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# Campbell Chapel

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Sermon by Bob Bradley



## Being an Overcomer

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Bob Bradley

We want to talk tonight about Being an Overcomer, and what it takes to be an overcomer. Also, what we need in our lives to be an overcomer, and why that we need to be overcomers. All those questions are things we need answers to because in this world, we need to be overcomers.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Overcomers. What does it take to be an overcomer? When you look at the word *overcome*, it is a word that means to get the better of, to gain superiority over, or to win, to triumph over, to conquer, to be victorious. Therefore, when John says here that...

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

He is telling us something here that I think we need to know. Since we are saved, if we are saved, if we are truly born again, truly children of Almighty God; then we have victory over the world. That is what that says.

I will say this too. In life, do you know what we do? We don't stand up and fight. Even though we have the victory, even though we know that we could win, even though the Bible tells us that we are victors, sometimes in life, we just don't want to do it. sometimes in life we say, "What is the use?" Sometimes in life, we say, "That project doesn't mean anything to me." Or "That avenue or event doesn't mean anything to me. Therefore, it is not worth my effort, time, or the struggle that we have to go to do some things."

I was reading and preparing and thinking about this lesson. I read a little story from Alexander the Great. It is supposed to be a true story. I don't know whether it is true or not. However, they were in a battle. One of the soldiers that was in his army was not going forward and not advancing. Alexander the Great goes up and says, "Hey, what is going on? What's your name?" He speaks to the young man. He says, "My name is Alexander." Alexander the Great looked at him and said, "Hey, you either get in the fight or change your name." There is a lot to that when you think about that.

We are Christian people. If we are going to overcome the world, then there are going to be some struggles. There are going to be some fights as we go through this life. It is going to happen. That is one reason I wanted us to read the book of Joshua.

We started on Monday; reading the book of Joshua. You can read in the book of Joshua about the great inheritance that God had for the children of Israel. They went to houses that they did not build. They ate fruit from vineyards that they did not plant. They drank water from wells that they did not dig. They went to battles and every battle that they went to when they trusted the Lord, do you know what they did? They had victory. Do you know why? It was because of who they were—who they represented.

You and I today, we don't have to be defeated today. We have the victory today. Our victory that we have can only be accomplished by us having faith in Almighty God.

In dealing with folks everywhere. I get a lot of calls from different people and different churches and talk about different things. I understand that happens, that works and how that works sometimes. However, sometimes as you listen to people talk it is no wonder we don't win a battle. It is no wonder that we are never able to conquer some of the great enemies in our life that we all have. It is no wonder that we can't do that because we don't have any faith in Almighty God. If we put faith in Almighty God then do you know what we will have? We have victory. That is what that says. We are overcomers. We are victors. We are conquerors when we put faith in Jesus Christ. That is something that we have to do in this day and time that we are living in; we must put our faith in Jesus Christ. When we do that, when the battles come, and they do come, when the fighting comes, when the wars come and the struggles come; do you know what we can do? We are victors because—not of us, not of our strength, not because we know something, not because we read the Bible, not because we did this—we are victors because we put faith in Jesus Christ. Amen! We talk to people, and even us sometimes; we get to the place where nothing is never right, nothing ever satisfies us, and we are not winning anything. Do you know the reason? Do you know the first thing that I think when I hear that? It is where is your faith in God at? You say you are a Christian. You claim to be a Christian. You claim that you are a child of God and that He has forgiven you of your sin, that He is going to take you to heaven, and He is this great God. Then where is your faith at in Him? Amen!

There is nothing wrong with that. Listen. If we are going to win the battle—we already have the victory—if we are going to win the struggles that are in our life, then we have to put faith in Him. Not in people. It is great to have confidence in people, but you had better put your faith in Almighty God because people will let you down. Amen! You will let people down.

[1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.](#)

The only way you can win in this battle we are in is by having faith in Almighty God. You will never win any other way. If you put your faith in a church, if you put your faith

in any other thing other than Jesus Christ; you are not going to win the battle. You are not going to win the battle. You are not going to win it. However, when we put faith in Jesus Christ then we cannot lose. There is no way, when we put faith in Jesus Christ that we are going to lose. You can't do it. The enemy is going howl. He is going to do all kinds of things to trip us up. He is going to put all kinds of people in our lives to try to lead us astray. He is going to put people everywhere in our lives that is trying to cause us all kinds of issues. However, when we put faith in Jesus Christ, we win the battle. We will have victory. There is nothing like victory.

