

apttoteach.org

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 John 5:1-5
Lesson #18
Alien Overcomers
05/01/2022

Our quality of life is tied to how we
relate to **God** and **also to this world.**

Position

Abiding
It starts with our
union with Christ

Aliens
which makes us
sojourners in this world.

Posture

Ambassadors
It calls us to represent
God's Kingdom in
this world

Overcomers
while avoiding the
ways and means of
this world.

1

1 John 5

“1 Whoever **believes** that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever **loves** the Father **loves** the child born of Him. 2 By this we know that we **love** the children of God, when we **love** God and observe His commandments. 3 For this is the **love** of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God **overcomes** the world; and this is the **victory** that has **overcome** the world — our **faith**. 5 Who is the one who **overcomes** the world, but he who **believes** that Jesus is the Son of God?”

2

1 John 5 (interpretive paraphrase)

“1 To be a Christian, one must believe that Jesus is our hope. 2 We affirm our faith through our love for those whom God loves. 3 God loves others through us and we are glad to do so as a sign that we love God.

“4 As Christians, we stand against a world order that is an enemy of those who bear God’s image. 5 We do this as we hold fast to our faith in Jesus and follow him in the Word and Way of the Cross.”

3

John 16:33

“**These things** I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; **I have overcome the world.**”

Context

15:11 “expect your joy to be complete”
15:17 “expect to love one another”
15:20 “expect persecution”
16:1- “expect protection from stumbling”
16:4- “expect the Spirit to teach you”
16:23- “expect answers to prayer”

4

**All, who are united with God in Christ
are OVERCOMERS.**

Revelation 2-3 (the seven churches)

“7 To him who overcomes, I will grant to **eat of the tree of life** which is in the Paradise of God. . . . 11 He who overcomes will **not be hurt by the second death**. . . . 17 To him who overcomes, to him I will **give some of the hidden manna**, . . . 26 He who overcomes, and he who keeps my deeds until the end, to him I will give **authority over the nations**; . . . 3:5 He who overcomes will thus be **clothed in white garments**; and I will **not erase his name from the book of life**, and I will **confess his name before my Father and before His angels**. . . . 12 He who overcomes, I will **make him a pillar in the temple of my God**, . . . 21 He who overcomes, I will grant to him to **sit down with me on my throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.”

5



The temptation of Christ

(Matt.4:1-11)

1. **Priorities** - A materialistic, rather than spiritual perspective.
2. **Expectations** - A libertarian / rights sense of entitlement.
3. **Lifestyle** - A transactional (ends justify means) MO.

6



The schemes of the Devil?

1. **"Fake news"** telling us that our problems are outside our soul as material, socio-political, economic, psychological.
This gets us in trouble.
2. **"False hopes"** telling us that military muscle, power politics, economic prosperity, & inner light hold the answers.
This keeps us from real solutions.

7

Ephesians 6:12

"For our struggle is not against **flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the **spiritual forces** of wickedness in the **heavenly places**."

The temptation to place hope in this world.

- **Political power** will bring in God's kingdom.
- **Military strength** will give us security.
- **Christian laws** will reform humanity.
- **Material prosperity** will bring social peace and justice.
- **An educated world** will bring humanity to its senses.
- **An organized church** will unify the Body of Christ.

8

Overcomers

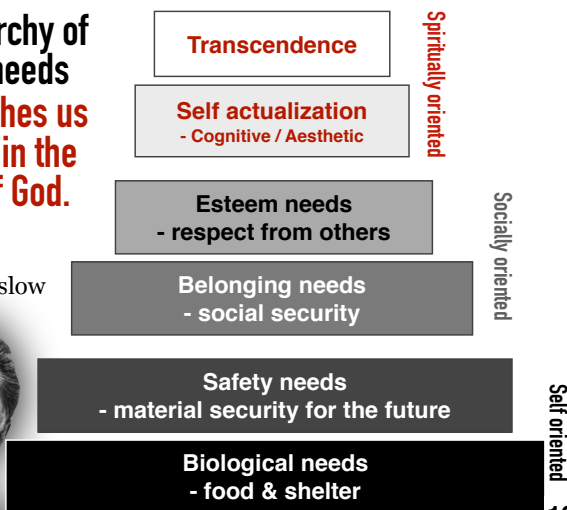
- follow the Way of the Cross where disciples of Jesus find their life by losing it and mock the world's strength by showing power in weakness.

- observe that there are phenomena in this world and longings in the human heart that are hard to explain apart from the spiritual dimension.

9

The Hierarchy of human needs distinguishes us as made in the image of God.

Abraham Maslow



10

"You don't have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body."

Mere Christianity

C.S. Lewis

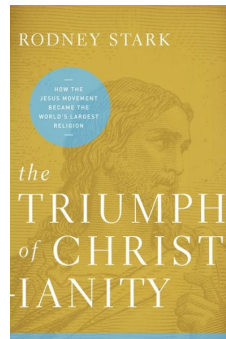


11

“Christianity spread not just among the poor who sought hope beyond the material suffering of this life but also among the rich who found that material wealth could not satisfy the soul.”



