned here, as being necessary for the Lord's blessing and for the mighty Holy Ghost revival to begin among his people: humility, prayer, devotion, and repentance.

According to Israel's history and Judah, God did bless the people when they sought Him, and turned from their wicked ways; but whenever they became so involved in sin and idolatry, God sent judgment rather than blessing.

Therefore, the revival must begin in us before others can be revived. Where does the church stand today? When we read the messages to the seven churches in Asia, we come to understand that the messages were not directed only at them, but they are timely even for us today in terms of prophetic significance.

We can read the message to Laodicea: the period at the very end of the church age, as we read in Rev. 3:14-19, "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

This message is for the Church, whenever it dwells more upon the word of man, than upon the Word of God. The city of Laodicea was noted for its warm springs, which were pleasant for bathing, but sickening to drink, and is a likening of the Church just before her Lord's return in which some members were warmly devoted, some utterly cold with most being a mixture of lukewarmness, a thermal state most disgusting to the Lord.

The language conveyed strong warning against complacency. There is only one way by which a person can become accepted into the body of Christ, and that is by the experience of the new birth.

Did you know, there are many who are inquiring about the new birth? Many come during the night to seek Spiritual blessings, and witness the wonderful works of God during our Divine Healing Services. They see devils cast out; at the mere mention of

the name: Jesus, asthmatics have been healed; lumps in the breast have disappeared, and a host of other wonder-working miracles have occurred, while the applicants have been prayed upon after being anointed with oil.

Many, after seeing the wonderful works of the Lord, marvel at the power of God and acknowledge that Jesus is the Healer and the Mighty Physician who has never lost a case. And truly God was manifest in the flesh in the very person of Jesus Christ.

After seeing these miracles many who, only came for healing realized, that they had to be born again, repent of their sins and take on His name in water baptism. In the Apostolic Faith Church, we give them some very explicit instructions, regarding the new birth.

Listen to John 3:5, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

To be born of water is to be baptized in water by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, according to Acts 2:38, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

To be born of the Spirit is to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, speaking in an unknown tongue, the only sign according to the Bible, which confirms one has been filled with the Holy Ghost. Outside the name of Jesus, none can be saved. Acts 4:12 states, "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

What is the new birth? It is reality and yet a mystery, which cannot be explained. We read in John 3:8, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit."

The wind is a reality no man can explain. Only a fool would say, "I don't believe in the wind because I have never seen it; but I can understand it, for I see the limbs of a mango tree move in the wind and watch it tear a house into splinters."

Thus, can one deny the reality of the wind? Similarly, the Holy Spirit cannot be seen. He cannot be explained. But see His mighty power make the harlot pure, the liar honest, the drunkard sober, the drug addict cured, the rebellious pray, and then try to deny the reality of Him.

Today we find many churches diluting the Word of God to their demise, so that they become obscure and their position neither hot or cold. Just imagine! The Lord left heaven's glory to take the form of a servant in order to give us eternal life, and how unfortunate that the church should come to where its earthly possessions are

considered its wealth. How awful it is for the church to be "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked."

After offering cures for these maladies, Jesus, in His message to the church, brings the matter back to the believer. Let us read Rev. 3:20-22, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 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. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Yes, viewers, the Lord is standing at and knocking upon the doors of your hearts. He is still gracious to all people, no matter what their creed, color, or nationality. When we speak of being an overcomer, we are indicating the process of facing temptation without succumbing.

Let us read Heb. 4:15-16, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

The Lord Jesus could not sin, but He was tempted, or tested in divers ways, such as through loneliness and by being misunderstood, by having no place to lay His head, etc.

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." He, Who tells us the answer lies in overcoming, is the same One who have overcome and taken the victory.

Seeing that He was tempted in all ways possible, it behooves us to pay attention to Jesus' temptation as we read in Matt. 4:1-4, "Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward and hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Observe that it was the devil, Satan, who tempted Him and the temptation lasted 40 days. Satan had no doubt as to who the Lord was. When Satan said, "If thou be the Son of God," he used the word "if" in place of "since," for Satan's whole purpose in tempting the Lord Jesus was to entice Him to act independently of the Father in heaven.

The temptation of our Lord was real. It was addressed in every instance by quotations in the Old Testament, that is the Word of God. Solicitation to do evil is not of God, as we find in James 1:13-14, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God:

for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."

God sends tests and trials only to make us better. Our own selfish desires are the sources of evil. We are drawn away by them. The cause of sin lies within ourselves.

We read the 15th and 16 verses, "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren."

Thus, we find that Spiritual death, means separation from God. Our Lord's temptation was to turn stones into bread in order to satisfy his hunger. Having just completed a period of fasting and prayer, naturally He became hungry. But He overcame the temptation to use His rightful power to perform wonder-working miracles for His satisfaction.

