

# The Message

## How Can I Overcome?

preached by

the late

**William M. Branham**

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in Jeffersonville, USA

“God’s Spoken Word is the Original Seed”

### HOW CAN I OVERCOME?

Preached 25th August, 1963 (morning)  
at Jeffersonville

Let's bow our heads for prayer.

Our Father, we thank Thee this morning for this grand time of coming together again and the opening up of the Word of the Lord and laying It here before us. And with prayer now that the Holy Spirit will take that which is God and will deliver it to us, that we might leave this place of worship today with happy hearts full of joy, and see Your great power of deliverance, Lord, how it delivers the captive and sets them free, makes known to us the things that were, and that are, and that shall come. And we just thank Thee for these things.

We pray that You'll bless us as we study Thy Word now together. And when we leave, may it be said in our hearts as we go along the way, "Our hearts burned within us as He, the Holy Ghost, talked to us while we were in the way."

Bless every minister today everywhere, Thy servants that are standing for this Thy Truth. Answer their prayers for the sick. Heal the sick bodies of those that are suffering.

Lord, we would ask that You'd go out among the people and seek out that predestined seed out there, Lord, and bring them around in some way that the Light will fall across their path, Lord; for we believe that the hour is getting late, the sun is swiftly sinking in the west. Then it'll soon be that time shall be no more. And time and eternity will blend together when God and His people blend together. And we pray, God, that at that time we will be numbered among those that'll be blended into Christ, that are called His Bride. Help us today as we prepare, knowing not what tomorrow will hold, but we are ready to receive anything, Lord. As long as we know that Thou hast it for us, we are ready to receive it. We ask this blessing for the glory of God in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (You can be seated.)

I was certainly happy this morning when I walked in and saw that the people were gathered together for the service of the Lord. And we are giving an announcement now for tonight. There will be a healing service tonight. We'll be praying for the sick tonight.

Just a few moments ago as I came in, Billy, my son, told me, "There's a gentleman here that's just a poor man that has driven from a long distance. I put him in the room, Dad."

I got in late last night and didn't get to study much on the Sunday school subject that I was going to talk on this morning, so I picked up some little notes that I had taken from what I heard some brother say, and have taken from that a text for the Sunday-school lesson this morning while we prepare for the evening service.

And Billy said, "There's a man in there that's sick. I wish you'd go in and see him." So I went into the room just now, and a brother about my

age and his wife were sitting in there. And the Holy Spirit came down among us in the room.

Just think, I was just making mention of a healing service, and there He was. See? And He told this brother all about what he had done, and what he had been doing, and what caused his trouble, and where he came from, and all about him. And there was a great dark shadow hanging in the room; then it started getting lighter, lighter, lighter and lighter; then the Holy Spirit took hold.

Now, I think the man is somewhere back there now. He and his wife, maybe, can't get into the building, but they said they were going to stay anyhow for the services. They come from up around near Yakima, Washington, and drove in. And he's a minister of the Gospel. But just to see the grace of God there, when the man had been in an institution and had treatments and everything, the Holy Spirit revealing all of this! When the doctors had been trying hard to do everything that they could, perhaps, for the man, but it just took that certain little touch from God to turn the tide. Shock treatment is all right, but it's rather like what we call "a shot in the dark," you know. It might make you worse (see?), because you forget everything you ever knew, when they put that medicine into you. But the Lord God, how He sends His grace and mercy! And even *before I ever offered a word of prayer for him*, he was already over it. See? It just took that certain something of God, that certain touch to do it. I oughtn't to say this, but yes, I look over and see the man now. What? I didn't know whether you'd make it today or not.

Down in the country is where I've been staying this week. I love my friends down there. It's a little vacation before these big meetings. You see? And I come home to go down there and go out squirrel hunting with these brethren. And these families that I stay with down there are certain lovely people. And the man's a real brother. Friends they are. And one of them is a great lover of hunting dogs. And he has a pen full of them up there. And I saw the prettiest little bound down there, a little fellow. He was what I call about half-a-dog high and two dogs long, you know. They were running around the house there, and I thought, "My, wouldn't Joe like to have something like that?"

And of course out in Arizona I couldn't use him. He'd get in the cactus, and that'd be the end of him. So then I said, "You can't have dogs in there in that part of the country. They just couldn't use them. The weather, the condition of the country with cactus is wrong, and they'd get killed. And then, true, with a hound out there, a wolf or something would kill him perhaps anyhow, if he'd get out."

So then this man said to me, "You can just have him." But I couldn't take him. I appreciated it. I came to find out, it's one of his favourite dogs.

And this man's got a lovely little wife and some little kiddies. And the other day she started to back out with his car (and she had an Oldsmobile car) -and the little dog's only about that long, just a puppy-and she ran straight over him, that Oldsmobile going right across the little dog in its

back here. And it mashed it down where the rocks on the driveway had just pinched across its little tummy down here, you know. And the little wife, instead of running the little dog over to the veterinary (of course the veterinary would have just put it to sleep right then and killed it) -and there was another young man with me, and as soon as he got up there, he said, "If that was my dog I'd shoot it, that's all, rather than let it suffer like that."

I said, "Well, let's not shoot it. Let's wait a little bit." I got everybody away and went and prayed for him, and the little dog followed me up on the porch. See? "Whatever thing that you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive it; and you shall have it, it'll be given to you." "Whatever thing! That's our God, isn't it? He's marvellous and wonderful, and we certainly love Him this morning, and are expecting Him.

I saw the other day an old couple, the mother and father of a very fine member of this congregation of believers. And the mother is, oh, I suppose she's close to a hundred, and the dad is too. And for about twelve years this man has never moved, just lying straight on his back. He can't lie on his side or anything he's just lain there for *twelve* years (old age). And the mother is now about his age, I reckon, somewhere close to a hundred, and the poor old thing has just about lost her mental control. She's thinking somebody's taking all she has. And now I looked across the table, and all of us, young and old, were sitting there; and I said, "Where are we going? What are we doing?" The lady that I was staying with then, that was her mother and dad. And I said, "You're headed that way too." It's exactly right, every one of us. See?

Just think of it just a moment, before we start our lesson. That's where you're headed. What are you struggling for? So that you can live. What are you living for? So that you can die. Wouldn't it be most foolish if we didn't accept God's provision for Eternal Life? What could we think about? What could be on our mind that would attract our attention from that to anything? What if you owned a hundred-million dollars, and you owned the state of Indiana or any other state, or even the nation, or as far as that's concerned, the entire world? If you live long enough, you've got to come to that too. See? And constantly, day by day, every time your heart beats, you're going right straight to that. See, there's no winning for you. You're on the losing side, and you've got to lose. But remember the promise when He said, "He that'll lose his life for My sake shall find it." Now, what would be any more of a treasure to find than Life? Even though you found the whole world to be yours, but if you find Life, you've found the greatest thing that could be found.

I want to look to my lesson. I saw again just now another trophy of the grace of the Lord. About a few weeks ago I was called to the phone, and a lovely member of this church, or this body - I don't want to call this so much as a church; I want to call this just as I was talking to some people. They said, "Well, what church do you belong to?"

I said, "I don't belong."

"What denomination do you belong to?"

I said, "None."

"Well, what do you belong to?"

I said, "A Kingdom, a Kingdom!" And by one Spirit we are baptised into that Kingdom - by one Spirit, all into this Kingdom. Jesus said, "Pray: Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Now, when He stood before the Mount of Transfiguration, He said, "Verily, I say to you that some that stand here shall not taste death until they see the kingdom come in power." And it was foreshowed as we've been through it, they went on the Mount of Transfiguration. And the Bible said, "The Kingdom of God is within you." So this is a Kingdom people that professes that this is not their home. This is not our home. We are looking for the coming King to set up the Kingdom.

I was called on an emergency case of an old brother that's been like a daddy to me. I haven't known him very long, but I remember the day that I took him in here for water baptism. And the man will soon be ninety-one years old. And his lovely wife called me (she is a nurse), and said he had complete heart failure, besides that he had a coronary heart attack and complete heart failure. The doctor gave no hope at all. And the man was dying, and he called for me.

And I got in my little old Ford and started up the road to Ohio as hard as I could. And I didn't know one of my wheels was out of alignment: it ripped the tyre off it. And so then I, getting up there, coming out of a filling station about 11 o'clock, I was worried about him. I love him, and I know if it continues on, and the Lord tarries, why, sooner or later we're going to have to give each other up.

But that won't hurt the rapture now. See? No. They come first then. They are privileged that have gone on. They come first. See, we, which are alive and remain to the coming of the Lord will not precede those that are asleep. The trumpet of God shall sound, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. **Then when our eyes behold our loved ones, then we'll be changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, and with them shall be caught up together.** See, the ones that go first are privileged above those that are living.

