

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

JESUS HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD

John 16:33 (Jesus said) "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

The dictionary defines tribulation as "a state of great trouble and suffering." Synonyms for tribulation include: trouble, burden, cross to bear, affliction, ordeal, adversity, hardship, etc. Reading through this list of words you can most likely think of a time of tribulation in your own life. You may be experiencing a tribulation at this very moment.

Jesus said these tribulations are associated with living in the world. He said this knowing full well how the world is a hostile environment. It brings into your life choices that can appear to be good when in fact they are not. This is because the world is an ally of Satan and what it offers leads you into a litany of sins and troubles. Your tribulations come as a result of your submitting to the world's leading, or they can occur as a result of your refusal to follow the world. It is the latter that Jesus primarily has in mind.

Speaking to the tribulations that come your way, Jesus says, "take heart." Jesus encourages you in times of tribulation, don't give up. How is this possible? Your natural reaction to them is depression, giving up hope and feeling defeated. Jesus says, "Take heart" because He has "overcome the world." On Calvary's cross Jesus battled the world and these tribulations you face. He has conquered the world, which includes these tribulations, for you.

"The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-6)

Prayer: In a world that brings tribulations of all kinds into my life, Holy Spirit lead me to faith in Jesus who has won for me victory over them. Keep me in that faith each day for Your sake. Amen

From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and tribulation;
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me, Lord, hear my supplication.
If Thou rememb'rest ev'ry sin, Who then could heaven ever win
Or stand before Thy presence?

Thy love and grace alone avail To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail To break sin's dread oppression.
Before Thee none can boasting stand, But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy.

Therefore my hope is in the Lord And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word To them of contrite spirit
That He is merciful and just; This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.

And though it tarry through the night And till the morning waken,
My heart shall never doubt His might Nor count itself forsaken.
O Israel, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spirit and the Word,
Now wait with patience.

Though great our sins, yet greater still Is God's abundant favor;
His hand of mercy never will Abandon us, nor waver.
Our shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow.

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