Temptation with or of the devil is an ongoing process, as we read in I Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

And as a roaring lion, Satan is persistent at enticing us to misuse that, which we have in Christ Jesus, whether it be the power of the Holy Spirit, gifts, or our liberty. Listen to I Cor. 8:9, "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak."

Possessing power and endowments from God, we are faced with profound responsibilities, and must overcome temptation, if we hope to sit with Christ upon His throne.

The second temptation Satan initiated was that the Lord cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the Temple. Let us read Matt. 4:6-7, "And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Jesus did not and does not need to prove that He is truly the Son of God. He was the Almighty God Himself. Listen to I Tim. 3:16, "And without controversy (No sense arguing about it) great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

Another fundamental sphere of temptation is to doubt, or to question the fact we are really the children of God through the new birth. The children of Israel could not enter into the Promised Land because of unbelief and doubt, as we read in Heb. 3:18-19, "And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."

However, we find there still remained a rest to the people of God, as we read Heb. 4:10, "For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his."

Therefore, to succumb to temptation and fall into the state of unbelief and doubt, would rob us of our strength and Spiritual vitality, for it is this blessed assurance in Jesus, that creates within us the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, peace, joy, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance, which characterizes Christian living.

Let us read I Cor. 10:12-13, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." God allows temptation and gives strength "that ye may be able to bear it." Therefore, no Christian need ever be defeated.

Now, let's take the case of Joseph who was tested to the very limit. He found favor with his master's wife in Egypt and thus was made overseer of the house. However, one day his master's wife laid eyes on him, and she said, "Lie down with me." We read Gen. 39:8-9, "But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Here we find that God made a way of escape for Joseph, who stood firm and overcame his adulterous affair. Later we find that the master's wife accused Joseph of lying with her. The evidence was circumstantial and he was put in prison for standing for truth and righteousness. The question is "Can we say 'no,' when we are tempted by a beautiful woman, just as Joseph was?"

Now, let's take another illustration: Moses, could have had anything he wanted, after all, he was the son of Pharaoh's daughter. But what happened? Why, he overcame all temptation, as we read in Heb. 11:25-26, "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward."

And what was the consequence when Moses upheld truth and righteousness? He experienced the same reproach that Jesus bore: hatred, persecution, and rejection. Moses realized that the pleasures of this world were the pleasures of sin.

We are told to "love not the world, nor the things that are in the world." I John 2:16, tells us, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

In other words, it is advisable to put Jesus first in our lives, and not to give first place in our affections and interests to anything belonging to the world-system that we can see, nor to the worldly pleasures and habits of this age, which do not glorify God.

Jesus tells in Matt. 5:48, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Obviously, as long as we retain our old natures while on this earth and not yet boarding in heaven, we are not perfect as God. He is the only perfect One Who is sinless.

But we can be fully developed, insofar as progress is concerned, while on the way to Heaven and Jesus' presence. The lone hope for this lost and dying world and its state of degradation is to meet Jesus and accept Him as Saviour, Master, and Lord. And the only way the people are going to know Him is through an introduction by someone who already knows Him through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Now, a witness is a person who has observed something happen, and therefore can say truly that it did happen. Listen to Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses, unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

At the time of His ascension, Jesus spoke to His disciples. We read Luke 24:49, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

And the promise of the Father is the promise of the Holy Spirit, as it was manifested on the Day of Pentecost, when the 120 spoke in tongues, as we read in Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Please note, it was the Spirit that gave utterance, not man!

And finally, Satan's offer of the kingdoms of the world. Jesus would not consider such an offer, as we read in Matt. 4:8-10, "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Satan's one objective in the three-fold temptation was to induce Christ to act in self-will, independent of His Father. The first two temptations were a challenge to Christ from the god of this world to prove Himself, indeed, the Son of God.

The third was the offer of the prince of this world to divest himself of that which rightfully belonged to Christ, as the Son of man and Son of David, on the condition that He accept the sceptre of Satan's worldly principles. Christ defeated Satan by a means open to His humblest of followers, simply the intelligent use of the Word of God.

In his second temptation Satan also used Scripture, but a promise available only to one in the path of obedience. The scene placed the emphasis upon the vital importance of "rightly dividing the word of truth." **3, 2, 1**

If you would like to know more about God's Word, the Church, and review these telecast presentations in its entirety, please visit our website at [Jesuscomingsoon.org](https://Jesuscomingsoon.org)

Until our next telecast, this is your host, Pastor Billy Han, Jr., expressing my sincerest appreciation to each of you, who have allowed us to come into your homes. May the good Lord bless and keep you all in the hollow of His hands.

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