And as I stepped out of the station just at 11 o'clock, the Holy Spirit said to me, "Don't worry about him. You'll shake his hand on the street again, and he'll come in the church," a man ninety-one years old dying! When I met his wife and his loved ones in the hospital at Lima, they told me about his condition. We went in, and looked at him in there. And he said, "Something's strange." They said, "He started changing for the better at 11 o'clock." Well, the Lord had shown those people so many things; they know that I didn't just say that, because they said it to me first. He started changing; they knew that I'd tell them the truth.

So last Sunday as I was going into the Blue Boar Cafeteria in Louisville where I think about eighty per cent of this congregation gather on Sunday afternoons to eat, whom did I see coming down the street? I tell you, my

heart quivered when I saw our Brother Dauch coming down the street exactly what He told me! And I shook his hand on the street.

Then I came back here for last Sunday night and spoke on the subject of *The Uniting of the Time Sign*. And then that came to pass, just what He said. And here he sits in the church today, right here by us, as a trophy of the grace of God. When shaking his hand under the oxygen tent he was under, I said, "Brother Dauch, you'll be all right. I'll see you in church again. That's THUS SAITH THE LORD." See? Here he sits in the church right here now-Brother Dauch.

And if I'm not mistaken, the minister I was talking about a few moments ago - the Holy Spirit came in and revealed all these things, told him how it happened and told him what he'd done, how it happened, how it came to pass, all that's been taking place since then, even to the character of his family and all about that and told him that it's over. The minister's sitting right over here at the right hand. Would you just raise up your hand, sir? There. He and his wife. Exactly. Just now. And here sits Brother Dauch right here now.

Oh my, isn't He wonderful? Those things which were, which are, and shall come to pass. One, two, three witnesses - the things which were, what you have done; the things that are going on now; and the things that will come to pass. And every time it's exactly, exactly in line with the Word. That's only God that can do that. Oh, aren't we most happy for these things?

Now, the reason I was taking just a little bit of extra time, is that Billy had to go and get his wife and baby. And he said, "Daddy, don't start preaching till I get back." So I think he's back now, and I oughtn't to have that much time anyhow. And I'm trying to get away from these four hours of strain that I put you all under here and make it thirty-five, forty minutes (you see?), and trying to keep it to that.

Now, I was commented on once in Chicago. I got it to thirty minutes or something, thirty-five minutes. Billy said, "You're really improving, Dad. I'm kind of proud of you for that."

Well, maybe this morning, to make it a little Sunday-school type, I won't keep you too long; then you can go out and have your lunch, and pray, and come back tonight for a healing service. We're going to form a prayer line tonight and pray for the sick.

Now, if you know any people around anywhere that are sick and want to be prayed for, you bring them here tonight. See? Now, if you have to bring them any way, get them here. See? That's the main thing, to bring them here tonight. We can all meet together that way. It's hard to make calls, going to place after place, then you leave out somebody, and there's a hard feeling. But if I can get them all in one place, then I can pray for them. Now, if the people want to be prayed for, they can be. You say, "Will they?" Oh, certainly; they'll be prayed for. Bring them on in. The Lord willing, we'll be here to pray for everybody, because I feel that that third pull is

beginning to move. You see? It's within me now. I want to pray for everybody.

Now, let us turn this morning to a familiar old Scripture which I picked up in a sort of hurry last night, being really sleepy, and wrote out a few more Scriptures to go with it. And I mean to be complimentary, in that I heard some brother once use this text, and I jotted it down. I thought, "Well, I believe I'll jot that down, because it might come in handy." A lot of times we do that. I noticed many of you here have a piece of paper. And a minister could be saying something, and then you'll catch that point, and something will strike within you. And then if the Holy Spirit's doing that, then you'll start building from that very point right there a message for the Lord. And that's all right, I notice in meetings wherever I go, preachers and people jotting down. That's all right. That's what we're here for, is to try to help one another along the road.

And now, let's turn to Revelation, the 3rd chapter, at the church ages, repeating a church age. But now, I could take this one text, and with the Holy Spirit, preach on it a hundred years and never get what's in it out, because in this one text, like all the texts of the Bible, it's all tied together. And I want to take this as my subject this morning, *How Can I Overcome?* Now, I chose this, because I think that it's a time that we should never let the Spirit of revival die. We've got to keep in revival, constantly be revived every day. Paul said he had to die daily that Christ could live. And we must never let that revival die within us.

Now, in Revelation the 3rd chapter and beginning with the 21st verse we read this:

*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

Did you notice the arrangement there? See, "Sit with Me in My throne;" not on My throne, in My throne. That's in His domain. See? And now, as Christ is the throne ruler at this time of the complete domain of God, so will the Church be with Him, the Bride be with Him in His throne in the entire domain. See? Not "on My throne," but "in My throne" (see?), where His domain reaches. A throne is over a domain. And a domain reaches just as far as its boundaries do, and this is from eternity to eternity. Just think of it.

Now, as we study this, my purpose is not just to come here to fellowship with you people, though I love to do that. But if I had a chance to do that, **I would come to your home, and shake your hand**, and talk with you, and sit down, eat dinner with you, and sit out under the shade tree, and talk, and fellowship a while. But when we come here, we are here for one specific purpose. This is the house of correction. This is the

throne. This is the throne of God, and judgement goes forth from the house of God. And here's where we come together, gather with one another in love as only Christians can love. But in here we are under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Ghost is among us. And we're here to take reckoning among ourselves, to see where our short places are, our shortcomings, and how can we move from where we might be over to where we ought to be now, from where we are to where we ought to be. And that's what we study. Ministers study those places for their people. When they see the people, their lack, then they begin on that.

Now, I think that maybe the church should soon be taking just a little step up higher at this time. I don't plan this morning on showing these things, but I think shortly, the Lord willing, before we preach on those Trumpets, I want to bring the church just something that you should know, I believe, now.

And now, we're speaking on this overcoming. The word *overcome*, of course, you know what it means. You've got to have something to overcome. And this church age that the Holy Spirit is speaking about here, the Laodicean Church Age (as we have just been through it), needed a rebuking. Laodicea had to be rebuked, because of its indifference towards Christ that put Christ outside in their age; and Christ was on the outside trying to get back on the inside. That's love. After He had been put out of His own house, He was trying to come back in, and said, "He that'll open the door, I'll come in to him." See?

The church itself as a whole had put Him out. But now notice, His call here is not just to the church: "He that overcometh." See? Not the church, that would be she (see?), the church body. But it's he that overcometh, the individual that will overcome. Now, Laodicea had it coming to her.

Now we see it then, knowing that this is the Laodicean age, and knowing that this age needs a sharp rebuke from God. It needs a sharp rebuke. And when our clergy get so soft and dotty, like some aged grandfather to his grandchildren, all that they do is perfect to them.

It's been said so much that God is such a good God that they try to make God just a big dotty grandfather. You see? But He is not. He is a Father, and a Father of righteousness, of correction. And love is always corrective. See? Love corrects. No matter how badly it hurts, it still corrects. A real mother will correct her children; a real dad will correct (see?). If you just get soft and dotty, it's not love.

I was crossing an old log the other day down a wash or what is called a hollow. And I jumped up on this log. On the outside it looked good, looked like a big old beech log, but when I jumped on it, oh, a great chunk of it fell off; it was really rotten and dotty. I said, "That's the way the Christians are becoming." They've been dead in sin and trespasses so long as to become dotty. They can hold no weight at all. They don't know what overcoming means. I began to think of this text then. Overcome, keep life in you. When life went out, that's what brought that log to that condition. See? And it made it worse than ever when it lay in the branch where the water was.

And then, if now you take a Christian that's supposed to be a Christian, but has let the Life of God go from him, though he's experienced the joy of serving Christ, and is living in the church where such is going on, he rots twice as quickly (see? Right!), living right in it.

**So if we are trying to follow the Message of the hour, or at least this part of the Message, we should live constantly in the Life of Christ.** See? Because if you don't, you lie around, and know that these things you're supposed to do, yet don't. The Bible says, "He that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it's sin." And you become dotty, rotten, when you're separated from the Life of God. So strive with all that's in you to stay in the Life of Christ, that you may be fruit-bearing.

We see this age that we're living in. It's one of the grandest ages of all ages. This Laodicean Church Age is the grandest of all the church ages, because it's the ending of time and the blending of eternity. And then, it's the greatest sinful age. There's more sin in this age than there's ever been. And the powers of Satan are many times harder to fight against than was the case in any age. See?

Here, back there in the early ages a Christian for his profession of belonging to Christ could be beheaded for it. He could be killed and put out of his misery, and go to meet God quickly. But now, the enemy has come in in the name of the church; and it's so deceiving. This is a great age of deception when, as Christ said, the two spirits would be so close in the last days that the very Elected would be deceived if it were possible. See, see? And, remember, Christ spoke of an elected people for the last days. See? It would deceive the very Elected if it were possible, so close are they.

