

**TELECAST SERMON FOR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017
"BE AN OVERCOMER IN CHRIST JESUS"
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Thank you Jose!

Life is so full of problems, that many people in the world today put their personal concerns ahead of Jesus.

In spite of the message delivered in the song, "Put Jesus First in Your life," most often we tend to put Jesus second, third, or even lower on our list of priorities.

For many it is a difficult decision to choose to be faithful to the Lord or to the world, even though we know what the correct choice should be.

Perhaps if we learn a little more about the Lord through sermons like the one I have entitled: "BE AN OVERCOMER IN CHRIST JESUS," the decision to choose the Lord will be whole lot easier.

We are living in exciting times. The Lord's curtain of time is about to rise. Thus, God is positioning the nations of the world for His last act. The final events are winding up, signaling the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His Power and in His Glory.

As we begin today's message, we must emphasize one point. We do not attempt nor intend to reveal the exact day when Jesus Christ will return.

We know not the hour, nor the day or year He will come. No one in this world knows that day or hour as described in Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

The Lord's concern is that everyone be thoroughly aware of the time in which we live. Today the world is heading for the end times of earthly catastrophe as recorded in 2 Timothy 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."

Paul's letter to Timothy, with its indisputable, detailed description of the conditions of society in this twenty-first 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 and there is no time left. In spite of these terrible conditions, revivals by the power of the Holy Spirit, working in the lives of true born again Christians, keep things from becoming any more despicable.

God's divine promise for a mighty Holy Ghost revival is occurring across the face of the earth, taking place right here in our country and abroad.

However, II Chronicles 7:14 provides this exhortation, "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 prime virtues are mentioned here, as being necessary for the Lord's blessing and for His mighty Holy Ghost revival to begin within His People...1) Humility; 2) Prayer; 3) Devotion; and 4) Repentance.

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

Therefore, the Lord's Holy Ghost revival must begin in us before others can be revived. Where does your church stand today? When reading the messages to the seven churches in Asia, we come to understand that the messages are not only directed at them, but it is timely even for us today, in terms of prophetic significance.

Reading the message to Laodicea, during the period at the very end of the church age, in Revelations 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 to the Church is given 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 likened to the Church just before the Lord's return; some members warmly devoted, some utterly cold, with most being luke-warm, as being in a thermal state that is most disgusting to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The spirit of the language implied strong warning against complacency. There is only one way to become accepted into the Body of Christ, and that is by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ accepting His salvation and His new birth.

Today, there are many who are inquiring about the new birth. Many attend our evening service seeking Spiritual blessings, and witness the wonderful miracles of God in Divine Healing.

At the mere mention of the name, "JESUS," devils are cast out; asthmatics are healed; lumps in the breast disappear, and a host of other wonder-working miracles are performed when applicants are anointed with oil and prayed over.

Seeing these wonderful miracles, they marvel at the healing power of Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as the Healer and Mighty Physician who has never lost a case. They witness God's power manifested in the name of Jesus Christ.

Having witnessed these miracles, they take the next step of repenting of their sins and being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Here in the Apostolic Faith Church, we preach very explicit instructions concerning the new birth recorded in God's Word.

Specifically, John 3:5 instructs every man, woman and child, "...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."

First, born of water is baptism in water being immersed in the name of Jesus Christ just as Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan.

Acts 2:38 further instructs, "...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."

Repentance is simply, "Godly sorrow for sin," confessing to the Lord Jesus Christ that we indeed are sinners in need of His Plan of Salvation.

This scriptural passage deliberately directs one to be baptized in the name of "Jesus Christ," and not in the titles of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Furthermore, the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost is Jesus!

Next, baptism in the name of Jesus Christ brings "Remission of Sins"...being washed away by the blood of Jesus shed for all mankind on the Cross of Calvary. At the same time our sins are removed from us as far as the East is from the West.

To receive the gift of the Holy Ghost is to be born of the Spirit. That means being filled or baptized with the Holy Spirit, speaking in an unknown tongue or language as the only Bible sign confirming that you indeed have been filled.

Outside the name of Jesus Christ, no one can be saved as confirmed by Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

The new birth is a mandatory reality and yet it remains a mystery to many who do not believe. John 3:8 describes it this way, "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."

Thus, no one can deny the reality of the wind. Similarly, God's Holy Spirit cannot be seen, but we can witness His mighty power, which makes the harlot pure, the liar honest, the drunkard sober, the addict restored, and the rebellious pray. There is no denying Jesus Christ is real.

Many modern churches dilute the Word of God to their demise and they become obscure and neither hot or cold.

