

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 12 – The Holy Spirit & Are You An Overcomer?

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It is interesting how often Jesus said to his disciples, “Why Are you afraid?” Unless you're looking for it, you can miss the number of times that question, or that idea is expressed in the New Testament. “Why Are you afraid?”

*When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing!” He *said to them, “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?” (Matthew 8:23-27)*

Don't let fear rob you of life and service for the Lord. It's not a sin to be afraid. It's a sin to allow your fears to overcome your faith.

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:6-8)

Have you ever paid attention to the fact that in Revelation 21:6-8, being saved or lost is determined on the basis of whether or not we live as overcomers or cowards? Why should a person go to hell for being a coward?

It is critically important that we understand that overcomers and cowards experience the very same fears. The difference between the two is the decision making. Overcomers don't let fear control their decision making and cowards do. How many times have we allowed our fears to overcome our faith? Do you think of yourself as an overcomer or a coward?

In Acts 4, the disciples were threatened with imprisonment, even death if they would continue to preach Jesus. Yet they preached the word with boldness! Notice the sequence...

1. They were threatened.
2. They prayed together.
3. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.
4. Then they spoke the Word of God with boldness!

In Matthew 25:14-30 how does the Lord respond to the fearful slave who sat on his hands having done nothing with what the Lord gave him?

Cowards are more concerned with protecting and preserving their lives, then with living them. They would rather watch life then do it. Why do we admire David, Daniel, Esther, Elijah, Paul, and Peter? What sets them apart? Why are they the heroes of the Bible? Because of their courage. They were overcomers!

The question is, are we living our lives as an overcomer? Or as a coward?

What Now?

1. Pray for boldness instead of safety this week.
2. Do something bold for Jesus! – Share the gospel (use your story), ask to pray for someone you have never prayed with before, do good to your enemy, do something in the name of Jesus.

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (2 Timothy 1:7)