

## LAMPLIGHTER

### SEPTEMBER 2008

**THEME: JESUS SAID... “Overcome!”**

**JOHN 20:30, 31**

**"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NIV)**

Dear Friends in Jesus,

No doubt friends and family are one of the greatest blessings anyone can experience in this life. Without their support and love our times of sorrow and illness would be unbearable. However, there will come a time in your life, when, whether by illness or accident, we find ourselves feeling totally alone, forsaken of our friends and family. For some it will come in the form of a long, lonely hospital or nursing home stay when time seems to crawl by between visiting hours. For others it might be a car wreck out in the middle of nowhere. At times like these when the only company you have is yourself, it takes a special concentration and focus to bear up under the company of only yourself and the life changing event being encountered.

The victory of Christ over the world and the victory of believers through His victory are favorite themes for this fourth gospel writer. However, things were not always met with such conviction. The disciples bounced back and forth from moments of brilliance in which a bold confession of faith rings out and times of weakness and confusion of faith are juggled in their minds. Because of their lack of faith, the disciples abandoned Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Because of their lack of faith they failed to attend His trial. Because of their lack of faith, except for John, they did not go to Calvary and on Saturday and Sunday they locked themselves into their room.

Since faith is never perfect, it is often mixed with belief and unbelief. We are like the disciples who struggled. We would do well to plead like the boy's father in **Mark 9:24** who said, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" While we are at times overcome by our doubts and discouragements, Jesus assures us in the above text that He has overcome all our enemies already – even our doubts and lack of faith.

The fact that He has overcome strengthens us in our time of need. Look at the following passages. **(1 John 5:4-6 NIV)** “for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. {5} Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” **(Rev 2:7 NIV)** “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” **(Rev 3:21 NIV)** “To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.” **(1 John 2:13 NIV)** “I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.” **(Mat 16:18 NIV)** “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Faith in Jesus, the marvelous gift of God, and though at times mixed with doubts, gives us victory and the ability to overcome all obstacles.

There are going to be those times in life when we will face life changing events and others will not be there to comfort and encourage. Our Savior however has promised in **Matthew 28:20**, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Equally important, He promises and assures us that these things cannot rob us of the joy we have in Him, for in the words of the Apostle Paul, “We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

**Close with prayer, the Lord's Prayer, Benediction, and Song – #27 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**