If you go watch a sporting event on TV, or whatever; you have a winner and a loser. If you have football teams, there is a winner and a loser. Do you know what you usually see when the guys on the winning team, do you know what they are doing? They are usually jumping up and down. They are happy. They are rejoicing. There is just something about winning. However, you don't see much out of the losing team. You don't see much jumping around.

That is where our church is at today. We don't see much jumping around now. Do you know why? Because we are not winning very many battles. Amen! We don't have much victory in our lives. Do you know why? It is not God's fault. It is not anybody's fault but ours. It is because we are not putting faith in Almighty God. Believing faith; faith that will make us move. Faith that when say we believe God then we will have a faith that will move us around. Faith that is dead is worth nothing. There is such a thing as dead faith. Faith that doesn't move you to do anything for God; you don't need that kind of faith. However, genuine faith. Faith in the God of heaven. Faith that changed your life. Faith that you were born into the family of Almighty God. Faith that changed you is a faith that will move you. It is a faith that will give you victory when you trust Him. Amen!

Not only does he say that but he says this.

[1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?](#)

Do you do that? Are you a true, genuine, born again believer? Has He changed your life? Have your sins been forgiven? Do you know beyond any shadow of a doubt that if the Lord should call you just now and you die just now, you are ready to go to heaven? Do you know that? You don't have to tell me that. I don't need to know that. You need to ask yourself that question. Make sure that you are genuinely born again.

In our world today, the enemy is a counterfeiter. He is a good counterfeiter.

[1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?](#)

We cannot overcome the world if we don't have faith in Jesus Christ. It is impossible for you to be an overcomer, to have victory in your life over the struggles—and we are going to read a bunch of things here in a minute—over the things that comes in our life;

it is impossible for you to have victory over them and not truly be born again. It can't be done. You might be a church member. You might have been baptized. But do you know what you are not going to have? You are not going to have victory in your life. You are not going to have victory in your life. You are not going to have anything in your life to shout about. Amen! If you truly have been born again then you have some things to shout about. Amen! You may walk around in a defeated life all of your life, but that is not God's fault. You choose to live that way.

Again, we are saved. We are born again. We are on our way to heaven. God is the greatest thing that ever happened to us. Then we need to live like that or change our name. Amen! There is nothing wrong with that. If we are going to act like the world and live like the world and talk like the world then don't call yourself a Christian. Amen! There is nothing wrong with that. If you are going to act that way then don't put a label on yourself that you are a Christian. No. You are going to be exposed big time one day anyway. You may get by with it for a while. However, you are not going to get by with it for very long. God is going to expose it all one of these days.

Get this.

Overcome means to conquer and have victory. It means to win. It means to gain superiority over. It means to get the better of.

Why is it that Christians needs to win the battles that we have in this life? Why is it that we need to be overcomers? Why is it so important that we are overcomers? Why is it that we do that? Why is it that we live in a way that we can overcome?

As I read and as I studied; I thought about—if you read the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3, if you read those churches, every one of those churches—and if I understand things correctly, those churches cover from Pentecost until the rapture. We are living in the Laodicean age today. We are living in the age, we are living in the church when Jesus Christ is going to come and that is the Laodicean age. We are living in the lukewarm stage. We are living in the lukewarm church age. That is true. Just look around. That is where we are at. However, as you look at everyone of those churches, Jesus always makes a promise—get this—to them that overcome. Everyone of those churches that are in there—they all had different problems. They all had different issues. They all had different things going on. They all had different struggles. It was all in a different time, from Pentecost until today, 2,000 years, but in every church, Jesus spoke a blessing and a promise to them that overcame.

It is a struggle. In this life, it is a struggle. To be an overcomer, we can only have the strength that we need to be an overcomer by putting faith in Jesus Christ.

Get this. The Greek word for victory is nikiē. That is what it is. Also, the word victory, or nikiē is a word of one of the missiles that the United States has in its arsenal. I did know some of that until we started looking at some of these words. I love to look at words. Words are fascinating to me.