The people can live a clean, holy life, not be sinful, adulterers, and drinkers, and liars, gamblers; they can live above that, and still not be with it. This is the age of life, of receiving the personal Life of Christ, the chemicals of His Body, what was in Him: first, under Justification, water baptism; second, under the new birth of Wesley, Sanctification, which cleanses; and thirdly, under the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, putting that sanctified vessel into service. See? The word sanctify is a compound Greek word which means "cleaned and set aside for service." Set aside for service. Now the Holy Spirit puts it in service. See?

And we'll notice, when the unclean spirit's gone from a man, he walks in dry places. That's exactly what the church has done, Baptists, Methodists, those who believe in sanctification. Then, Jesus said, the unclean spirit that went out returns back to this church body and finds the house garnished, swept clean, living pure, clean lives, all right. But then if that house isn't filled, occupied, then he comes in with seven other evil demons worse than he is, and the last stage of this place is seven times worse than it was in the first place. They'd been better to stay Lutherans than to receive that light and fail to follow it. So it will be with the Pentecostals. You know what I mean. The house is garnished.

As I was talking to someone the other day, he said, "They're very careful, even many of the holiness groups, not to call the Holy Ghost, 'Holy

Ghost,' because they identify themselves with Pentecostals when they do that." They say, "Holy Spirit." See? They keep from saying "Holy Ghost," because the Pentecostal common people just call it what the Bible says, Holy Ghost, although the Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost is the same thing. But they're very careful about it. They don't want to be identified with those tongues-speaking people, and that's the Holy Spirit Itself. See? What happened then? The enemy that went out under sanctification, that was washed out, returned back and found the house not filled with the Holy Spirit. Now the church has joined with the league of churches, with the World Council of Churches; and it's in a state now that connects it with Roman Catholicism and all the rest of it; and now it's seven times worse than it was when it came out of Lutheranism. That's where men take it.

And then look at the Laodicean Church Age after it has received the Holy Ghost. For with the knowledge of, and the Spirit of God within it, the works of God are denied by it and called an evil work. What about that? There's where Christ was put out of His own church. See? It never showed Him in the church until it came to Laodicea. But when He got to Laodicea, He'd been put out of His church and was trying to get back in.

Now, see, justification never put Him in. Sanctification just cleaned the place for Him. But when the baptism of the Holy Spirit came, it put Him in the people. And now, they've turned Him out when He began to show Himself and that He's the same yesterday, today, and for ever. They turned Him out, because they had denominated and the Spirit of the Lord doesn't agree with their denominations. You understand now? They put Him out: "We don't want anything to do with this telepathy; it's of the devil. It's fortune-telling." See? They don't understand. They have eyes and can't see, ears and can't hear. See, God only opens eyes as He will. He hardens whom He wishes to, and gives Life to those whom He desires to. That's what the Scripture says.

Now, we see these hours that we're in, this stage, and we see what it was. And the Holy Ghost is rebuking the age that put Him out. But in all that, did you notice, "To him that overcometh..."? Even in that worldly, wicked church age, "To him that overcometh..." is given a promise.

We find here that God has always had overcomers. He's had overcomers in every age. Always, every time in every age that has been on the earth, God always had somebody He could put His hands on as a witness in the earth. He's never been without a witness, though sometimes just one, but somebody overcame.

Now, it's like with the saints of old. A very fine man, a scholar, was saying after the Seven Seals, "Brother Branham, you being a typologist, how in the world are you going to put that Church in the rapture without the tribulation period in a type?" You see, if it's a type, there's got to be an antitype. There's got to be a type for that antitype to come from. And everything I say that is true has a type. It has a type. You have a shadow. And the Bible said that old things are a shadow of the new things to come.

He said, "But now you took the Old Testament as a shadow, and now what are you going to do with this Church?"

This man is a great man, a great teacher that's a bosom friend of mine, a very good man, and he's a lovely brother. And I wouldn't dare to say one word against the brother; I wouldn't anyhow as a Christian. I wouldn't say a thing against him. He doesn't agree with me on that one subject, but he's my precious brother; we eat together and oh, he's just a dandy fellow. I take his magazine, read his articles; and he writes some of mine, and so forth. And I've taken many a text out of what I've read in his articles, heard him say. He's a great man, but he just can't agree with me. I appreciate that, his sincerity, though he isn't just one of these pushovers, that just has to agree with everything you say. He's got his own convictions, and he stands for them. I appreciate that. And he's a good man. Oh, I am not a teacher or scholar at all, and this man's both, teacher and scholar. But I can't agree with him, because I don't see it. But it doesn't pertain to salvation; it's pertaining to the coming of the Lord.

He sees that the church has to go through the tribulation period for purification. I say the Blood of Jesus Christ purifies the Church. I believe that the church goes through the tribulation period, the church organisation; but the Bride does not. Would you choose a woman you had to purify before you married her? Christ's Bride is chosen, and She is elected, and She's God's Bride, the Bride of Jesus Christ.

And now, he said, "How are you going to type that? If that Bride goes forth, goes up before She goes through the tribulation period." I said, "I've got a Scripture that shows you the church in the tribulation period." I said, "Just read the Sixth Seal. That's all. She's right there under the tribulation period." But find out just before that, the Bride's gone. She's in Glory at that time; She has no purification. See? "He that believeth on Me has Everlasting Life and shall not come into condemnation or the judgement, but is passed from death unto Life." Christ gave the promise that we would not even stand at the judgement. So freely did He take my place, that I'm absolutely free. When I'm pardoned, I'm pardoned. How can He be my Redeemer and pay the price to take me from the pawnshop, and the broker still say I belong to him? I've got a written receipt (Amen! See?), written in the Blood of Jesus Christ. See?

Now, in that, there's where we come in. He said, "Now, how are you going to separate that elected Bride you talk about, how are you going to put that under a type?"

I said, "Very good." I said, "Here it is, in Matthew the 27th chapter and the 51st verse." Let me just read it and then we find out whether it was typed or not, whether it was the elected Bride. Matthew the 27th chapter and the 51st verse. All right. We read this at the crucifixion of our Lord:

*And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom;...*

Now, that was the law. The law ended right there, because the veil kept the congregation from the holy ark of God. Only an anointed priest went in there, and that, once a year. You remember? Now, God with His own hand, notice, rent the veil from the top to the bottom, not from the bottom to the top - it's some forty feet high - notice, not from the bottom to the top, but from the top to the bottom -- showing it was done by God. He rent the veil in two. Then anyone, whosoever will, may come and partake of His holiness. See? All right.

*... from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;*

*And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,*

*And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

There's that Elected, that Bride; not all of the Jewish church came forth at that time. All of them made the same sacrifice. All of them were under the shed blood of the lamb, but there was an elected group. And that elected group, as soon as the event came, that really believed in it, was sincere, sturdy. Now, I'm coming to the word "overcome"; now, hold that. These that had really overcome, sincerely making the same offering that the rest of them made, but in sincerity, overcame the things of the world, when the propitiation correctly was made for them - they were in paradise until that time, they had overcome and were resting, sleeping (see?) - many bodies of those that slept in the dust (see?) arose.

Now, if we had time we could go back to Daniel, that elected one that had overcome. And to him He said, "Close up the book, Daniel, for thou shall rest in thy lot. But when the Prince shall come which will stand for thy people, thou shall stand in thy lot." Here it is! Daniel, this prophet of God, saw the end time coming. And He said, "Daniel, you'll stand in your lot at that day." And here he was, come forth - not all of Israel, but the Bride type of Israel.

Now, the rest of Israel doesn't come forth until the general resurrection. And now, at the coming of the Lord Jesus, those who are **really loving** His coming, that are **living** for it, when He appears in the sky, the Church that's dead in Christ shall rise and those will be changed in a moment. The rest of them know nothing about it. Remember, they appeared to those in the city. See, the rapture will be like that. We'll see each other, and we'll see them. The rest of the world won't see them. There will be a catching away in a secret going, a waiting for that time, then a returning back to the earth for that glorious Millennium, the thousand years. The rest of the dead live not again for a thousand years, and then come forth at the general resurrection in which all Israel participates.

And also look there: the twelve apostles, the twelve patriarchs, are all represented. And we haven't ever got to that yet. Maybe, the Lord willing, we'll get to it in the New Testament, and see how those walls of jasper and twelve stones, twelve gates, twelve foundations, are all represented. Here they are on twelve thrones, the angel messengers of those days, to pass judgement upon those who rejected their message. Amen! There comes forth that great hour.

What a day, what a time we're living in! How we should check up, church! Now, we talk about these things coming, that are going to come; now **today let's drop back there, and see, check for ourselves, and see whether we're right in the faith.**

Now, let's talk of a few overcomers for a few minutes. In the days of Noah, which were typed by Jesus Christ as being like today. (I was supposed to have ten minutes; and now I'm a half-hour. I was just getting started on the first page. I'll skip a few of them if I can and get finished soon.)

