

1 John 5:4 (NKJV)

⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

In **2 Timothy 3:1** The apostle Paul says, *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come.”*

He then describes in **2 Timothy 3:2-5** what those perilous times will look like

- I believe this is the world in which we are now living

In this series we will look at what the Bible says about being an overcomer in the midst of perilous times!

2 Timothy 3:1 (NKJV)

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

- Know – to know something definitely, emphatically and with absolute certainty
- Something so urgent that it **MUST** be known, **MUST** be recognized, and **MUST** be acknowledged

The Holy Spirit is saying in this verse is that the following information should not be considered optional

- He wants us to fully grasp what He is saying
- He wants us to be prepared and not be taken off guard
- He’s not saying this to scare us but to prepare us
- He wants us equipped for the last days storm ahead

After Paul writes to the end times church to be emphatically aware of the times in which they are living, he lists the characteristics of a lost society that has run amuck

2 Timothy 3:2–9; 12-13 (NKJV)

²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

¹²Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

- We touched on these signs of the times in the first segment of this series
- Now I would like to look at these characteristics in depth

If we are unaware of what's going on we will be sucked into the same lifestyle that the rest of the world is

We've talked about Lovers of Themselves, and Lovers of Money

Now let's address, Boastful, Proud, Blasphemous, and Disobedient to Parents

Boasters – *“a braggart or one committed to his own self-promotion and personal agenda that is willing to exaggerate, overstate the facts, stretch the truth, embellish a story, and even lie if it will have a positive effect on his position or situation”*

- Today we would call this *“situational ethics”* or *“floating ethics”*
- A good example would be politicians who change their ethics and policies to please those they want to support them
- Closer to us as individuals would be a person whose ethics change depending on the environment they are in

Today we are witnesses of a society that has gone morally adrift that is led by *“Boasters”*

- These people are called *“Progressives”*
- They believe they have the right to subject everyone to their *“New”* moral code

All of this is to lead us in a prophetic route to a day when the Antichrist will be revealed to the world

- In fact, a mutinous attitude against God and all things godly will emerge in the very last days
- It's main goal is to seduce the world into a state of lawlessness

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition

- “*falling away*” – a falling away or widespread revolt
- A similar word is used in the writing of the Old Testament when describing a rebellion against God – **Joshua 22:22**
- It describes a mutiny or insurgency against God
- The word translated as “*sin*” depicts a people who possess no fixed moral standards
- “*void of standards*” and “*without law*”

It depicts a society that will throw out all previously agreed upon moral standards and God’s established laws

The word “*revealed*” gives us the picture of something that is veiled, covered, concealed, or hidden will suddenly appear and step onto a world stage for all to see

- You may not see this coming
- You must be prepared

The antichrist will be an individual who is so evil he will be the son of doom and destruction

- Rotten, ruinous, or decaying
- Like none other before him
- There will be no redeeming values in anything produced by his rule

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

- Opposes – an entrenched position against everything established
- Continual, unending, and perpetual resistance
- Against everything Christ represents
- Utterly free of God's influence

He will show himself as God in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem

- He will go into the Holy of Holies, and decree himself to be God

A day is coming when that which is keeping him from being revealed will be removed allowing this evil ruler to make his entrance onto the world stage – 2 Thessalonians 2:6

2 Thessalonians 2:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.

- Here we see that his plan is already at work

It is true that he has been at work for a long time and people of every generation have had to deal with moral degradation

However, I believe that we are seeing all restraints being thrown off as our society gets closer to a collision course with disaster

If you're skeptical about a prevalence of "*floating ethics*" in society, simply ask the youth or young adults in your life

- What are the morals being promoted in their public schools and universities?
- We have certainly seen this in the political realm more than ever before
- The popular moral ethics and policies of the liberal thinkers is moving further and further to the far extreme left

Even though schools will tell you that tolerance and free thinking are encouraged the truth is that most professors are intolerant and disdain anyone who sticks with a traditional way of thinking

- Tolerance is only extended to those who embrace the new morality
- Sadly, some of this finding its way into many mainstream churches

Proud – "*someone with a superior, arrogant, haughty, impudent, snooty, high and mighty, insolent attitude*"

- We especially see this in the political realm and mainstream media – The View
- They all know better than we do
- They are more sophisticated than us
- They tout themselves as the rightful agenda setters for society, culture, and the world
- How dare us think differently than them!
- They mock anyone who holds a traditional moral code

Blasphemers – *“to slander, to accuse, to speak against, or to speak derogatory words for the purpose of injuring or harming another person’s reputation. Profane, foul, unclean language. Insulting, nasty, shameful, ugly speech with the intention to humiliate. Blaspheming the divine.”*

This word depicts a people who will go unhinged with their use of debasing, derogatory, insulting, nasty, shameful, ugly speech, or behavior to humiliate others

- Wide-spread blasphemy
- We see this on both sides of the isle in the political realm

A recent on-line study showed that obscene language used by politicians on social media platforms is off the charts

- The study found that it is at an all-time high, up over 100% in recent years

Words that were once considered taboo or vulgar are now commonly accepted

- It is excessive in modern movies and television programs

If you were to “bleep” out every word in some movies and television shows you could hardly make sense of the conversation

Another study showed that when we lower the bar on the words we speak it negatively affects people’s behavior and other actions

- It has been proven that there is a connection between profanity and dishonesty

The Spirit of God already told us words affect actions

James 3:2 (NKJV)

²For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

- Words affect behavior
- Behavior that God judged Sodom and Gomorrah for is now applauded and celebrated

Transvestites (men dressed in women's clothing) are invited into some public elementary schools to read funny stories to children

- The liberal plan is to desensitize children

Things that were once considered perverse, psychologically deviant behavior is now considered completely normal

- Passed off as an evolution of our society

We now celebrate what the Bible considers a Blasphemous lifestyle

Society claims to be sophisticated and progressive, but evidence shows that language is being debased and emptied of long-valued terms of courtesy and manners

- We were taught to say “yes, sir” and “yes, ma’am”
- Manners and verbal respect are out of sink with the majority of young people

The mouth is the great revealer!