Listen. John is not talking to a special class of Christians when he is talking about overcomers. He is not doing that. He is not talking about a special group of people. He is talking about people like me and you. He is talking about people who have been born again. He is talking about people that believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. If you believe Him, you follow Him. If you honestly and sincerely believe that Jesus is the Son of God then you follow Him. It is more than head knowledge. When Jesus talked about believing, and the Bible talks about believing, and John talks about believing; he is talking about people's lives that has been changed, and people that are actually following Jesus Christ. When we believe Him, we follow Him. When we believe Him then we can have victory.

Why is that so important? Why is that so important for us to have victory over all the things that we face in this life?

I thought today, the greatest proof that we have that we are children of God is this. Is that we are born again. That is the greatest proof that we have that we can overcome the world, and we will overcome the world is that we are born again.

[1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?](#)

The proof of the new birth is the proof that we have what we need to be able to overcome all the struggles in this life. Therefore, if you have been born again, then you have the ability through faith in Jesus Christ to be able to overcome all the difficulties that are going to come in life. They are going to come.

I'm working on something that we are going to talk about here in a few days about struggles and the Lord will help us that we can put all of that together. There are many things rolling around up here.

However, the struggles are going to come. Struggles are not always bad things for us. Problems are not always bad things. Sometimes they bring out some good things in us. Sometimes it helps us get rid of some stuff that we don't need. Sometimes it drives us to our knees. Sometimes it puts us in a place that we have nowhere else to look except to the God of heaven. I have been there and I have done that. I have been to those places before that I did not want to talk to the kids. I did not want to talk to you guys. I did not want to talk to the doctors over there at the hospital. I told them to take the IV's out and let me alone. I told Deb to get my Bible and give it to me and I put it under my head and told everybody else to get out because there wasn't nothing else that no one could say.

There are times that will bring some awesome things in your life. Difficulties can bring some awesome results in your life when you will just trust the Lord. When you will just trust Him. Amen! The thing—get this—that mankind needs more than anything else in the world, and I am talking about people who are saved; we need to put our faith in Almighty God so that when the difficulties in life comes, we can overcome. Why is that

so important? We have heard here tonight about struggles. You have them and I have them. Some of my problems, you have no idea what they are. Your problems, I don't have any idea what they are. Here is the thing. The problems I have you can't fix. And the problems you have I can't fix. However, the thing that we need to remember is if we are saved, if we are truly born again, if we truly have a genuine experience with Jesus Christ; we have someone that will give us victory. We have someone that will fight our battles for us.

Every battle, except at Jericho, that Israel fought in the promised land; they won. It wasn't because they were superior fighters. It wasn't because they had a superior army because they didn't. They all had been born in Egypt and raised in the wilderness. They did not know anything about fighting. However, do you know what the difference was? They had faith in Almighty God. They crossed the river. They came across the river. They left the wilderness. They came across the river. They came to the place where they had faith and obedience, in Almighty God and they came across the river. They got to see.

Here is the thing. The reason they won the battles is because they had faith in Almighty God. They didn't at Jericho. They lost 36 people, if you read and if I understand things correctly. In all the conquests of the land, that is the only 36 people they lost. Do you know why? It was because they did not have faith in Almighty God.

You cannot win the battles and not have faith in Almighty God. The Jebusites, the Canaanites, Hivites, Perizzites, and all those other dudes—they are too strong for us. They are smarter than we are. Amen! They really are. When it comes to worldly things and what they do; they are smarter than we are. The Bible says they are.

When we trust the Lord, when we trust Him and put faith in Him then do you know what we can have? We can have victory. We will have victory.

Listen. The greatest need, one of the greatest things that man needs is victory over the world. You and I need it tonight. As we go through life, as we raise children, as we raise grandchildren, as we live, as we work jobs, as we deal with people and whatever we do in life, we need to be able to have victory. We can have victory simply by putting faith in Him.

In the world, the world is full of suffering. Amen! Do you know anybody that is suffering today? Have you been suffering? Have there been times in your life that you have suffered? Sure, there has. We need victory over that.

Not only that but also, we live in a world that is full of disease. Amen! Man needs victory over disease.