Watch! In Noah's time, a type of today, Jesus had referred to it and said, "As it was in Noah's time, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man." As it was in Noah's time, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man. Notice, in all the antediluvian world, perhaps millions of people, there were eight overcomers. Eight people overcame, that were real, genuine overcomers. There were Noah's three sons, and their wives, and Noah and his wife. Eight overcame 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.** Jesus said, "As it was in that day so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man." Now, somebody's going to get caught outside that door. Many of them might have had good intentions, "And some day, if such things happen, we'll go in with Brother Noah, because he's a fine fellow." But you see, it caught just eight inside.

Now, think hard now; if you are lying around getting dotty, get in, hurry, quickly, because the door might close at any time.

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, the ark of the testimony in the days of the law. They followed the ark, and there is a third dispensation now, like Noah's time, not's time. There is now the present time. There's an ark now, and that ark is not a denomination, neither is it good works that you do; it's by one Spirit. Romans 8:1: We are all baptised into one body in the domain of that Kingdom, by one Spiritual baptism. No matter how good, how bad, whatever you are, you were put in that Kingdom by a Holy Ghost baptism. See? That's the only way you'll overcome. All that are under the shed Blood are overcomers, because you cannot overcome yourself, it's He that overcame for you. You're resting.

"How do 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 if you have to strain and pull (see?), then you're doing it. But don't try to do it.

It's just like putting a little baby's arm in a sleeve hole (you see?), he's just up, down, over, and everywhere else. See? He can't do it. "Put on your coat, darling." He can't do it. His little arm's up, down, and around. It takes your steady hand. And oh, how glad I am that I can just yield my hand to Father, and say, "Lord Jesus, I can't get in there. You help me to put the coat on. I quit trying." Just let Him do it.

See, if the little baby keeps trying, "Oh, I can do it, I can do it," he's just everywhere. He can't do it. Neither can you; neither can I. But if we just hold still and let Him do it, 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 ideas, your things, and surrender yourself to Him. He overcame 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, I believe they're taping this, and if it's on tape, whatever you do who's listening now, or who will listen hereafter (the hour is very late, and you do have good intentions), be caught inside!** Now, don't struggle. It's not he that willeth or he that runneth, but God - just let God. Just yield yourself to Him and walk on with a perfect, satisfied faith that what God has promised He's able to perform. It's not joining one denomination or another denomination, and running this, that, or the other, or trying this. Just yield yourself to God and walk with Him. Be peaceful, quiet, not interrupted, just keep on walking with Him. That's right.

That's what I told our brother that just had the breakdown. See? "Just yield to Him. He's here, He Who knows what you have done, and what caused your being and doing this way, and all that, He knows all about you; and now He just told you what to do. Now," I said, "the only thing you have to do is just go and do it, that is, forget all about the past walk, live for the future in the glory and presence of God."

Eight overcomers. In the days of Daniel there were four overcomers that could stand the test of fire and lions. Now, we're expected to be tested. That's a good lesson for my brother back there also. **He that cometh to God must first be tested! Tested how? With the Word. That's God's test. Do you believe it? He that cometh to God must be tested. That only shows a true child (see?), the testing. And when the test comes, you can't overcome unless 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 is the greatest thing that ever happened to you. And I believe it's written in the Scripture. Peter said that our trials are worth more to us than precious gold. It's a testing

time. And one good evidence to us that God is with us, is when we're tested, for all children of God are tested and tried.

And Daniel was a man, a prophet. There were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and Daniel was the prophet. That was the size of the Bride in that day. There's lots of the church, about two million of them, went down there. But that was the size of the overcomers. And those overcomers were put to the test. And every overcomer has to be put to the test! And when they said, "You take back what the Word says or either be thrown into the fiery furnace," they refused anything but the Word.

And when Daniel was given a test that he should take back what the Word said, that they should look towards the temple, as Solomon prayed, and He would deliver them from all things; God would hear from Heaven, if they'd look towards the temple and pray. And it was said, "If any man prays within this number of days - and we're Medo-Persians who cannot change or alter our laws - that man will be thrown into a lion's den."

They set a trap for him. I believe that prophet knew that. But they set a trap for him. He walked humbly. When the time came for him to pray, when he knew that at the home place in Jerusalem there was a burning sacrifice on the altar, Daniel wasn't afraid of those spies. He raised up the shades, threw back the shutters, knelt down on his knees, and threw his hands up to God, and prayed. Why? Live or die, he had the victory; and therefore there was so much victory that the lions couldn't eat him. See? He overcame.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego had so much victory that the fire couldn't burn them. You know victory's a hard thing to burn out, or eat up, or do anything to. See? So they had it.

I might mention another character. In the days of Lot - Jesus referred to it - there were only three that overcame: Lot and his two daughters. Not even his wife overcame. She started out; she's a type. (I wish we had time; my thirty minutes are up right now. See?) She did all right; she left. Now, I've got to give this to you in just a moment.

Many of you have left too. Many of you left these things to take your stand, after you searched it through the Scriptures and found it's right. You saw the vindication of Almighty God, but not what somebody said was the vindication. It is what the Bible said would be, and here it is being done. You saw it was the Truth. So you set out to leave Sodom, leave the denominations, leave the things that bound you to a creed, and to follow Christ by the Holy Spirit vindicating Himself, by the written Word of God. In other words, you took the Bible instead of the creed. You set out to follow.

Well, Lot's wife did the same thing, you know. She set out to go with Lot, follow her husband, her children, her loved ones, but it wasn't in her heart. She still loved the world. So it's possible you can make a start and still have the world in you. See, she never overcame. And even though she was well on the road, it finally overthrew her. She had to take that one big, long, last look. There's where she got caught. Don't even look back! Don't

have any desires! Keep going! Put your mind on Calvary and keep moving towards Christ!

See, she started out as an overcomer, but she never did overcome. Oh, she left the denomination, she did. She walked out of Sodom with Lot, but she wanted to go back and have her hair cut. You know what I mean? She had to go back. She just couldn't stand the test. She had to look back again to see what the rest of them were doing. "Oh, you know, I have some good friends down there after all. And after all, this might be just a little move, I don't know whether it could be right or not. I've only got this man's word for it. Though he's my husband, but yet" (your pastor is your husband, spiritually speaking. You see?) "now, whether it could be right or not, I don't know. Maybe his revelation wasn't right." **Then, if you're not perfectly satisfied, you're not perfectly sure that it's the Word of God, then you can't go.** See? **You've got to be really sold out. You've got to know it; not just say, "Well, I see others doing it. I see a sign."**

You know, Israel started out. I could say the same thing and bring it in here. They started out two million strong and ended up with two men. That's right. They saw the works of God; they saw the manifestation of the Spirit; they saw great, mighty miracles being done there in Egypt and everything, and started out, but it wasn't in their heart. They didn't overcome; they just came out. And Jesus said, "And they perished in the wilderness and are eternally dead." Every one of them is *dead*; that means "eternal separation." Every one of them rotted in the wilderness.

But there were two men, Joshua and Caleb. And when it came to the showdown-the obstacles were so great that they looked like grasshoppers beside them - Joshua screamed out with Caleb and said, "We're more than able to do it!" Why? God said so. And they were overcomers. They overcame. They were the ones that were privileged, out of the whole great organisation of people, to take the real elected bride into the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb at the front line out there as the two generals led them right down to the river and crossed the river over into the Promised Land. Why? They believed the Word.

No matter that Dathan raised up, and so did Korah, and tried to say, "This man's trying to make himself above all the rest of us; he's more holy than the rest of them," after God had thoroughly vindicated the man. They said, "We'll just start a group of people. We'll make this, that, or the other. And we'll make our organisations." And they died and perished. But those men had that Word of the Lord, and they stayed with It. And they went over. **Not he that starts, but he that finishes. Many start the race, but there's one finishes it. There'll be many churches start, many groups of people. There'll be one group that finishes. They're the overcomers.**

Lot's day. Yes, she had to have that one great, long look back. "Oh, I'm leaving So-and-so down there. Those fine times we used to have, I'll never forget it," and she was caught shut out, as it was in the days of Noah. She

was shut out without mercy and she perished. And the lump of salt still stands there today. They claim - I don't know - you can break a piece off of it, and it'll grow back, a salt pillar. If you ever see that picture of "Sodom and Gomorra," you'll see the original pillar of salt that stood there.

Now, there's a difference between a pillar of salt and a Pillar of Fire. You have to turn one way.

Now, notice in John the Baptist's time. In John the Baptist's time there was found six that had overcome. In 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? A type of Christ and the Church, Christ and the Church, Christ and the Church. See, see?

Notice, it starts from a natural man. Noah - Moses - Joseph. The natural man Joseph, what was he? A carpenter. Then the priest, what was he? See? A minister in the house of the Lord, Zacharias. And from that to Simeon, a prophet, and a prophetess. See? Justification, Sanctification, Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Amen! Don't you see it? It's perfect. Six overcame. All the rest of them, they offered their sacrifices and everything, but these were elected. They overcame.