Rodney Stark



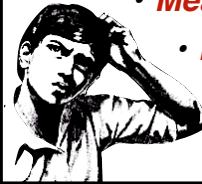
12

Where does the nearly “universal” religious impulse come from?

Where does the sense of “good & evil” originate?

Four critical questions:

- **Mortality** - why do we die?
- **Meaning** - why do we live?
- **Morality** - why do we do good?
- **Management** - why do we fail?



13

“3 . . . and His commandments are **not burdensome.**

In what sense is this true?

- ✓ Under the Old Covenant, the commandments are stressful.

But NOTE:

When the law is written on the heart (Jer.31:33-34) it is no longer an ANNOYING CHORE, even when it is challenging and demands sacrifice.

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- ✓ He is speaking as a “son to a father” not “slave to a master”.

Romans 8:15

“For you have not received a **spirit of slavery leading to fear** again, but you have received a **spirit of adoption as sons** by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’ ”

Matthew 11

“28 Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will **find rest for your souls.** 30 For **My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.**”

15

1 John 5

“4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — **our faith.**”

Matt.9:2, Mk.2:5, 16:16, Lk.5:20, 8:12, Jn.1:12, 3:15-18,36, 5:24, 6:40, 8:24, Acts 13:39, 16:31, Rom.4:13, 9:32, 10:9, 11:20-23, 1 Cor.1:21, 1 Tim.4:10, 2 Thess.2:13, 1 Pet.1:9, 1 Jn.5:14

- ✓ The victory is a synergism of Christ’s work and our faith in Christ.
It is **OUR** faith reception of Christ’s work for us stemming from the grace of God’s image in us.

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We are to be active (not passive) as Overcoming Ambassadors.



- **The Holy Spirit is a Helper not a Surrogate. He works with us, not without us.**
- **Believers are soldiers not spectators in Spiritual warfare.**

17

Who is responsible for abiding faith?

Man's choice and diligence

Phil.2:13
"work out your salvation"
Jn.1:12
"as many as received Him"
Rom.11:20
"you stand by your faith"
2 Thess.2:13
"through faith"

God's Spirit and decree

Phil.2:12
"God is at work in you"
Jn.1:13
"who are born of God"
Rom.11:5
"according to God's choice"
2 Thess.2:13
"God has chosen you"

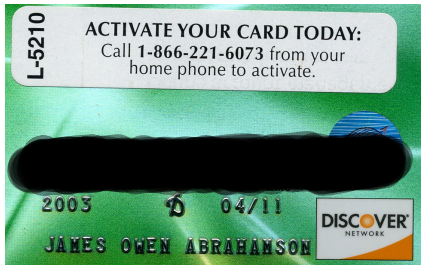
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Carter Pardons Draft Dodgers



- Many young people had fled to Canada to escape being drafted to Vietnam
- Draft evaders were considered criminals and could not return to U.S. soil
- On his 1st day as President, Carter fully pardoned all draft dodgers
- An estimated 50,000 draft dodgers chose to remain Canadian even after pardon

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The card originates from the bank but it needs to be activated before it gives us access to its benefits.

20



21

Ephesians 2:8-9

"we are saved by grace through **faith** and **that** not of yourselves, it is the **gift of God** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

The "gift of God" refers to salvation not faith as in Rom.6:23 "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The Greek "that" (neuter) does not link to "faith" (feminine) making it more likely that the whole of salvation is in view.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, **that is to say**, not of yourselves, it (salvation) is the gift of God."

22

Overcomers are liberated

NOT FROM:

- **suffering** - **material impediments** to OUR plans and expectations in this life
- **sin** - **moral imperfections** that fall short of the glory of God in this life

BUT FROM:

- **servitude to a mindset** that mocks the Word and Way of the Cross

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Overcomers



Jacob DeShazer



Peggy Covell



Mitsuo Fuchida



DeShazer converted while a POW in Japan came to forgive his captors and traveled with Fuchida who came to faith after reading DeShazer's testimony and that of Japanese POW's who were cared for and led to Christ by an American nurse (Peggy Covell) whose family had been beheaded by Japanese soldiers during the war. 24

"My life was changed when I heard that my 6 yr. old HIV patient had said, *"I knew that I was dying because the Dr. stopped coming into my room."*

Arthur Ammann M.D.
pediatric immunologist



25

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness:
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate:
only love can do that."

Martin Luther King Jr.
InspirationBoost.com

26

1 John

Next week
5:6-10

Life in
the Son

27

The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo and tagline. A navigation menu includes 'HOME', 'BIBLE INSIGHTS', 'HARD QUESTIONS', 'HOT TOPICS', and 'THEOLOGY'. A search bar is present with a 'Search' arrow pointing to it. Below the search bar, a 'Check' arrow points to the 'Current Lesson' section. The 'Current Lesson' section displays a search result for 'The Day of the Lord' and a list of past lessons. A 'press to play' arrow points to the 'LISTEN' and 'WATCH' icons at the bottom right. The page number '28' is visible in the bottom right corner.