

It Is Testing Time

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:1-9).

Now let's talk of a few overcomers. In the days of Noah's time, which was typed by Jesus Christ, of being like today. In Noah's time, type of today. Jesus referred to it, and said, "**As it was in Noah's time, so shall it be in the Coming of the Son of man** (Luke 17:26-27). Notice, there were all that antediluvian world, perhaps of millions of people, there were eight overcomers. Eight people overcome, that were real, genuine overcomers. There were Noah's three sons and their wives, and Noah and his wife (Gen. 6-8). **Eight overcome, that entered the ark at the appropriate time.** How did they do it? They listened to the Word of God. They weren't caught outside the door. **They were caught inside the door.** Oh, my beloved friends, **don't let that door shut!**

And **there's always been an ark in God's economy.** There was an ark in the days of Noah, for the saving of His people. There was an ark in the days of the law, ark of testimony. In the days of the law, they followed the ark.

And there is a third dispensation now; like Noah's time, Lot's time, and now this time. **There is an ark now.** And that ark is not a denomination, neither is it a good works that you do. *"It's by one Spirit, we are all baptized into one Body, in the domain of that Kingdom, one Spiritual baptism."* (1 Cor. 12:13). **No matter how good, how bad, whatever, you're in that Kingdom by Holy Ghost baptism** (Eph. 4:4-6). See? **That's the only way you overcome. All that is under the shed Blood is overcomers** (Rev. 12:11), 'cause you cannot overcome, yourself. **It's He that overcome for you** (Rom. 8:37). **You're resting.**

"How will I know then, Brother Branham, that I'm in There?" **Watch what kind of a life you're living. Just look around. See if it's just lived out of you, automatically.** Or, you have to strain and pull, see, then you're doing it. But don't try to do it.

Did you ever try? Yeah? Don't. Just like putting a little baby's arm in a sleeve hole, you see. "Put on your coat, honey." He can't do it. Little arm is up, down, around. It takes your steady hand.

Oh, how glad I am, I can just yield my hand to the Father, say, "Lord Jesus, I can't get in There. You help me. Put the coat on me." I quit trying. Just let Him do it. See?

If the little baby keeps trying, "Oh, I can do it. I can do it." And he's just everywhere. He can't do it.

Neither can you, neither can I, but if we'll just hold still and let Him do it (1 Thess. 4:11a). Just yield to Him, "Here, Lord, here I am. Just let me be nothing. I yield. You put my hand in the right place." **That's the victory. That's overcoming.**

The thing you have to overcome is yourself, your idea, your thing, and surrender yourself to Him. He overcome for you. He knows the way; we don't.

But in Noah's time there were eight overcomers, and that's what went in. They were caught inside. Now look, friends. Whatever you do, who is listening now, or who will listen hereafter, the hour is very late, and you do have good intention, **but be caught inside.** Now, don't struggle. "*Not him that willeth, or him that runneth, but God.*" (Rom. 9:14-18). **Just let God. Just yield yourself to Him and walk on, with a perfect, satisfied faith,** that, "*What God has promised He is able to perform.*" (Rom. 4:19-21). Not joining one denomination, another denomination, running this, that, or the other, trying this. **Just yield yourself to God, and walk with Him, peaceful, quiet, not interrupted. Just keep on walking with Him (Gal. 5:25).** That's right.

Now, **we're expected to be tested.** That's a good lesson. "He that cometh to God must first be tested." **Tested (what?) with the Word. That's God's test.** Do you believe it? "He that cometh to God must be tested" (Heb. 12:4-10). That only shows a true child of God, then, see, be tested, and when the test comes on. **You can't overcome 'less there's a test given to you. And when a test is given, it's to see whether you can overcome or not.** And Jesus said, "To him that overcometh," the test (Rev. 3:21). **The test is the greatest thing that ever happened to you.** I believe it's written in the Scripture, Peter said, that, "*Our trials are worth more to us than precious gold*" (1 Peter 1:6-7). **It's a testing time. It's one good evidence to us that God is with us, when we're tested, for all children of God are tested and tried.**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Daniel was the prophet (Daniel 3:8-30), and that was the size of the Church in that day, I mean, the Bride. There's lots of churches, about two million of them went down there. That was the size of the overcomer. **And them overcomers were put to the test. And every overcomer has to be put to the test.** When they said, "You take back

what the Word says, or either be thrown in the fiery furnace." They refused anything but the Word (*I John 5:4*).