Notice, each church age, some out of each church age overcame the temptation of that age. I've got the Scriptures here; I don't think we really have time to read them. But we know how it was in each one of the church ages. It's the same now.

See, as I said at the beginning, you are born defeated. And that birth can never bring you to Life, because you're born defeated. And you're in a defeated world among defeated people, here among defeated creeds, defeated denominations. You've got to come to victory some way.

It's just like a lily. Whereas a lily I think is one of the prettiest flowers that there is. I'm very fond of those great calla lilies and pond lilies. I think there's hardly anything as pretty as a great big pond lily, or water lily. How it's radiant. And what is it comes up? It's a little seed down in the bottom of a muddy, mucky pond. Yet all the radiance that'll ever shine in it, is in it right then, in that little seed when it's in that mud. But it has to strive daily, knowing that there's something drawing it. It's black; it's dirty; it's mucky; it's slimy in that slime that it's living in, yet it presses its way through the mud, the muck, and the waters, and the stagnant places, until it sticks its head above in the light and expresses what's been hid in it all the time.

I think that's an overcomer that was once in sin, once did things that were wrong. Don't worry about it now. Now, why look back into the pond again? See, look what you are now!

God by His predestination (see?) has brought this seed of life, and it's expressing itself (see?), in coming to life. And now, on top of all of that, it has overcome. See, it doesn't express itself down there. It's getting up to express itself. Neither did you in your sin, and adultery, and everything that you lived in. You didn't express anything, but there was a seed in there. And it got a chance to press itself into life, and now you're in the

presence of Jesus Christ with the sunlight. It's brought out what you really were in the beginning. You see what I mean? You saw the Light. You believed God. You laid your heart open, and now you're a lily.

You remember my sermon on the lily: Reverend Lily, how he toiled. He does not spin, and Solomon in all of his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Look at him. He's raised. He takes nothing for himself. The lily doesn't care about himself. What does he do? He throws his beauty out, his life, that others might see. His life is expressed out that others might see the glory, that's in him, that was in him in that mud. Now he's on top; that's the overcomer. He overcame the mud. He overcame the things of the world, and now he freely gives himself out. Everybody can look at him, his life, you can't put a finger on it. See, he's a real overcomer. You can't say anything about him now, but say, "Come out of the mud." But he's not in the mud now; he's on top of it. Amen! You can't pin-point back what he was. What is he now? He's on top.

Then the bee comes by and says, "That's wonderful perfume. I believe I'll go and get my part."

He just opens up his heart, "Come on; I'm all right." Everything takes from him. See? He's a real pastor. He expresses the glory of God, and look where he came from. He had to overcome to do that.

One time he or she was young, and fair, beautiful. They had a lot of temptations to go through, but they overcame all that. See? They overcame; now they're expressing the real beauty of Christ in their life.

Notice, expressing through the mud. Jesus gave us the example how to do it. Now, we want to know how to overcome. Jesus told us how to do it. See, humility! He girded Himself, took a towel, and washed the disciples' feet, and wiped them. The very God of Heaven humiliated Himself.

We don't want to be humiliated. That's the reason women don't want their hair to grow out (see?), the reason they don't want to dress like ladies should dress. See, it's the same thing. They get humiliated. But Jesus, look who He was. Greatness (I'm going to say something) - **greatness humiliates itself**. Grace humbles itself. That's greatness!

I've had the privilege of meeting some great men. But it's these fellows that have got a change of clothes and fifty cents in their pocket to rattle, they're the fellows that think they're something when they're nothing. But I've stood with great men, I mean, great men, with ragged sleeves, cuffs; and they make you think you're the great person. **See, greatness is humility. Don't forget that, church! Greatness is expressed in humility**, not how fine you can be. I don't mean dirty, now; I mean humble in spirit. See? I don't mean they just didn't get out and go to wash and clean up. You should do that, you know that. See? But I'm talking about humility, genuine humility, not something that's put on, something that is real humility.

Jesus told us how to do it. He overcame. **Overcome** means "to stand the test" (that's right!), as all the old saints did, as Jesus did. In the midst of all His enemies He stood the test. Everything He was tested with, He stood

it. In the very face of sickness, and He being Messiah, He healed them. In the face of death, He brought back to life. In the face of Calvary, His own death, He defeated it by surrendering Himself. How? By the Word. He said, "You destroy this temple, and I'll raise it up in three days." The Word said so. See? And in the presence of death He defeated it; He overcame death. In the presence of hell He defeated hell and overcame hell. Yes! In the presence of the grave He overcame the grave. How? **All by the Word and humility.** Oh, my! There's the real Man. There's the One to make your Example. See? He defeated everything, overcame it.

Look. Temptation was for Him. You know that! The Bible said He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. He was tempted by drinking; He was tempted by women; He was tempted by everything that man could be tempted by. He was tempted by everything that we are; He was a man. And yet you couldn't put a mark on Him. No, sir!

*Overcome* means to recognise the devil in every one of his tricks. A lot of people say 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, as anybody is, a real devil. And you must recognise him as real! You must know he's against you, then, **to overcome you must recognise 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're more than a match for him. Amen!** There's real overcoming.

When you look back and say, "I'm doing this, and I'm doing that," then - oh, 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. Then you realise that you've overcome, and you know that he's a devil. You can't say, "I've got a sickness, but I don't believe it is a sickness." Oh, yes, it is a sickness. You've got cancer; you don't believe it is a cancer; but it is a cancer. It is a cancer. But remember, greater is He that's in you than he that's in the world. **You must realise 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. That's exactly the way the Scripture's written. That's overcoming.

I've got to hurry. I've had forty-five minutes now. I'm really running overtime now.

Notice, how to overcome. The God that's in you is greater than the one that's in the world. The god of the world is not as great as the God of Heaven which is in you.

He cannot stand against Him, any more than darkness can stand in the presence of light. Now, darkness cannot stand in the presence of light; I don't care how dark it is, light will put it out. It can't stand. Glory! But you take as much darkness as you want to, and try to stand against light just once, and see what happens. The One that's in you is Light. And the one that's in the world is darkness. So the Light is proved to overcome the darkness. And a man that's in Christ and knows that He's overcome the things of the world (amen!), the world has no more ties to him at all, he's

free. "Walk in the Light as He is in the Light, and the Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin, and we have fellowship one with another for ever." There you are.

He that's in you is greater than he that's in the world. Now, if you look back, and you're condemned, then you're still in the world. But if you're living above that, then He that's in you has led you above the darkness. Like the lily, he's above the darkness of the mud. He's above the darkness of the muddy waters. He's in the light, reflecting the beauty that was put in him before he left the mud. Amen!

Now, I feel like a shouting Christian. What was in there by God at the beginning, that pressed its way through and overcame. It overcame the shell; it overcame the mud; it overcame the waters. It overcame everything and was an overcomer and reflected the beauty and glory of God.

That's the way every believer does. That's the way Noah did. That's the way Lot did. Look what a mess he was in! That's the way Moses did. That's the way Joshua did. That's the way Daniel did. That's the way Shadrach and Meshach did. That's the way John the Baptist did, Zacharias and Elisabeth. That's the way that Simeon did, that's the way that Anna, every one of them, did. They overcame the mud that there was around them and packed into them, stuck their head above the thing, and shined forth the glory of God. That's what a real Christian does.

Remember, Jesus showed us how it's done. In forty days of temptation He was tempted more than any man ever could be tempted, in the temptation of Jesus Christ. Now, watch. He showed us how it's done. (Now, I will close just in a few minutes. See?)

Look, He showed us how it's done. How did He do it? By the Word. That's how He did it, for He was the Word. And Jesus said, "If ye abide in Me, and My Word's in you..." You're back to the Word again, the Word of promise. What is the Word of promise to every Christian? "Greater is He that's in you than he that's in the world." Then how do I overcome? Not 1, but the Word that's in me. The Word is God. **Then I overcome the things of the world, because it's the Word in me.** "If ye abide in Me, and My Word's in you, then just ask what you will." Just keep pressing up. You're coming to the top as sure as anything. See? You've got to come to the top.

In forty days of temptation, by God's Word He overcame. I want to stress something here just for a few minutes. Satan made three major assaults upon Him in that temptation. Watch, it's always in those three's. Don't forget this. He made three major assaults from the highest to the lowest. Satan tried his best to conquer Him, but He was the Word. Amen! What did He use? Himself, the Word. Satan's three major attacks, or assaults upon Him, but He met it with the Word. Every attack, he could meet it with the Word (watch this now!) from the highest to the lowest.