Not only that but also, accidents are everywhere. All you have to do is go down the road today and you look at somebody texting or talking on a cell phone and sometimes that is dangerous to get out with all the accidents that have happened.

Not only that but also the corruption. There is corruption everywhere. From Washington right down as low as you can get there is corruption.

There is hate. I have never seen a time in my life where there is so much hatred. People hate one another and say they are Christians—there is something wrong there. You are not saved hating anybody. I don't care who you are. If you have hatred in your heart then you need to get saved. You need to change your name. If you say you are a Christian and you hate then you need to change your name. Amen!

Bitterness, there is so much bitterness. There is murder, and war everywhere. There is arguments and backbiting. There is pride and arrogance. We need victory over these. We need victory over these. Christian people, born again people; we have victory over that. If you don't have victory over that then you can't have. If you practice that lifestyle then you need to change your name.

Immorality is running wild. Everywhere that you look, immorality is an accepted thing today; among children, young people, middle aged people, old people. Immorality is accepted with people. However, it is not acceptable with God. God is still yet...and God is going to judge you.

Wickedness and drugs—do you see some of the horrible things people are doing because of drugs? If you watch the news 5 or 15 minutes a day, the horrible things that people are doing because of drugs. Again, the bitterness, and the hatred.

Just a couple of days ago there were some people arrested for killing 8 people, a couple of years ago. This was right here within 20 miles of where we are at tonight.

Wickedness, bitterness, hatred, drunkenness and envy; we need victory over these things. We need victory over these things. We need to be overcomers. We need to live in a way that we can overcome these things. Do you know what? We can if we put faith in Jesus Christ. That is the only way we are going to win. That is the only way that you are going to be able to get over all this stuff. If you don't it will drive you crazy. I promise you it will give you ulcers. It will cause you all kinds of issues. It will give you stomach problems. It will drive you crazy if you don't put faith in Almighty God. Because this stuff is real stuff. In everybody's life, and everything I said to you here tonight and some more; hunger, homelessness, pain, hurt, selfishness, and greed is everywhere. We deal with those things. The only way that we can be an overcomer, the only way that we can have victory over all these things is by putting faith in Jesus Christ. There is no other.

The two greatest things are these that we need victory over and we need to be overcomers over is this. This guy is dying every day and you are dying every day. Amen! We need to have victory over death. Amen! Everybody should say amen on that one. We need to have victory over death. The only way that we can have victory over death and victory over corruption is by putting faith in Jesus Christ. There is no other way. There is no other way.

The battles that are going to come in life—I don't care who you are. I don't care how much you read the Bible. I understand that sometimes our lifestyle brings issues. I understand that. However, these things I read to you tonight, the majority of people that are listening to me here and around the country tonight; you are going to face these times in life. Put faith in Jesus Christ. Trust Him. Spend more time on your knees trusting Him. Lord, I know I am saved. Lord I know that I have been born again. Lord I know that I am your child. Lord, I know your presence dwells on the inside of me. Lord I can't fix this problem. Lord this is too big for me. Lord this is beyond me. This is smarter than me Lord. I need your help. I need for you to give me victory. Do you know what God will do? God will help you through the issue. God will help you through the problem. I don't care what it is. I don't care what it is God can give you peace while you go through problems. Your heart may be breaking. All kinds of things can be going on. However, if you are a genuine born-again child of God, if you are trusting Him then God will give you peace. Amen! God will give you peace.

We are blessed tonight. We have a God that loves us so much. Not only did He die to save us from a lake of fire but He sent the Holy Spirit back unto you and me. He made that statement. He was going to go away and if He went away He would send the comforter, the Holy Ghost and so forth. He would come. He would indwell us and teach us. We have the constant companion today and that is the Holy Spirit of Almighty God. We have someone that will comfort us and that will help us and that will bless us. amen!

Sometimes His spirit bears witness with our spirit. Do you know what it does? It lets us know we are alive. Amen! You might be washing dishes. You might be going down the road in the car; whatever you might be doing. However, it is good when He shows up. It is good when the Lord shows up.

You might be praying. You might be reading your Bible. He just comes alive to you. Amen! It does that. Do you know why it does that? It is because this book is alive. Amen! When I put faith in Him this book is alive. Amen! Because He is alive. This is His Word.

Come and pray—