

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

The fact remains that we are living in the last round of this end-times age

- That means we must know what God has specifically stated about events in society in the last days
- We must receive divine guidance to maneuver accurately in the midst of the attacks of the enemy

In our text Paul uses the term “*last days*”

- The word used here for “*last*” means something that is final
- This Greek word points to the very “*last or ultimate end of a thing*”
- In fact, the ancient world used this very word to refer to “*the last port of call for a ship*”
- That last stop meant the end of the road
- It could also be used to describe “*the last day of a 12-month calendar*”
- It could also mean “*the very last or final day in a week*”
- Yes, we have been living in the last days for 2000 years
- I believe we are living in the very ultimate end of the age

Paul vigorously states “*perilous times will come*”

When you examine the original text, he is saying...

“those who live in the last season will be surrounded and encumbered on every side in the midst of uncontrollable, unpredictable, hurtful, treacherous, and menacing times that will be emotionally difficult for people to bear.”

Since God has chosen us for this last round of the game, we can be assured that He has also supplied us with everything we need to live in this season victoriously

- God will enable us to...
- Shine as lights in a world growing even darker
- Build a hedge of protection around our families
- Teach our children and grandchildren the word of God so they are not negatively impacted by the world around them
- Stay unaffected by the changing moral landscape in society around us
- Be protected and safeguarded by Scripture that has been stored in our hearts

Regardless of the moral dilemmas around us, we must never forget

Romans 8:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

The Holy Spirit wants us to know, recognize and acknowledge the times we are living in so we can be prepared and not taken off guard

- If we are fortified by the word of God we won't be shaken when these things begin to occur in a greater measure

He doesn't want us to fall into destructive behaviors and symptoms that will be associated with a morally sickened generation

2 Thessalonians 2:1–2 (NKJV)

¹Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ²not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

Paul is urging those who are living in the age of Jesus' return to calm down and not be in a panic because of the days they are living in

- Shaken – to shake, to waver, to totter, or to be moved
- Troubled – inward fright, filled with worry, anxiety, or fear, a state of jumpiness or nervousness
- Mind – intellect, will, emotions, the ability to think, reason, or decide

Whatever controls a person's mind ultimately has the power to dictate the affairs and outcome of that person's life

Paul is urging his readers to be careful who they listen to and open up their minds to in the last days

2 Thessalonians 2:1–2 (NKJV)

- Imposters were writing a false gospel (as Paul)
- spirit – a spiritual experience or utterance

Strange, ecstatic, utterances, weird revelations, or a euphoric proclamation that is out of sync with the revealed word of God

Whatever these believers were reading or listening to, was a counterfeit message stirring up fear and alarm in their hearts

2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NKJV)

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

- Do you have friends and family who are unsaved, or wandered from the truth of the Gospel?
- Pray for God to open their spiritual eyes to the truth and be transformed by the power of Jesus Christ
- Societal attitudes and morals have plummeted to almost unimaginable depths
- Our spiritual climate is one that accepts the worlds system as the norm
- Becoming more and more intolerant of those who stand for moral absolutes

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

- Deceive – to beguile, to cheat, to trick, or to mislead one into a false impression or conclusion

“*The time is short*” has often been said over the course of time, but it has never been more true than in this present hour

We must not bury our heads in the sand and ignore what the Holy spirit clearly wants us to understand

Action steps to build a spiritual wall of protection

These steps are simple but when acted upon consistently, they will spare us from all types of troubles

Pray every morning

Psalm 5:3 (NKJV)

³ My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct *it* to You, And *I will look up*.

- David says, “*I will look up*”
- David was surrounded by enemies both inside and outside his home
- He was tempted to struggle emotionally
- He knew he needed to look up every morning
- Ignoring this principle will leave you troubled, nervous, and worried
- You will lack spiritual power in your life

If you do this you will remain in a state of abiding in peace

- You will walk through each day with confidence
- You experience power to overcome daily problems you face
- You will learn how to live in a state of continual fellowship with the Lord

Becoming intentional about beginning each day with prayer confirms that you are serious about your commitment to God

Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

- You may say, “*Is it really possible to remain in a state of prayer all day?*”
- Yes! When you live this way, it opens your heart to receive from Him
- It sets the tone for your day as you expect God’s guiding presence and goodness to manifest in your life
- You will find yourself becoming more spiritually in tune to the things around you
- It will heighten and sustain your spiritual sensitivity

