

# How To Overcome Our Enemy

Revelation 12:10-11



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**FOCAL Read Responsively** Revelation 12:10-11 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. {11} **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

It is not my intent to expound this chapter of Revelation, nor even to discuss prophecy. Though I am firmly convinced that the Lord has a “end time” program in place”, and though I believe that Jesus is coming again at any time (perhaps in the next few minutes), I am not going to discuss end time events. In other words, I'm not going to talk about *eschatology*. Instead the Lord has placed on my heart the need to discuss a more practical matter.

How can we, as the Church in America, defeat that old Dragon, the Devil?

In many Churches today Satan has already won. He has convinced the members of the local Church that *he doesn't exist*. You see, if Satan doesn't exist, then evil doesn't exist. If Satan is out of the picture then God is out of the picture. If there is no such person as “Satan”, and there are no fallen demons, then it's possible that man himself is not fallen and that the Cross of Christ is a hoax. So Satan spends a lot of time telling us that he doesn't exist, that truth is relative, and that people are – at heart – just *good people* who need to be taught how to be better. This is the reason that shows like *Oprah* and *Dr Phil* are so popular. We are just good – and can be

better. Sadly the Scripture tells us that's not true.

You see, the Bible tells us that our enemy, Satan, is not **flesh and blood** like we are. He is real, he has substance, but he is not like us. Satan originally was an arch-angel called *Lucifer* who was in charge of the angels of Heaven. **Ezekiel 28:14** tells us that Satan was **upon the holy mountain of God, walking up and down in the midst of the angels of God**. The Lord made Lucifer, put him in charge of the angels, and then Lucifer made a choice. He turned against God. The Bible tells us that Satan led one third of the angels of Heaven (**Revelation 12:4**) in revolt against God. Satan wanted to be God, and thought he could overthrow the **Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, which is and was and is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8)**. How arrogant! But Satan in his arrogant struggle against God came into the Garden of Eden in the guise of a serpent. It was he who tempted Adam to disobey God, and he who was the first cause of the fall of all mankind into this thing we call “sin”. When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees He did not see them as “good people gone awry”. Jesus said to them:

**John 8:44** **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

Jesus believed the devil not only to be real, but also the **father** of all those who oppose God. **He was a**

**murderer** – Satan was the one who tempted Cain to murder his brother Abel (**Genesis 4:7**). It was of Satan that the Lord spoke when He told Cain “**sin lieth at your door**”. Had Cain listened to God's truth instead of Satan's lies then he would have ruled over Satan. But he opened the door of his heart and murdered his brother, destroying not only Abel's life but his life as well. **Satan is a liar, and the father of lies** according to our Lord. A *feeling* cannot be a liar. A *machine* cannot be a liar. A person must be a liar – and Satan is a person. Satan is not made of the same material as we are. We are made of **flesh and blood**, but Satan – along with all the angels, both fallen and unfallen, is composed of *light*. This is why the Scripture tells us:

**Ephesians 6:12** **For we {humans} wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

Our enemy is **not flesh and blood**. Our enemy is not the person sitting next to you, nor is he that person who maligned or slandered you, telling lies on you and I. Our enemy is Satan. The Bible says that **Satan entered into Judas Iscariot** leading him to betray the Lord. Satan enters into the unbelieving and into the sinner descended into piggishness (**Luke 8:32**), but cannot overcome the believer who lives for the Lord.

**James 4:7-8** **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. {8} Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye**

**double minded.**

How do we defeat Satan? If we attempt to battle Satan using our resources we *will* be defeated. Satan is stronger than we are. He is made of different material than we are. He is the **accuser of the brethren** who seeks our destruction. What hope do we have to defeat him? Only by **submitting ourselves to God** can we overcome this foe. And that is the subject of today's message. Look at verse 11:

**FOCAL** Revelation 12:11 **And they overcame him {Satan} by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

How was Satan defeated? First of all, **by the Blood of the Lamb**. The Blood that Christ shed for you and I is the greatest weapon that we have against that old devil. He **accuses us continually** before God's Throne in Heaven. With viper's tongue he points out every failing of every one of God's people. What can remove the old Serpent's fangs? Only the **Blood of the Lamb**. Only the Blood that Christ shed for your sins covers your inadequacies before God. What else? **The Word of their testimony**, this defeats Satan. Do you have a testimony? Was there a day when you met Jesus at the foot of that Old Rugged Cross and cried out **“remember me when you come into Your kingdom” (Luke 23:42)?** Did Jesus look into your eyes and, with loving gaze, say **“Today you shall be with Me in paradise?”** If so, cling to this moment in time. If not, seek Him, for you have not been saved! If you are under the Blood and have a

Word of Testimony, then the third weapon you are given is that **you love not your lives unto the death**. Those who are born again will live surrendered lives unto the Lord. Are you surrendered to the Lord? If not, then why not?