The first point he made his attack upon, was the use of His great power. For Jesus knew He was the Word; He knew His position. You believe He did? "I am the Son of man." He knew His position. And Satan

came and wanted Him to use His own power on Himself, to feed Him. He wanted Him to feed Himself, He was hungry. If a man gets hungry, he can do almost anything; he'll steal, rob, beg, borrow, anything. See, He had that appetite. And Satan used his first great major assault upon Him to take His power that He had been given to overcome with and use it on Himself. He didn't use it on Himself. No, He used it on others. That's right. He used it on others, not Himself-, it wasn't for Him, though He could have done it. He certainly could have done it.

But see how cunning the devil gets? The devil wants you to mind him. Jesus minded only what the Father said do. That's right. So Satan said, "It's written, He'll give the angels charge over thee."

He said, "Yes, but it's also written... " There you are. See, He knew who He was. The thought runs deeper than what is written. See, it's inspiration. The kernel is on the inside of it (you see?), what it really is.

Though He could have done it, He didn't do it. He never paid heed to Satan's propositions. "Now, here's a good thing." See, sometimes Satan can take you, and when you think that you're doing the will of God, he can make you a proposition and you'll fall for it. Yes, sir! He sure can.

Now, let's just take for instance our sisters. They're pretty, and he can get you to a place that when you let your hair grow out you didn't realise it looked so nice on you, and the first thing you know you get, as it were, to feeling a little stuck-up, a little above somebody else. Some of you men, you know what I mean. See, and he can also take that same thing and proposition it with you. That's right. See? You've got to overcome that. Just remember, you're living for God. **You have one objective and, that's Jesus Christ. Outside of that, there's nothing else counts. That's He.** Then secondly, for your family; then thirdly for yourself, but first, for God, and next, for your family, and next, for you. You're number three; that's the end of the road. You put yourself last; He did.

Look what He could have done. He said, "I could ask My Father, speak to Him, and straightway He'd send Me twelve legions of Angels, when any one of them could destroy the world." He said, "If My Kingdom was of this world, then My subjects would fight, but My Kingdom is from above." There you are. See, He could have done that, but He didn't. See? Though He could have done it, He never listened to Satan's proposition.

Now, have you heard people say, "Go and get your divine healer, I've got a man over here sick; I'd like to see him heal him."? Do you see that same devil? He's trying to proposition you. He's trying to make you listen to him instead of God. But a real, true servant of God will listen and see what the Father says first.

Like the little Stadskev baby, when they sent over here to me. Mrs. Stadskev said, "Brother Branham, I called from Germany." There was the American army with one of their jet planes sitting out here at the field which would fly me to Germany and back in a day. He was a chaplain. And the baby was lying dead. And that little mother was screaming. She said, "Listen! I know; I stood right there and saw that woman hold that dead

baby in her arms that died that morning. And I saw Brother Branham walk right out there and lay hands on that dead baby, and it came to life." She said, "This is my baby, Brother Branham." There had never been a death in their family. See? And this little thing took sick one morning and died that afternoon.

Here were all of them standing around and giving prophecies and so on, "The baby was going to be raised up!" and all like that.

I said, "Well, that's very nice, Sister Stadskev, but let me see what Father says." And I went out into the woods, and I prayed. I came back in, and she had called two or three times before I got back the next morning. Nothing.

The doctor said, "All right, if you have faith like that, lady, we'll never let the baby leave the hospital. Let it lie right here. You stay right here with it. That's all right."

Brother Stadskev went and saw the army and major, and they said, "Sure, we'll fly him over and bring him back."

And there was a plane sitting waiting to take me over that morning and bring me back that night; to Germany, to Heidelberg, Germany, for the resurrection of this baby. I said, "By all means God can do it, but let's see what His will is."

Then I went out and prayed all night; nothing happened. I came back the next morning; nothing happened. And I started into the room. Just then I looked, and there stood that Light hanging near the door. He said "Don't put your hand on that. Don't rebuke that. That's the hand of God."

I got her on the phone; I said, "Sister Stadskev, bury your baby. It's the hand of the Lord. It's God's will. Something would happen to that baby down along the line. You let it go right where God knows where it is. You can't go to it now. If it lives, you won't. You leave it right like that."

That great Lutheran preacher in Germany wrote a letter and said, "How I can appreciate Brother Branham, waiting for that clear-cut decision of God before he said anything!" That's it! Hold to God's decision! No matter what others say, or whatever it is, don't proposition with Satan at all.

If Satan says, "Now, it's all right to have water baptism in the name of the Father, Son..." If he propositions you with that, you leave it alone. God said otherwise. If he said, "You're a good man, you don't have to be ..." "You're a good woman, you don't have to do..." don't you be propositioned. If the Word says something different, you stay with the Word, regardless of what it is. That's the example Jesus gave you, and there's that major assault (you see?) that he made on Him.

Then, the second assault (I'll hurry; it looks as if the time just goes so fast). The next great assault that he made upon Him, was that He would be a show-off. And how that does hit God's servants, to be a show-off, to show what you can do. "Glory to God. Hallelujah, I'm a deliverer. I'm something." See?

"Come up here on top of the temple and sit down here." He tempted Him to do it. Now remember, He was tempted to do it. It was hard. Satan said, "Now, if you want to be something before the people, stand up here on this temple and jump off." See? "I'll give you the Scripture for it, because it's written, he'd give the angels charge over thee, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone; they'd bear thee up." To make Him a show-off in showing His authority is what Satan wanted.

No true servant of God ever does that. If you see a man showing off, his chest out, and all like that, just remember, there's something wrong there. No, God doesn't want that. Jesus set the example. He could have done it. He certainly could have done it, but He didn't do it. No servant of God is a show-off, trying to take God's power and show himself above somebody else.

You remember Moses did that? You remember it? God gave him power to do whatever he wanted to, made him a prophet. He walked down to that rock, and he smote the rock the second time. That was against God's will. God said, "Speak to that rock! Don't smite it again! You'll break all the types here. The rock's only going to be smitten once." But he spoke of the weakness of the Word when he did that, that It wasn't sufficient. Yes, the Word was what was represented, that rock was the Word. See?

The first time he smote the rock, and the waters came forth. And then they got thirsty again, He said, "Now, go back and speak to the rock." It was only smitten once. See, the insufficiency of the Word, Moses testified to it, the Word wasn't right. It had to be smitten again.

So Moses went down there and smote the rock like that; he said, "Come forth!" It didn't come forth, so he smote it again, and said, "Come forth! I command you to come forth." And the waters came.

God said, "Come up here. Come here. You glorified yourself. You took My power; instead of sanctifying Me, you sanctified yourself. Now, you're not going over into the land. Look over and see what it looks like. But here, you're going to leave right here." Oh, my! There never has been one like Moses, you know. Oh, no!

When Satan came to that show-off with Jesus, he said, "Get up on the temple here and jump off."

He said, "It's written (amen!): don't tempt the Lord, thy God." See? He met him with the Word in every major assault.

No true servant ever tries to show himself off with God's power. If he does, he loses right then.

The third great assault: Satan offered to forfeit this kingdom to Him. He did. Satan said, "See these kingdoms of the world? These are mine. I do with them whatever I want to. I'll forfeit them to you." But you remember, he was trying to get Him to forfeit it without the cross. If He had done, we'd be lost. He could have got the kingdom, but He had to follow the Father's will. He has to come back. He was tempted to do it now. That's a hard thing. He was tempted to take His liberty and be the King of the earth without the cross. But if He had, His subjects would have died. Satan would

have gladly made that proposition with Him. But He said, "Get behind Me, Satan."

He didn't do it. He came and suffered, and took the hard rugged route. He took the route of persecution; He took the route of death. **Are we this morning willing to take that same route that He has taken? Are we willing to die? Are we willing to give ourselves up to God, forfeit all the world and things to serve Him? See?**

Now, He didn't accept it. Though Satan was willing to forfeit it to Him, He didn't accept it. Though Jesus was tempted, He overcame for us. He endured all temptations for me and for you. See, He could have taken it right then. But what did He take the other route for? So that we could come and be with Him. And if He paid such a price as that, then how little would we be not to take it, when, remember, there's nothing here anyhow.

If you live a hundred years, what are you going to come to? Mental, and your mind gone, and all crippled up, and old, and shaky. That's where you're going. And that's the end of it. You come now. Overcome the thing. How do you do it? By the Word. **What the Word says, you do it. Walk humbly; live before Jesus.**

He endured all things for you and me. He is our Example how to overcome our evil generation as He overcame His evil generation.

Remember, when He came to the earth there was just as much unbelief or more than there is at any time. It didn't bother Him a bit. When they called Him a devil instead of God, when they called Him everything that could be done, it didn't bother Him a bit. He had one objective; mind the Father; keep the Word. The Word is God. He had one mind.