Matthew 12:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things?

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

- Blasphemous behavior and language are symptoms of a deeper problem
- If a person's mouth is filled with foul language, one can surmise what lies at that person's core
- The mouth is the outlet for a what is inside of a person
- What is on the inside will eventually come out
- The problem with blasphemous language is deeper than the bad language itself
- Language is spiritual because it flows from the person's inner being

What we allow ourselves to see and hear will have an affect on our spiritual life

2 Peter 2:8 (KJV 1900)

⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

- Vexed – to torture
- What Lot was once tortured by, he eventually become numb too
- Remember, the angels sent because of Abraham's intercession had to practically drag them out

Blasphemous words and behaviors are not acceptable in God's sight and should not be practiced by us!

Disobedient to parents – *“unpersuadable, uncontrollable, or inconvincible. No longer able to exercise authority over. Lack of control or ability to persuade, lead, or influence.”*

This means a day is coming when children will no longer submit to or follow the leadership of their parents

They will disrespectfully assert their right to make decisions for themselves without parental influence or advice

- Including decisions that will be life-altering or detrimental to their own well-being

We already see the problem of eroding parental influence, even in Christian homes

- Many parents are hesitant to discipline their children
- Fearing that they might press charges against them and get them arrested for child abuse

Children should be protected by law to live in a safe environment, with good nutrition, health, care, and education

However, there have been cases where the courts stood by children who filed suits against their parents for *“forcing”* their faith on them

- More and more you see that parents do not have the *“right”* to tell their children what to do
- Society will run amuck in every sphere when it places *“self”* and *“love for self”*, higher than anything and anyone

How to protect you and your family against a society that is Boastful, Proud, Blasphemous, and Disobedient to Parents

Be careful not to allow “floating ethics” into your life

Am I sticking with the Word of God and refusing to go the “floating ethics” way of the world in every area in life, regardless of the consequences?

- Am I staying rooted in the Bible?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to awaken you in this area
- Where have I allowed my morals to float and made compromises?
- Commit yourself to doing whatever is necessary to get firmly anchored again in God’s Word

Be careful not to get taken off guard by a deceived world in these last days

Our generation is witnessing the effects of “seducing spirits” attempting to cause society to disconnect from moral standards once held by most of society

- We are the guardians of our own minds
- It is our responsibility to not be duped with the rest of the world
- We must not allow the spirit of the age to deceive us into living a “lawless” lifestyle
- The Bible is not an outdated relic
- Set aside time to really think through what you believe

Be careful not to be contaminated by the spirit of this age

Those who live without a biblical foundation have chosen an unstable and unreliable path that floats on trends rather than on faith that is fixed on absolute truth

- Am I adhering to the fixed standard of God's word in every area of my life?
- Have I made a rock-solid commitment to that standard?
- Am I ready to be accused of being non-compliant, intolerant, narrow-minded or obstinate?
- Am I willing to pay whatever price is necessary to hold fast to the truth?
- Or have I budged a little to protect myself?

Be careful what you allow in through your ears

*Your ears are so important that even faith comes to you through hearing the preaching of God's word – **Romans 10:17**. What you allow yourself to listen to determines what you think*

- Remember, profanity produces profane behavior
- We hear so much of what was once shocking that it no longer shocks us – have I become desensitized?
- What do I do when I hear foul language?
- Does it still grieve me, or do I think nothing of it?
- Am I able to sit through a foul-mouthed movie or video game without even noticing?
- Or do I have to turn the channel?
- Is God pleased with what I allow in through my ears?

Be careful what you allow into your eyes

Remember Lot saw so much wickedness that he became numb and hardened to it. In fact, he was so hardened he was able to live in that culture for an extended period of time

When you allow evil images in your head through your eyes, you will open up the gates for the enemy to attack you in your mind

- Do you have a hard time maintaining peace and rest in your mind?
- What do the TV programs I've been watching say about my commitment to God?
- You are the guardian of your eyes

Be careful to spiritually lead your family and children

The bible forecasts that the home will come under attack in the last days, saying that a time will come when children will not allow their parents to lead them

- Have you already experienced hardships in your family?
- Seek God, ask for forgiveness where you have failed
- Open your heart to receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to begin implementing a plan
- Honest self-evaluation is a crucial step
- How often do I read the Bible to my Children and family
- How often do I pray with my family?
- How often do I take time to help family members think through difficult subjects and see what scripture says?

Be careful not to give way to a spirit of fear

Am I proactive in sharing God's truth and light, or am I afraid to step out because of possible retribution?

- Do I find myself cowering in fear over what is happening in the world?
- Or am I taking a posture of letting my light shine?
- What am I doing to help others?
- How am I becoming an instrument that brings healing and restoration to those who have been hurt by our times?
- We must be careful to not give into the fear of man
– **Proverbs 29:28**

2 Corinthians 4:1–2, 7-11 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. ⁸ *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.