May God touch your hearts as we delve deeper into this message.

### **1. We Overcome Satan By The Blood of The Lamb**

**FOCAL** Revelation 12:11 ... And **they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb**

Do you understand how powerful the Blood of Christ is? The angel Satan is composed of light, but we who are called *humanity* are made of **flesh and blood**. It was a cold blooded Serpent that tempted man to sin, but it was **flesh and blood** that made the decision to follow that temptation.

Man is fallen because we *chose* to follow Satan. Unsaved man *remains fallen* because he chooses to follow Satan rather than God.

But God took action from the beginning of the fall.

You see, God put Adam in control of the Garden of Eden, and of earth itself. **Whatever God made, He brought that animal to Adam to see what Adam would name it (Genesis 2:19)**. Adam was in charge of earth, and was responsible to take care of that which he

was responsible for. Adam forgot this truth and, in foolishness, turned to follow Satan. **Flesh and blood** followed Serpent – and humanity fell into universal sin. Satan thought that he had won. Not so. The Bible tells us that:

**Hebrews 2:14-17 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; {15} And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. {16} For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. {17} Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.**

We were **flesh and blood**, so Jesus Christ took upon Himself **flesh and blood**. Jesus was not mere man, but He was and is Eternal God Who took upon Himself humanity. He became like us so that **He, through death, might destroy Satan.**

Jesus did not come to shed His Blood for angels, but He came to shed His Blood for **flesh and blood.**

Jesus Christ

**Titus 2:14 ... gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a**

**peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

What destroys the devil? The **Blood of the Lamb**. What does the Blood do for you? First of all, **Satan is the accuser of the brethren**. He accuses us before God day and night. The Bible tells us:

**Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.**

You were **far off from God** because of sin, ingrained in your being, ingrained into your soul. Yet the Blood of Jesus Christ *covers your sin*. The day you called on Jesus to be saved the Lord took that terrible sacrifice of Calvary and applied it to *your account*. On account of Him you are **near to God**. The Blood brought you near, because God – immortal, eternal, and pure Spirit, came from the farness of Heaven to be near you on this earth. He took on flesh and blood for you. He – the Alpha and Omega – took your penalty for sin. Satan – that old Liar – is shown to be a liar because of the Blood of the Lamb.

**Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

The **Blood of Christ** also frees you from **dead works**. The Old Testament Saint was continually offering animal sacrifices for sin because the Lord wanted to teach them the value of the Blood of the Lamb and of faith. There's something inside each and every one of us that says “I

want to be good enough for God”. Like the **rich young ruler** we come to Jesus and say:

**Mark 10:17 ... Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?**

Show me a person who believes you can *lose your salvation* and I'll show you someone who feels they're better than the rest of us.

The Pharisees – pure in their keeping of the Law of Moses – were useless to God. They thought that by offering animals sacrifices and by dropping to the ground to pray at certain times of the day that they were surely God's choice children. Hogwash! God didn't want animal sacrifices. Animal sacrifices were only instituted when Israel – in arrogance and stupidity – refused to trust in and believe in the Blood of the Lamb. **Noah found Grace in the eyes of God (Genesis 6:8)** apart from the Mosaic Law. **Abraham found Grace in the eyes of God** over 400 years before the Mosaic Law was given. The Apostle tells us:

**Romans 3:24-28 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: {25} Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; {26} To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. {27} Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what**

**law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. {28} Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.**

It is the **Blood of the Lamb** that brings us to God. We who believe in Him are **freed from the dead works of animal sacrifices and pretended rituals so that we might serve the Living God**. Israel never attained righteousness – nor has ever any person who has sought righteousness apart from the Blood. The Bible tells us:

**Romans 9:31-33 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. {32} Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; {33} As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumblingstone and rock of offense: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

It is the Blood of the Lamb that defeats Satan, dear friend. **What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the Blood of Jesus! What can make me whole again? Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!** Where is my power over Satan? **There is power, power, wonder working power in the Blood of the Lamb.** What of my daily failures to be perfect in the eyes of my God? What hope do I have when Satan whispers in my ear “You're blowing it again, just like I knew you would”? **There is a fountain filled with Blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins. Sinners plunged beneath its flood lose all their guilty stains.**

