

# My Heart // My Love

## Part 3

### The Gospel *applied*

#### **Revelation 12:11**

*They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, **the word of their testimony** and they loved not their lives unto death.*

#### ***They overcame him by ... the word of their testimony***

From last week: *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb* - **The Gospel** understood

This week: *They overcame him by ... the word of their testimony* - **The Gospel** applied

#### **Three parts to my overcoming through applying the Gospel**

- *The word* - my testimony can be articulated or written down!
- *Of their* - the same Gospel, but my unique story. We each have a testimony!
- *Testimony* - my life changed by the Gospel, initially and ongoingly!

#### **1. The word**

My testimony can be articulated or written down.

#### **Romans 10:8-10**

*8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

- This is the confession of my faith - *Jesus is my Lord and Saviour!*

#### **Acts 22:6-16**

*6 "As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. 7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' 8 And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' 9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. 10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.' 11 And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. 12 "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. 14 And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; 15 for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptised and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'*

- These are the words of Paul's testimony of when he was born again and called of God to preach this Gospel, (Acts 9:1-19).

- Paul can elaborate his testimony

- Paul uses his testimony as a witness of God's grace in His life

- ILLUSTRATION: Elaborate your personal testimony. Paul used about 250 words. Try and do the same.

## 2. Of their

I need to know and understand the Gospel generally, but now it becomes something intimate and personal - my conversion, the story of my salvation. This is the story of **my** heart!

### From Acts 22:6-16 above

- Paul uses his testimony as a witness of God's grace in his life

- It's the best tool I have available to help others understand the Gospel

- It also builds up my faith and keeps me encouraged

- ILLUSTRATION: Elaborate your personal testimony. Paul used about 250 words. Try and do the same.

- NOTE: The Gospel is a completed work of grace, but the application of it has three tenses in my life

- I have been saved - **justification**

- The day I first overcame by the blood of the Lamb!

- I am being saved - **sanctification**

- Philippians 2:12-13 *12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

- I have a testimony of the day I was born again, but I also have fresh testimony of my salvation being worked out! If I don't, where have I fallen asleep, backed down or slipped into apathy. I.e. My heart may have grown cold!

- Proverbs 4:23 (ESV) *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.* (NIV) *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

- I will be saved - **glorification**

- I have a testimony of hope to come
- There is a victor's crown laid up for me
- Death has no fear or sting for me
- The world needs to hear this testimony!

### 3. Testimony

- My testimony is my life transformed by this amazing and powerful Gospel.
  - My testimony is the confession of my faith in Jesus
  - The heart of the testimony is the Gospel transforming my life
    - The key issue is not me and how bad I was/am, but the Gospel
  - What I've been saved into is more important than what I've been saved out of
  - I use my story and life to show off the Gospel, and the other way around!
  - We overcome with the application of the Gospel in our lives!
- My testimony of Christ in me, anchors my life and resources me!

#### **Revelation 19:10**

*Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

- I am called to witness, and I have a testimony

#### **Acts 1:8**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

- **witnesses** is the verb of the noun, **testimony**, used here in Revelation 12:11

- Example in one verse

#### **John 21:24-25 24**

*This is the disciple who is **bearing witness** about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his **testimony** is true. 25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*

- Both words come from the Greek root word for martyrs. Therefore,

- The Gospel came to us at a cost - the Son of God paid the price of the Gospel with His blood (life)
- The Gospel is applied at a cost - we lay down our lives, die to self, and are raised in new life, in Jesus. This cost is nothing compared to the price Christ paid!

**Hebrews 12:3-4**

*Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.*

- Our daily testimony is dying to self, and alive in Christ!
- The Gospel preached could cost us our lives - *they loved not their lives unto death!*

**Revelation 1:9**

*I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*

**Revelation 12:17**

*Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.*

**2 Timothy 1:8**

*Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.*

EXAMPLES:

**John 4:39**

*Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."*

**Acts 4:33**

*And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.*