



Part 8: Hope to Overcome our Weakness

Revelation 3:7-13

Jesus' strength is given to us in our acknowledged weakness.

PART 1

The Challenge to Overcome

The Christians had much to overcome. The verb “overcome” occurs 17 times in the book of Revelation, referring to being victorious in battle. The larger context of Revelation and the Christian life is spiritual warfare (Revelation 3:12).

“And there was war in heaven. ... The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him.

...

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring -those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.” Revelation 12:7, 9, 17

Q: How much longer can we stay faithful to Jesus in the midst of such challenges?

Jesus has only encouragement for this church (Revelation 3:8, 10).

“I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.” Revelation 3:8

Jesus' Strength in Our Weakness

A paradox of the gospel: Jesus' strength is given to us in our acknowledged weakness.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ...For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
2 Corinthians 12:9-10

“The Christian often tries to forget his weakness; God wants us to remember it, to feel deeply. The Christian wants to conquer his weakness and to be free from it; God wants us to rest and even rejoice in it. The Christian mourns over his weakness; Christ teaches his servant to say, ‘I take pleasure in infirmities; most gladly will I glory in my infirmities.’ The Christian thinks his weakness his greatest hindrance in the life and service of God; God tells us that it is the secret of strength and success. It is our weakness, heartily accepted and continually realized, that gives us our claim and access to the strength of him who has said, ‘My strength is made perfect in weakness.’” Andrew Murray

The opposite of Biblical faith is not doubt but self-reliance (2 Corinthians 1:9). Our first step and our ongoing posture is humility – we acknowledge our weakness to the Lord ... “I need your life, strength, wisdom, joy”

Jesus does not despise our weaknesses – “I have loved you” (Revelation 3:9b).

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, for God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Psalm 73:25-26

PART 2

Jesus is Sovereign Over Our Lives

(Revelation 3:7, 11-13)

- Jesus holds the keys to salvation (Revelation 3:7, Isaiah 22:20-22).
- Jesus holds the keys to ministry opportunities (Revelation 3:7, 1 Corinthians 16:9, 2 Corinthians 2:12, Colossians 4:3).
- Jesus will restore all things (Revelation 3:11-13, 21:1-5, 22:1-5).

Two Strength-Inducing Truths

- We are loved by the Son of God (Revelation 3:9).
- God’s restoration is worth the pain (Revelation 21:1-5).

Discussion Questions (for small groups or the dinner table):

- Considering the constant threat of earthquakes in Philadelphia and the persecution by the Jews, what do you think it felt like to stay faithful to Jesus?
- Do you ever grow weary of trying to live faithfully to Jesus? Can you share more?

- Look at 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 and 12:7-10. What has been your experience with the spiritual truth: “Jesus’ strength is given to us in our acknowledged weakness”?
- Have you experienced this truth? Can you share more?