Dear friends, the **Blood of the Lamb** is the most potent weapon we have in our arsenal against Satan. If I'm trying to live my life by the works of the Law I'm playing Satan's game. This is the same lie that Satan told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. **“The Lord knows that the day that you eat of it ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:5)**. Don't fall into that trap – you'll never win. Look to Jesus! Do not look to the Law! The Bible tells us:

**Galatians 2:16** **Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.**

## **2. We Overcome Satan By The Word of Our Testimony**

**FOCAL** **Revelation 12:11** **And they overcame him ... by the word of their testimony ...**

I know what some of you are thinking. You're thinking **“but faith without works is dead” (James 2:20)**. You're absolutely right!

If you're saved by the Blood of Christ you *will* be a different person, you *will* be a work in progress, you *will* do things that are pleasing unto God. **You are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good**

**works, which God has before ordained that you should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10)**. If you're saved you *will* do good works – but hear me, believe: it is *God's responsibility* to bring good works through you. It is *God's responsibility* to make you into what He wants you to be. **He is the Potter and we are the clay. The Potter can do to the clay as He wishes (Jeremiah 18:3-6)**. WE are HIS WORKMANSHIP, created in Christ Jesus (the Blood of Christ) to DO GOOD WORKS.

Let me ask you this: **Do you have a Word of Testimony?**

I was talking to a dear brother the other day who has taken ill. He told me, "I want to give my testimony at Church when I get out of hear", to which I responded "Praise God!". I love it when people have a **word of testimony**. You wouldn't believe how many people who say they are saved but do not have a crystalline moment in time where they met the Savior face to face and *were born again*. I asked one dear Christian lady "what's your testimony" and she replied, "I was saved when I was eight years old". I said, "Go on". She said "No, that's it. I heard the preacher say we needed to get saved, and I came forward and *repeated a little prayer he told me to say*. I was baptized and now I'm saved."

May I say that that is a pitiful testimony! How is that **word of testimony** going to help you when **Satan, the accuser of the Brethren**, begins to attack you? Don't get me wrong. Not many Christians know the exact *day and*

*hour* of their salvation. I know that I was saved on February 28th, 1976, in an evening service at Church. But you may not even know that much. But you *should* have a distinctive time in your memory where you - realizing you were lost and undone - came to Jesus Christ to be saved. At the age of 17 I was going down for the last time. I heard the preacher present the Gospel of salvation. I heard him say that I was a sinner, lost and undone, and that **Jesus Christ came to save sinners.**

When I first heard that message I smirked. Lost? I wasn't "lost" - I knew exactly where I was. When I was eight or nine years old I learned all my catechisms. I stood in front of the pastor of the Presbyterian Church and recited my catechisms one by one. At the end of that recitation I went in front of the Church. The preacher said a few words and sprinkled a little water on my head, and I received a white Bible. I was saved!

But as I listened to this preacher some eight years later tell me about sin and the fact that I was a sinner on the way to Hell my heart began to tremble. You see, the Holy Spirit of God works with every preacher and every witness. He

**John 16:8 ... reprove{s} the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:**

The **Holy Spirit strives with people (Genesis 6:3), reproving** or convicting them of their sin, and letting them know that certain judgment is coming. As I heard

the Spirit speak to my heart it began to tremble - I knew I was lost. He called once, and I made excuses. He called twice, and I held back. But blessed be the Name of Jesus the Spirit called that third time, and I ran down the aisle to be saved.

When Satan attacks me I go back to that time in my memory where the Lord called my name. When one of his henchmen seek to slur my name, to tell a lie on me, to do evil to me, I go back in my memory to that blessed event.

The early Christian was drug before Caesar and commanded to kneel and worship. That Christian so beaten and bruised looked at Caesar and quietly refused. The Christian was told "you will be sewn into fresh animal skins, then left in the hot sun until you are slowly cooked to death. Or else you will be impaled and your body will be lit on fire to light our nightly games. Or perhaps you will be made to watch while your loved ones are fed to the lions, and you yourself will be fed to these hungry lions as well. All these things could - and will - happen, unless you change your mind right now and worship Caesar!" The Christian, perhaps with tears rolling down his face, looked at his tormentor and said "No - for it is written, **Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve**" (Luke 4:8).