Jesus Christ left heaven's glory to become a servant bringing us eternal life and how unfortunate it is when a church's earthly possessions are considered its wealth. It then becomes "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked."

Jesus Christ offers cures for these maladies in His message to the church which restores the matter back to the believer.

Jesus Christ says in Revelations 3:20-22, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to 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."

Today, television viewers, Jesus Christ is knocking upon the door of your heart. Won't you answer His knock, open up your heart, and let Him come in? He is merciful and gracious to all people regardless of their color, creed, or nationality.

Being an over comer, indicates the process of facing temptation without succumbing. Hebrews 4:15-16 describes it this way, "For we have not a 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, overcoming all adversity. Therefore, He, who has overcome and taken the victory provides us the answer and solution to overcoming all things.

Seeing that He was tempted in all ways possible, it behooves us to learn from His temptation written 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 an 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."

His temptation lasted 40 days and there was no doubt who Jesus Christ is being that He was addressed, "If thou be the Son of God."

Please note use of the word "if" in place of "since," as a way of tempting the Lord Jesus to entice Him to act independently of His Father in heaven.

The temptation of Jesus Christ was real and it is addressed in every instance by biblical quotations in God's Word.

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 prove and make us better. Our own selfish desires, are a source of evil, if we are drawn away by them. Verses 15 and 16 adds this explanation, "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. The temptation of Jesus to turn stones into bread was to satisfy his hunger.

Having just completed a period of prayer and fasting, naturally He was hungry. But He overcame His temptation and used His rightful power to perform wonder-working miracles.

Overcoming temptation is an ongoing process as described 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."

We must not be enticed into misusing that, which we have in Christ Jesus, whether it be the power of the Holy Spirit, gifts, or our liberty as addressed in I Corinthians 8:9, "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak."

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

In the second temptation, the Lord Jesus Christ was asked to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the Temple.

Matthew 4:6-7, "And (the devil) saith 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 need to prove that He is truly the Son of God. He is the Almighty God Himself, described in I Timothy 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 part of temptation is doubting or questioning the fact that we are really the children of God through His new birth.

Unbelief and doubt prevented the children of Israel from entering into the Promised Land as we read in Hebrews 3:18-19, "And to whom swore 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."

Hebrews 4:10 describes, "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 unbelief and doubt robs us of our Spiritual strength and vitality. On the other hand, blessed assurance in Christ Jesus creates within us the fruit of the Spirit...love, peace, joy, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance, characterizing Christian living.

I Corinthians 10:12-13 warns, "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 you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Jesus Christ gives us strength in temptation, "that ye may be able to bear it." Therefore, no Christian need ever be defeated. In 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."

His answer found in Gen. 39:8-9 reads, "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?"

God made a way of escape for Joseph, who stood firm and overcame his adulterous affair. However, later 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.

Can we overcome by saying "no," when tempted by another beautiful person?

Another illustration is Moses who could have had anything he wanted, being raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

He too, overcame his temptation described in Hebrews 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."

As over comers, we are told to love not the world, nor the things therein as 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."

It is always advisable to put Jesus first in our lives, vice giving first place to affections or interests in the world-system, pleasures and habits which do not glorify God.

Jesus Christ prescribes the following in Matthew 5:48, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." While on this earth, we must strive to be spiritually mature in our actions...Jesus Christ is the only perfect One Who is sinless.

The only way others are going to know Jesus Christ is through an invitation by you telling them of His plan of salvation and mighty Holy Ghost power. Hence, being a living witness for Jesus Christ is evident when telling others your testimony.

The New Testament Book of Acts 1:8 says, "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 recorded in 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."

The promise of the Father is the gift of the Holy Spirit, manifested on the Day of Pentecost, when the 120 spoke in tongues shown 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." Spiritual utterance is God given and not from man!

Jesus Christ's finally temptation was an offer for the kingdoms of the world. Jesus concluded His response in Matthew 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."

The three-fold temptation was to induce Jesus Christ to act in a self-willed manner, independent of His Father. The first two temptations challenged Him to prove Himself, indeed, the Son of God. His third temptation was an attempt to divest Jesus Christ of what rightfully belonged to Him, as the Son of God and Son of David.

Jesus Christ overcame every temptation proving that we too can be an over comer in Christ Jesus by humbling ourselves as His faithful followers and believing in the Word of God to the very letter.

If you would like to learn more about God's Word and the Church, and view these telecast presentations in their entirety, please visit our website at <http://Jesuscomingsoon.org>.

Until our next telecast, this is your host, Head 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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