

There was a time when I believed becoming a Christian inherently initiated being an overcomer. I later realized that, as a Christ follower, we only receive the capacity to overcome. As we commence possessing the *Reality of God's Holy Spirit*, with its incredible wisdom and counsel, it will coordinate with our intellect, but only as our faith directs us. Remember, faith overcomes our fear; however, fear defeats faith too! How we view our opportunity to "Choose" faith is extremely important.

Knowing about God's Holy Spirit doesn't automatically accomplish overcoming undesired behavior, old habits or hormonal drives inherent to our inborn fearful, carnal nature and developed lifestyles. Having the capacity to become an overcomer is only granted by our inherent free will ability to choose. That freedom to make choices may not always make us an overcomer. The fear that we might not have that freedom because of our self-worth challenges may seem overwhelming to some...

The book of Revelation records Jesus' letters to seven churches. In each, He indicates that to those who overcome, He will grant incredible blessings. Later in chapter 21:7, we read, "*He who overcomes will inherit all of this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.*" Jesus was addressing believers who elect to become overcomers, not non-believers.

From this we must realize that being an overcomer results from initiating righteous choices, not by relying on presumed positions. It is more than an option to all who understand the essential nature of establishing and living out proper priorities and the core values.

When we place a high priority on Scriptural obedience to live out our right choices and core values, we should expect and be ready to be confronted with mixed emotions and experiences we see being described in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:12, "*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.*"

We'll experience, if we choose, a reduced desire for destructive worldly attractions and meaningless time wasters, as our maturity progresses, but these will ebb and flow. The desperate need, and later the passion, for continuous accountability and bold prayer releasing power in the Name of Jesus is essential to overcoming, (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 10:13)

Remember, overcoming undesirable attributes is a continuous journey, not just a goal to achieve. Our temptations will wane, both in frequency and intensity as time progresses. Faith is essential; fear will always subdue that faith; however, faith will subdue that fear too. Don't forget!

(See: *HEBREWS 11:6 & other short articles in: [www.skipelmore.com](http://www.skipelmore.com)*)