"Not he that starts; he that finishes." Many start the race, but there's One finishing it (*II Tim. 2:4-5; I Cor. 9:24-27*). There'll be many churches start, many groups of people. **There'll be one Group finish. That's the overcomers.**

Notice, in John the Baptist's time, there were found six that had overcome. All ages, they've had overcomers. In John's time they had six, that was Joseph and Mary, Zacharias and Elisabeth, Simeon and Ann. A man and a woman, a man and a woman, **a man and a woman; see, type of Christ, the Church; Christ, the Church; Christ, the Church; Christ, the Church.**

Overcome means "to recognize the Devil in every one of his tricks." Lot of people says, "There is no Devil. It's just a thought." Don't you believe that. **There's a real Devil.** He's just as real as you are, anybody. **A real Devil, and you must recognize him real.** You must know he's a devil. Then, the same time that you recognize him, and know that he's a devil and he's against you, then, **to overcome, you must recognize that the God in you is greater and mightier than he is, that the One that's in you has already overcome him. And, by His grace, you are more than a match for him. Amen. There's real overcoming, when you recognize.**

You look back, say, "I'm doing this and I'm doing that," then, no, you're defeated. **But "there's no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, that walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."** (*Rom. 8:1*). Then you realize that you've overcome.

And you know that he's a devil. You can't say, "I got a sickness, and I don't believe it is a sickness." Oh, yes, it is a sickness. You got cancer, you "don't believe it is a cancer." It is a cancer. But, remember, "Greater is He that's in you than he that's in the world." (*I John 4:4*). **You must realize that the Holy Spirit that's in you has already overcome this thing. And He's in you, and you can overcome by Him.** That's exactly sensible, exactly the way the Scripture is written. Overcoming!

Lord Jesus, **You told us how it's done.** You didn't only tell us, **but You showed how it was done.** You led us. You showed us how to do it: **receive the Word inside of us, and be sure to hold to that Word, "It is written,"** (*Matt. 4:1-11*), in every temptation; but be humble, walk humbly (*James 4:6*). **Then we have conquered, through You, through Your power which has already conquered our enemy. And the only thing we have to do is just walk humble with faith, believing That, and our badge of identification of the Holy Ghost, and Satan has to move.** [1]

God had been testing the patriarch Abraham **because He had given him a promise. And when God makes a promise, He wants to be sure that this person is worthy of the promise before He fulfills what He said or what He promises.** So Abraham had been promised that **through his seed** the whole world would be blessed (*Gen. 22:14-19*), that he'd have a son, and this son, out of him should come forth a Seed that would bless the whole earth (*Rom. 4:13-21*). And Abraham, when the promise was given to him, was seventy-five years old, and Sarah, his wife, was sixty-five years old. But the Bible tells us that Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, **but was strong, giving praise to God. And God time after time tested him, but he'd come to that final test before the blessing was going to happen.**

And that's the way it is with all the Seed of Abraham. God gives us that final test just before He gives the promise. That final test to see how you'll react upon it... And when He had given Abraham this test, **He found Abraham just as true as he was when he started.** What a blessing it would be **if we who take His promise** of healing would stand just as true as we did when we stood here and accepted it, no matter what the doctor said, stand just as true.

And when he did this and never withheld his only son, but was about to plunge the knife into Isaac's bosom to destroy his testimony... He had testified all over the known earth that he was acquainted with, that he was going to have this son. And then when the son came, he was asked to double back and to destroy the only hope that he had for his testimony to be fulfilled. **And when God seen that he was loyal to that faith that he had in God, God looked out of the heavens and He said, "I've sworn by Myself that I'll bless you and multiply you, and your seed shall possess the gate of his enemy."** What a promise! [2]

Reference:

[1] "How Can I Overcome" (63-0825M), par. 64-65, 68-76, 86, 89, 105-106, 181

[2] "Possessing the Enemy's Gates" (59-1108), par. 9-11

Spiritual Building-Stone No. 35 (new 2014) from the Revealed Word of this hour, compiled by: Gerd Rodewald, Friedenstr. 69, D-75328 Schömburg, Germany
www.biblebelievers.de, Fax: (+49) 72 35 33 06

There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]