You see, these believers **had a word of testimony.** They had a moment in their lives - a profound moment - where they met Jesus Christ face to face and were *supernaturally changed on the inside* so that they could

live for Jesus on the outside.

I visited with a dear Christian widow at the Funeral home (why do we call those places "home"?) just last week. As we stood over the earthly remains of her recently departed husband ...

She said "If anyone's going to be in Heaven, he will, for he was such a *good man*." I didn't correct her, but dear friends, the only reason any of us will be in Heaven is because **we have a word of testimony**.

We realized we were sinners and, in a moment of conviction brought on by the Spirit of Truth, we **called upon the Name of the Lord and were saved**. The Scripture says:

**1 John 5:4-5 For {whosoever} is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. {5} Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

How do you **overcome the world, and overcome Satan?** Only by **your faith**. If you truly believed on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and truly called upon Him for salvation then *God met you face to face*. You should have a testimony. We are told:

**1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**

Is He in you? Is Jesus Christ in your heart? Then you should have a **word of testimony** to remember when trials come your way. You should have a **word of testimony** that you can share with the lost - tell them what Jesus Christ did for you. But we come quickly to our third point:

### **3. We Overcome Satan By Absolute Surrender To God**

**FOCAL** Revelation 12:11 **And they overcame him .... they loved not their lives unto the death.**

**They loved not their lives unto the death.** The worst thing you can do in a battle is to begin to cherish your own flesh.

The coward will huddle in the foxhole while braver men dodge bullets in order to fire on the enemy. You cannot overcome while you cherish your flesh. **If the three Hebrew children** cherished their flesh they would have *never* allowed themselves to be thrown into a fiery furnace. **If Joseph** cherished his flesh he would have willingly slept with Potipher's wife - after all, isn't that more expedient? **If David had cherished his flesh** then he wouldn't have stepped forward to battle Goliath. As a matter of fact, **he would have killed Saul while hiding in a cave in the wilderness of En-gedi**, and perhaps brought the judgment of God down on himself.

When a people go to war they will not win if they **love their lives** above the mission. Because of the Blood of the Lamb we are promised *immortality*. The Scripture says:

**John 10:28-29** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. {29} My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

You shall never perish - quit worrying about it. Consider yourselves dead. You are told:

**Romans 6:11** Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

If you're saved by the Blood of Christ, if you have a Word of testimony, then you are **dead to sin and to this world, but alive unto God through Christ Jesus**. Dear friends, **flesh and blood will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven** - cherish the mission, cherish the Messiah, but do not cherish this flesh.

The Blood of the Lamb was shed for you - and you called upon the Name of the Lord and were saved because of that Blood. Cling to that great truth - do not cling to this old flesh. **C.H. Spurgeon** said:

**"Cling to the cross, dear brethren, for there you are out of the reach of the old serpent's venom; He may hiss, but he can do no more. No wave can ever wash a**

**poor sinner off from the Rock of Ages, no storm can drive a penitent out of the cleft of the Rock. Within the wounds of Jesus we are secure from all the rage of Satan. In our battles with Satan we need no other artillery but the atoning Blood - it meets and conquers all points. ... If we are to conquer Satan we must preach the Blood. ... If you want to deliver souls from the power of Satan you must preach the sacrifice of Jesus and its power to remove sin. ... Never be ashamed of our hope. We nail our colors to the mast. The atoning Blood is the very life, soul, and core of our ministry, and shall be so long as we live."**<sup>1</sup>

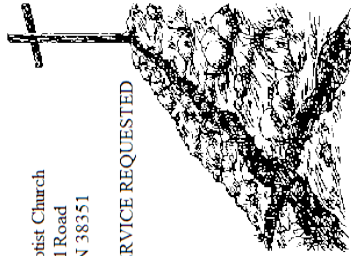
May God touch your hearts with His Word.

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<sup>1</sup> *How They Conquered The Dragon* by C.H. Spurgeon

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**1. We Overcome Satan By The Blood of The Lamb**

Revelation 12:11; Hebrews 2:14-17; Titus 2:14;  
Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 9:14; Mark 10:17; Romans  
3:24-28; Romans 9:31-33; Galatians 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. We Overcome Satan  
By The Word of Our Testimony**

Revelation 12:11; James 2:20; Ephesians 2:10; John  
16:8; Genesis 6:3; Luke 4:8; 1 John 5:4-5; 1 John 4:4

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**3. We Overcome Satan By Absolute Surrender  
To God**

Revelation 12:11; John 10:28-29; Romans 6:11

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