Read your Bible every day

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

¹⁰⁵ Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

You must determine that the word of God will be the guiding light that leads you down every path and decision

Joshua 1:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

A great part of your daily victory depends upon you faithfully sticking with the word of God

By taking time to read God's word and allowing it to enter your heart and mind, you give God the ability to do a supernatural work

- It will help you in not allowing other voices or ideas to sidetrack you
- Use a bible reading plan to get started
- This will help you stay on track and be accountable

The Bible will feed you, help you, ensure that you stay on course, and keep your heart soft before the Lord

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In these last days it is vital to have the word of God in your heart and at your disposal to successfully defeat demonic forces that will continually attack your mind

Quickly confess sin and receive the blood of Jesus

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

As soon as you realize you've done something or thought something wrong confess it!

We all commit sin, some unintentional, and at times intentional
We must quickly confess it and receive the cleansing blood of
Jesus

Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV)

¹³ He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever
confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

When we ignore or try to hide sin, it negatively clogs our
spiritual lives and makes us susceptible to the attacks of the
enemy

When we confess sin, it keeps us free of self-condemnation and
attack, and keeps our hearts pliable

- Don't let your heart become hard through unconfessed sin
- When you confess sin you immediately are forgiven
- Jesus' blood will cleanse you from the unrighteous action
or thought that grieved the Holy Spirit
- This is how you stay spiritually free in your soul

Put on the whole armor of God

Ephesians 6:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil.

- Each part of the armor of God will help build a wall of
protection
- It will not work unless you consciously "*put it on*"
- Don't leave your house spiritually naked

God has provided mighty spiritual weapons that we can arm ourselves with

- The belt of truth
- The breastplate of righteousness
- The shoes of peace
- The shield of faith
- The helmet of salvation
- The sword of the Spirit
- The lance of prayer and supplication

In these last days spiritual conflicts will become more and more intense

- You need God-given spiritual weaponry
- It is the only way you and I can stand

2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (NKJV)

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

- Fasting and prayer will pull down strongholds in your life
- Check out our website – Get Involved

Books – Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare Manual, Fasting for Breakthrough and Deliverance – John Eckhart, Dressed to Kill – Rick Renner

Make a covenant with your eyes

Psalm 101:3 (NKJV)

³ I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.

- Very often, evil finds its way into our mind and imagination through our eyes
- Make a covenant with your eyes to help build a wall of protection

Matthew 6:22 (NLT)

²² “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light.

- If your eyes focus on what is healthy, it will bring good things into your mind
- When your eyes focus on vile, foul things those things will enter your mind and affect you negatively
- The eye is the window to the soul

We are living in the last days

- The environment around us is wicked
- Especially sexually lewd things
- Constantly on display before your eyes

If you don't stop those things from entering your mind you are giving the devil a tool to use against you

- It is essential to make a covenant with your eyes

Determine that you will not give permission for any wicked thing to be displayed in your sight

Maintain a strong relationship with those to whom you are spiritually accountable

Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Where *there is* no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

Proverbs 24:6 (NKJV)

⁶ For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

- A person who has wise, godly counselors in their life is a wise person
- Everyone needs someone to be accountable to
- Someone you can turn to in time of need
- It could be a pastor or someone further along in spiritual maturity
- Someone whose counsel you respect
- Someone trusted, confidential and mature

Psalms 54:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Behold, *God is* my helper; The Lord *is* with those who uphold my life.

- Who do you have that strengthens your soul?
- Someone who helps you think through decisions and situations
- Someone who will help you realign your emotions with God's word
- Someone honest and forthright and pray with us
- There are times we need someone to speak into our lives who will watch out for our souls

Regularly attend a church that teaches from the Bible

Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Regularly attending a church where you are encouraged from the Bible and strengthened in the presence of the Holy Spirit through worship, with other believers, will help build a wall of protection around your life

- A place where you can receive a steady, healthy diet of God's word cannot be underestimated
- The amount of fire burning in your core is directly related to how much word is planted in your heart
- Where you regularly attend church is a vital part of that equation

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

When you hear the Scriptures expounded under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, its supernatural power is unleashed

- Every part of your being is touched by the power of God's word
- Your heart, will, thoughts, emotions, and memories

The preaching and teaching of God's Word encourages us, confronts us, and helps us conform to the likeness of Jesus Christ