We're sometimes tempted to go back. Many of you are tempted to go back to the denominations, go back and take up, because all the world's saying, "What denomination do you belong to? What church are you affiliated with?" We're tempted to do that. All of us are. Our sisters are tempted to go back and join up with some of the rest of the churches, with some of the Assemblies, or Churches of God, still be Pentecostal and have your hair cut off and dress just about any way you want to. See, you're tempted to do that, go back and be popular with this wicked generation that we're living in, when this is the major sin of our day, the major sin among our people, worldliness. As the Bible says the Laodicean Age was, she's worldly, thinks she's rich, has need of nothing, and doesn't know that she's naked, miserable, wretched, blind! That's the sin of our day. When you hear the Word of God call out against it, and then you take the other route, you're unpopular with the world.

You're tempted to go back. I know, you keep saying it to me. I know you're saying it all the time. I know you get tired of my harping on these things. I get tired of seeing you do it too, this sin that I'm trying to tell you about. "Say, what are you harping on it for?" **Stop doing it then!** I'm trying to save your life by the Word. I get tired also. So just straighten up. This is a sin and shouldn't be done. Yes, sir!

If we are to overcome these things, we're expected to be tempted by them, by the world. "If you love the world, and the things of the world, the love of God's not in you," said Jesus.

Now, we'll just close in saying this: There's a reward for the overcomer.

Let me read something here to you. Turn in your Bibles. Let's go back to Revelation, the 2nd chapter. Watch here now, all these things I've been talking about to overcome.

Now, just look at yourself and see; examine yourself in the Spiritual Looking Glass. See if you've overcome.

Now, concerning the first message to the angel of the church at Ephesus, I want you to listen to what He said in Revelation, the 2nd chapter, the 7th verse. This is to that church age, when He told them all they'd done, left their first love:

*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him (the person, not the church) him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (See, the overcomers in Ephesus.)*

Now, the next was Smyrna. Now, to overcomers in that, we listen to this, at the 11th verse:

*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not, be hurt of the second death. (See, the overcomer.)*

To Pergamos, we'll find out what the overcomer had left for him. We'll read the 17th verse to the Pergamos church.

*He that hath an ear (that's the individual, not the whole group, the individual. That's the Bride coming out, you see, of the church) let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. (That's to the overcomer of the church age.)*

Now, the next is to Thyatira. Let's find out what the overcomer has in that day. Let's take the 26th verse.

*And he that overcometh, and keepeth my work unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: (That's right.)*

*And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. (See, he is with Him in His throne. Christ is to rule the nations with a rod of iron, and*

here is the Church that overcame sitting in there with Him to break the nations with a rod of iron.)

Now, let's go then to the Sardis church. Now, the 5th verse of the 3rd chapter:

*He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. (That's to the overcomer in Sardis.)*

Now, let's take now the 12th verse. This is to the church of Philadelphia:

*Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

Watch what the overcomer's promised. See? Now Laodicea, the last church age; there'll be some overcomers in there. Watch there! Remember each church age, the one succeeding it, inherits all that the other ones were offered. Watch, up here! Now, this is after they have received all these powers and these new names and everything written that He promised, to eat the hidden manna and so on all down through. Watch this last church age, Revelation 3: 21:

*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne (Amen!), even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

There's a reward for overcomers. **Press on, lily! If it's in you, lay aside the mud and everything else and press towards the top. Yes, sir!** "To sit with Me in My throne."

You know, once the mother of James and John - we won't have time to read it - came and asked for this place. Did you know that? You remember that? "Lord, let my son sit on one side, and my other son sit on the other." There's a mother's desire for her sons. But what? That place, Jesus said, was predestinated. This position was not in existence at that time. Why? Notice, it will be granted to them whom it is meant for. What? To the one that sits at the right hand and the other closest to Him were yet overcomers. See, He said, "I can't grant this, but it will be given after the trial comes." Amen! See? "I can't give this, but after the trial comes they'll sit on the right hand and on the left." There's a predestinated seed waiting

out yonder for that. It will be given to the ones that it is promised to. It'll be given there, but the test hasn't come yet. They haven't overcome yet.

See, to the person that was to take this place on one side, and another one to take it on the other side next to Him in the Kingdom, it wasn't yet given. See? That one hadn't yet overcome. The test hadn't fallen yet. It will fall in the future. If we suffer for Christ and His Word, we will reign with Him; for He is the Word. Remember, if we suffer for Him and His Word, we'll reign with Him according to his Word.

Notice, He, our Example, overcame and then ascended up after He conquered death, hell, sickness, the grave; everything He conquered, then He ascended up, and led captivity captive, gave gifts unto men. That was the Old Testament, and the Old Testament saints that had overcome. They looked for such a Person, and they died before He got there. But when this Person came, it didn't prevent them which were asleep. Amen! They can't lose any way, live or die, what difference does it make? It won't prevent. See, they looked for that.

Even Job back there, he looked for it. He said, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and at the latter day He'll stand upon the earth." There was a just man, a perfect man. He offered sacrifice, he did everything that God told him to do. He did it with reverence and respect to the prophets. And then Satan came around to tempt him, just as he comes to tempt you. What did he do? He kept standing there.

His wife even came out and said, "Why don't you curse God and die the death? You look so miserable sitting there."

He said, "Thou speakest like a foolish woman." The Bible never said she was foolish, but she talked like one. See? He said, "Thou speakest like a foolish woman." "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord." He overcame.

He overcame what the neighbours had to say. He overcame what all the church members, Bildad, and all them had to say. He overcame the bishop and what he had to say. He overcame the cardinal and what he had to say. He overcame the denominations and what they had to say. And he stayed with the justification of the Word. Amen! Yet it cost him everything he had, even his children. He scraped the boils with a piece of crock sitting on ashes, yet he overcame. And when in that great hour of temptation he had finally succeeded, then the clouds rolled back.

He looked at every reasonable thing. He said, "There's a hope in the tree if it dies, it lives again." And that seed falls in the ground; it rots away, it lives again. "But a man lieth down; he giveth up the ghost; he wasteth away, and his children come, his sons, to honour and to mourn over him; he perceives it not." He doesn't rise any more. Oh, there is what's the matter. I'm a seed too. I'm something that's a seed, and I'll go to the ground. I can't rise any more, I'll lie there. "Oh, hide me in the grave, keep me in the secret place till Thy wrath be past." What if I'm in judgement? "As the rocks wear away when water weathers the stone..." Oh, he went on

saying all these things. He could see all the examples out there, what it was. Oh, he just couldn't see how they applied.

Sister Rodgers, remember, I preached that at Busty's funeral? See, how that he wore away the stone and how these things happened all the way along.

"Hide me in the grave. Keep me in the secret place." He kept on pressing. He said, "I wish I knew; I wish I knew where I could go to a Man that could put His hands on me, a sinful man; and a holy God, and He'd talk to Him for me." Oh, my! "He's there. I know He's there. There's someone there that can do that. There's Someone somewhere. Where can I find that Person? Where can I find out? I'll knock (Brother Branham knocks on pulpit - Ed.) on His door and talk to Him. If somebody can only put His hand on me and on God and bridge the way for me." "If I could only find that Person. Oh, where is He?"

He searched through his church; he searched through his organisation; he couldn't find such a Person. And all at once the clouds rolled back, and he saw that Person coming. Oh, his old heart beat for joy. Then something happened. "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

There is such a Person. Amen! There's still such a Person! "I know that my Redeemer liveth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I'll see God, Whom I shall see for myself. He'll stand on the earth in the last days."

On that Easter morning when He arose out yonder, and Job's body was no more than a spoonful of ashes, he was waiting; he was that elected group. He rose from the grave and entered into the city with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. Job! Oh my! Glory! Amen! For they looked for such a Person.

And to those who look for Christ the second time, that can overcome the things of this world by His grace, to come into Him and shut their eyes to anything else but Him and His Word He will appear the second time in glory. When the trumpet of God shall sound, the dead in Christ shall rise; those which are alive and remain shall be changed in a moment in a twinkling of an eye and be caught up together to meet Him in the air.

Whether I'm a spoonful of ashes or whether I'm living when He comes, it makes no difference. Amen! It doesn't matter, because I've caught the vision. The veil's rolled back, and I see Him, One that could stand and put His hand upon me, a sinful man, and upon a holy God; and He's my Propitiation. He is the Word that I stand for. In the beginning was the Word; He's that Word, and He represents me there. Amen! And I'll scream as long as I have breath. He is my Resurrection and my Life. Even all other grounds are sinking sand.

As He caught them who looked for that, so will He come to each New Testament saint that's overcome every denominational critic, such that's ever overcome all the popular sins of this day, of this age that we live in now, as He did in all the other church ages. Those who overcome in this church age, are those who overcome what? "I am rich. I have need of

nothing. Oh, I'm all this, and all that, and I'm the bride. I'm this; I have need of nothing," and don't know that they are naked, blind.

See that deceiving age that I spoke of! It's not like those that had their heads cut off back yonder to get the white stone, not those who died under martyrdoms and were burnt at the stake and things like that, who won the crown; but it's this deceiving age now, where they think that they're everything, "Well, I'm a church member. I'm a good man. I'm a good woman. I do this; I don't have to do that." But it's to him that overcometh!

