

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

Action steps to build a spiritual wall of protection

- **Pray every morning**
- **Read your Bible every day**
- **Quickly confess sin and receive the blood of Jesus**
- **Put on the whole armor of God**

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

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

Psalm 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

By using the Greek word for “*shall come*” or “*will come*” the Holy spirit is prophetically declaring that those living in the last season will feel completely surrounded, and encumbered on every side with no possibility of escape – **2 Timothy 3:1**

Yet those who listen to the Holy Spirit will be fortified and equipped for the days ahead

Consider when the angel of death passed through the land of Egypt prior to the Israelites exodus – See **Exodus 11 and 12**

- God warned His people in advance – as He always does

He told them clearly the actions they needed to take in order to avoid being negatively impacted by the judgement that was to come

- They were to smear the blood of the Passover lamb upon the door lintel and side posts
- The death angel would pass over their houses
- When death visited Egypt that night it infiltrated every Egyptian home, from the least to the greatest
- It took the firstborn of each family
- Even the firstborn of all the animals

Because they heard and heeded God’s instructions not a single firstborn child of the people of God was touched

The warning in our text, **2 Timothy 3:1** is God’s way of preparing us for the days ahead

- As believers our response is not to run and hide from the evil that is prophesied

We must never forget that Christ has given us a place of victory
2 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

- A “Triumph” was a parade to celebrate a military commander who victoriously returned home from battle
- This was the ancient custom in Rome
- When the parade commenced the larger population would gather and fix their eyes on the defeated foe
- He would be bound in heavy chains and made a spectacle
- The captive soldiers would follow behind to be taken to their place of execution
- Behind that would be ox carts full of weapons, monuments, treasures, gold, and silver that were confiscated by force from the enemies territory
- Next would be the cities regally dressed senators and magistrates marching to demonstrate honor for the returning commander
- The commander would be the last to enter the city, in a chariot majestically adorned, draped in sumptuous purple garments embroidered with gold
- Finally, a laurel crown placed upon his head
- The people would shout praises of victory while throwing flowers in exultation

All of this means that we are mighty champions in Christ

Christ’s power enables us to overcome every obstacle, barrier, and difficulty and share in Christ’s triumph over the enemy

In **Matthew 8:28** Jesus sailed right to where the demoniac of the Gadarenes was

- Others would have turned around, gotten back in their boat, and sailed away
- Jesus pressed forward with the power of the Spirit and the weapons of God
- We must fearlessly press forward, as Jesus did to advance against the enemy's strategies

God's Spirit is beckoning us to step forward with the authority of Jesus Christ to bring deliverance, freedom, and peace to those who desperately need it, and allow the power of God to prevail in every situation

Isaiah 60:1–2 (NKJV)

Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. ² For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.

- God has called, chosen, and anointed us to live for Jesus in these times
- We must lay hold of God's promises and rise up in this hour and let our light shine
- We were chosen for this hour
- It is our destiny

For us to become a highly effective instrument in God's hands to bring His love to those who are hurting, we should consider these action steps

Get your eyes off yourself

Philippians 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- You may be dealing with your own mountains in life
- Remember there are people around you facing even more difficult situations than you are
- A trick of the devil is to get us focused on and swallowed up by our own problems
- When we do, we don't see the needs of those around us

When we meet the needs of others, God will take care of our needs

Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

- Who are the people in your life who need a voice of encouragement?
- Who are the people in your life who need a healing touch from your hands?
- Who are the people in your life that need your feet to bring them strength and support

Evaluate the spiritual environment around you

You must learn to evaluate the needs of others as well as their level of spiritual receptivity, if God is going to use you to help people

Matthew 10:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

- Wise – Prudent, careful, cunning, discerning, thoughtful, intelligent, or sensible
- When a snake moves into a new territory it lays low and blends into the environment

This is a good strategy when God is asking you to touch someone’s life that is new to you

- Move carefully as you begin to step out
- Allow the Holy Spirit to give you insight and wisdom on what He is asking you to do
- When you sense a green light, reach out
- Don’t ignore the Holy Spirit when it is time to act
- Also know that there may be times He asks you to wait for a more opportune time
- We don’t need anymore people offended by rude Christians

God will always give us the direction to minister to someone at the right time and in the right way

Get rid of judgmental attitudes towards people

In **John 8:3-11**, Jesus was confronted with a woman caught in the act of adultery

- The religious leaders were condemning her
- Jesus intervened in the situation to save her life
- Jesus never condoned her behavior
- In fact, he acknowledged that it was wrong
- But then He spoke words of liberation and told her to go and sin no more
- Jesus judged her situation but was not judgmental of her
- Having sound reasonable judgment is not the same thing as being judgmental

We must learn to evaluate a persons situation in light of God's word and then come to a conclusion without becoming judgmental

Assume everyone needs encouragement

You and I are surrounded every day by people who are struggling in their personal lives

- They may not open up to you about it
- They need encouragement even if they don't realize it themselves

We should always assume people need encouragement

Romans 14:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Surrender to the gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

- Every believer has received gifts to minister to others
– See **12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1Peter 4:11**
- The term “each one” or “every man” literally means, every single person, no one excluded
- Every born-again believer has been graced with supernatural ability, and divine gifts to minister to others

Don't let fear stop you

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- Fear – a cowardly or timid person
- The Holy Spirit lives inside of you
- You have the supernatural gumption to do what God needs you to do
- You must put an end to fear and timidity if God is going to use you
- If not it will stop you in your tracks when Holy Spirit nudges you to reach out to someone
- It is a trap of Satan to keep you from becoming a person that God can use

Remember that you are always on assignment

1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

- Always – always, at all times, constantly, or perpetually
- Ready – always set to go, eager, prompt, and raring to get started
- Expect God to put you in the game

We should be ready to answer back, reply, respond, explain, or defend the reason for the hope that is in you

In the times we live fewer and fewer people were raised in church and so many have little or no understanding of what's in the Bible

- We should not be surprised when someone asks us about our faith
- In fact, we should anticipate that they will ask
- This verse is saying that we should always be prepared and ready to answer
- This is a prerequisite if we are to be used by God

Am I willing to be on a perpetual assignment to help anyone in need whom the Holy Spirit asks me to help?