He that overcomes all those worldly things of this age, what will they do? All will sit with Him in His throne, will go in the rapture when He comes. Oh, my! What do I care then, what should we care what the world says? The great Holy Spirit is among us. His Pillar of Fire leads us and guides us. His Word's vindicated before us. His love is in our heart. The world is behind. We've passed from death unto Life. The world thinks you're crazy, but:

Must Jesus bear this cross alone,  
And all the world go free?  
There's a cross for every one,  
And there's a cross for me.

Thirty-three years in the field, and,

This consecrated cross I'll bear  
Till death shall set me free...

Let my brothers turn me down and say whatever they want to; let them turn me down, but on this Word I stand and this alone.

This consecrated cross I'll bear  
Until death shall set me free,  
And then go home in the rapture, a crown to wear...

That's what we all want, isn't it? That's what we want. That's our hope and plea. No other thoughts have we, but that are centred upon Jesus Christ. And upon His righteousness we stand alone, in His righteousness, in His Word, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." And the Word is still vindicating Itself.

Overcome how? By taking the Word, the promise, in humility, humbly walking,

This consecrated cross I'll bear  
Until death shall set me free,  
Then go home a crown to wear...

Oh, when that trumpet sounds, you can bury me in the sea, but the trumpet will awake me. I'm going home one day. Amen! Until then I'll struggle on (amen!) bearing this cross, keeping my eyes not on people, but upon Calvary yonder; for He was my Example; He showed how to do it. And His example we'll gladly follow day by day.

I'm following Jesus each step of the way,  
I'm following Jesus each step of the way...

Don't you like that? Oh, how I think: Follow Him day by day each step of the way. Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, an hour and fifteen minutes now, I've been standing here trying to take Your Word and explain to the people how to overcome. 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," in every temptation; but be humble, walk humbly. 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 humbly with faith, believing that and our badge of identification is the Holy Ghost, and Satan has to move.

There are handkerchiefs lying here, and they represent sick people. They're needy, Lord. And they read in this infallible Word where they took from the body of Saint Paul handkerchiefs and aprons. These were laid upon the sick people; evil spirits went out of them, and great miracles were done. Now, You're the same Lord Jesus today.

Paul preached this Word and wrote this Word, the same Word that we're trying to follow, because he took the Old Testament, and patterned it, and showed that it was a type, that all of the Old Testament was a perfect type of the New. O Lord, may we follow that example.

We see our Lord, what He did, and this morning we realise that those Old Testament saints, that they also rose. When Jesus was raised, they went with Him. And Lord, we believe that we'll go when He sounds the trumpet. We believe it, that the Bride will go forth at that day, and will join with the Hebrew group of It, and together there'll be a wedding supper in glory. Those are waiting. We pray now Your mercy and grace upon us.

Overcomers, Lord, overcomers we long to be, overcomers. Lord Jesus, You overcame the world. Now, I pray that You'll let every person here this morning lay every sin aside, lay aside the weight that does so easily beset us, that we might run with patience the race that's set before us.

Paul spoke to us, our Heavenly Father, over there in the Book of the Hebrews, that we should lay aside every weight, in the 12th chapter, where he spoke this after he'd already shown by example back there, those who did go on, those who did not go on, those who lukewarmly followed, those who followed up in the front, those who lingered behind, all; he showed the examples. Then he turned and said, "Let us lay aside every weight, every little teeny thing that besets us, that we might run with patience the race

that's set before us, looking to Him, the Author and the Finisher of our faith, Who gave us the example." We do that this morning, Father.

Now, with our heads bowed, now check really close, and then be really deeply sincere. That's all it takes, your check and your sincerity. Be really prayerful as you're checking now. "Search me, Lord; try me. Is there any evil in me? If there is, Lord, let me lay it down right here now. This place where I'm bowed is Your altar. And I lay it down, right here now. Put my feet upon it, when I walk away. It's going to lie there. The power of Your Blood will consume it. I want to be an overcomer. I have something that's bothering me, Lord. I want to overcome this morning. I can by You: I've been told that by Your Word. I lay it down now, Lord, and I'll plant my feet on it as I pass by this building this morning, knowing that it's put in the tub of God's bleach. It'll never be remembered any more. I will now confess it and ask for mercy."

With our beads bowed, our eyes closed, our hearts thinking - that's the door to the soul - now, is there something that you want to lay aside this morning, something that you want to overcome, and you've tried so hard, but this morning you're just going to quit trying, you're just going to accept what He did? I want you just to raise your hand. Say, "Lord, I want to overcome. A certain thing bothers me."

Lord Jesus, You see those hands. Now, as Your servant standing between the living and dead, I condemn everything that bothers these people and myself, and I ask that in the Name of Jesus Christ we can leave it lying here on the altar of God and walk away this morning free as overcomers.

If our sisters haven't had the grace before, may it be granted now, Lord. If our brothers haven't had the grace, may it be granted now. And may a mother with her children find humility instead of being arrogant. She knows she's setting an example. She's a preacher to those little children; her life is an example. Dad is an example to mother, for he is the head of the house. And the mother's been trying to boss him around; she'll never do it any more. If he's been using her for a floor mat, it'll never be done any more; she's a helpmate. Grant it, Lord. May all these things that are hindering, Lord, be taken away.

We are consecrating ourselves, Father, for what time of life, we have ahead of us; knowing this, that we've got to come to the end of it, and that right away. So this morning we take this opportunity after this message, Lord, to come, because we are bidden to come: "Cast your cares upon Him, for lie careth for you." I know You care, Lord. You cared enough to die for us. And we surely can care enough to come and accept what You died for.

Sanctify us, Lord. Fill us anew with the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Ghost just reign in our hearts to believe, that we may walk, forgetting the things that are in the past, the muck and mire that we once lived in, and pressing towards the mark of the high calling, where our light can shine in such sweetness and humility, that every passer-by can say, "There's a Christian that lives down there. That person, that woman, that man is a

really consecrated flower of God. They're so sweet and so kind, always loving, and sweet, and understanding." Grant it, Father. Let us be salty, that the earth might thirst. Grant it, Father, and overcome the things of this world and the cares of this life. In the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

I can hear (Now, let's just raise our hands.) ...

Saviour calling, calling what? "Come up out of the mud." A higher life, Something's in you pulling you that way. What is it? It's He. Down in the mud, little flowers, you've got Life in there pressing to you.)

I can hear my Saviour calling (that's what calls you. Come up out of the mud!), Follow, follow Me.

Now, do you mean it? Now, close your eyes.

Where He leads me I will follow (now, surrender yourself-, mean that now.),

Where He leads me I will follow,  
Where He leads me I will follow,  
I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way.

Where He leads me I Oust sweetly, now. Remember, lay yourself down there.)

Where He leads me ("I lay it here, Lord. I'm going to follow You from now on. I accept it; I believe it.")

Where He leads (remember, your life will testify louder than your mouth. What you live will be proof to people more than what you say.) ... go with Him, with Him (way -where?) all the way.

(Brother Branham begins humming *Where He leads Me* - Ed.) Just consecrate yourself, deeply, sincerely, all your heart. What if this were the last time you'd ever be permitted to pray? It might be! I hope not. It may be. And be sure now, really sure. Remember, the door will close one day; and it's all over. "Ask, and you shall receive it."

(Brother Branham begins humming the chorus-Ed.) Just think of all the glories He's offered you there, everything. "I believe, Lord. I believe. I believe that You're my Overcomer. I just walk with You, Lord. I want to stay close to You, that where You are, there I want to be."

And remember, You told us, Father, that we would for ever be with the Lord when we'd be caught up. We just got a glimpse of Him as He walks with us now. What a great thing it is just to know that He's in our midst! What will it be when we'll be with Him for ever? We so love all of our activities. We can go out riding. We can go shopping. We can go hunting, fishing, or whatever we might do in pleasures; but oh, when the church

opens, we want to meet our Lord. They are the greatest of all things, those things you promised us: "And for ever be with the Lord, sit with Him in His throne, and be with Him for ever." O God, we humbly with bowed heads accept it, Lord. In the Name of Jesus Christ.

Do you feel you can just leave, now, everything, every burden, you can just walk over above it now? If you do, raise up your hand, and say, "By God's grace I lay this trial down. I won't fight it any more. I'm just going to take hold of His hand, and start walking on. I've fought, Brother Branham; I've tried to do this. I've tried so hard, Brother Branham, I just can't do it." Don't try anymore. Just take hold of His hand. Say, "Father You put my hand in the sleeve." See? "I'm just going to give You my hand; I'm going to walk on, Lord, looking to You." It'll happen. He'll press you like a real Christian. You'll be a real Christian.

Until I see you tonight, God love you and be with you. You're my children of the Gospel. You're the purchase. Now, I give you back to your pastor, Brother Neville.