Study Guide: 1 John (Lesson #81) – Recognizing an Overcomer

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Introduction

This study guide reviews the Bible lesson on 1 John (Lesson #81), and focuses on what it means to be a spiritual "overcomer." In this study, believers learn about the core characteristics of an overcomer—faith, love, and sustained obedience—and the eternal rewards ("delights") promised by Jesus Christ to those who overcome. These promises are detailed in the letters to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation.

Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

1. In Lesson 81, Christians are defined as overcomers who are invincible in the ultimate sense. What does this invincibility mean regarding a believer's eternal life? What specific spiritual enemies have overcomers conquered through faith in Jesus Christ?
2. Overcomers possess both faith and love as core characteristics. How does the speaker distinguish true Christian love from mere sentimentality? Toward whom must believers direct this purposeful love?
3. Obedience is described as the third key mark of a true overcomer. Why must this obedience come willingly from the heart rather than from legal compulsion? How does Deuteronomy 13:4 describe the way believers ought to walk before God?
4. King David wrote about his deep delight in the law of God throughout Psalm 119. How did David value God's testimonies compared to earthly wealth? How does modern society's reaction to the Ten Commandments contrast with David's attitude?
5. In Revelation 2:7, Jesus Christ makes a promise to the overcomers in the church at Ephesus. What specific reward is promised to those who overcome in this church? What does the Tree of Life represent for the believer?
6. Revelation 22:1–2 describes the glory of the heavenly paradise prepared for overcomers. What flows down the middle of the street from the throne of God and of the Lamb? What stands on either side of this river, and what do its leaves provide for the nations?
7. The church at Smyrna receives a promise in Revelation 2:11 concerning the second death. How does the speaker define the difference between the first death and the second death? What role does the first resurrection play in protecting overcomers?
8. Jesus Christ promises hidden manna to the overcomers at Pergamum in Revelation 2:17. According to John 6, who is the true Bread of Life that came down from heaven? Why is this spiritual manna described as being hidden right now?

9. Overcomers are also promised a white stone or diamond with a new name written upon it. How were white stones used in ancient athletic contests, and what special access did they grant? Who is the only one who knows the new name written on the stone?

10. During the discussion time, the topic of resurrected bodies was brought up by the believers. What kind of body will overcomers receive in heaven according to the resurrection of Jesus Christ? How does this compare to the bodies given to unbelievers at judgment?

Answer Key

1. Invincibility means that a Christian can never be confronted with anything that can steal or come against their eternal life. Through faith in Jesus Christ, overcomers have conquered Satan, death, sin, the law, judgment, ignorance, and the world.

2. True Christian love is not just a sentimentality; it is a love of the will that is practiced purposefully. Believers are called to demonstrate this deliberate love both toward God and toward one another.

3. Obedience must come willingly from the heart because God desires cheerful, unforced service rather than legalistic compliance where someone grits their teeth against their will. Deuteronomy 13:4 states: "You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him."

4. King David valued God's testimonies as much as all the riches in his life, finding sweet delight and songs in God's statutes. In contrast, modern society and legal bodies often attempt to remove the Ten Commandments from public places because they resent God's law and treat it as a burden.

5. Overcomers in Ephesus are promised that they will eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. The Tree of Life symbolizes eternal life and the joy of dwelling forever in heaven in the presence of God.

6. A pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeds from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the main street. The Tree of Life stands on either side of the river, bearing twelve fruits every month, and its leaves are for the well-being and enjoyment of the nations.[^1]

7. The first death is physical death, which all human beings face, whereas the second death is spiritual and eternal separation from God in the lake of fire. Overcomers take part in the first resurrection (the resurrection of the just) and are completely protected from the power of the second death.

8. Jesus Christ Himself is the true Bread of Life who came down from heaven to give eternal life to the world. This manna is called "hidden" because Jesus Christ is currently hidden from our physical sight, though believers will receive Him in full glory when present with Him in heaven.

9. In ancient times, a white stone (or diamond gem) was awarded to victors in athletic events as a prize and served as an admission pass to exclusive winner celebrations. The new name written on the stone is known only to the individual overcomer who receives it from Jesus Christ.
10. Overcomers will receive a perfected physical resurrection body, just like the body Jesus Christ had after His resurrection, which could be touched, felt, and could eat food. In contrast, unbelievers will be resurrected at the Great White Throne with bodies specifically able to withstand the eternal torment of hell.

Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast how lost individuals view the laws of God versus how overcomers view them. Use references from Psalm 119 and Romans 6 to explain how a change in heart alters a person's desire to obey God's word.
2. Detail the three main characteristics of an overcomer presented in the lesson. Explain why mere belief is insufficient by referencing the example of demons, and discuss why sustained obedience and love are required to verify true faith.
3. Explain the spiritual significance of the three delights promised to overcomers in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 (the Tree of Life, protection from the Second Death, and the Hidden Manna with the White Stone). How do these promises encourage Christians facing earthly trials?
4. Discuss the concept of Christian invincibility as explained in Lesson 81. Does being invincible mean a Christian will never face earthly struggles or failure? Explain what invincibility truly means in the context of eternal life.
5. Describe the timeline and nature of the two resurrections mentioned in the teaching. Who participates in the first resurrection, who stands at the Great White Throne judgment, and what are the ultimate destinations for both groups?

Comprehensive Glossary

- **1 Thessalonians 5:18**: A New Testament Scripture verse serving as the November memory verse: "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
- **First Death**: The physical death of the human body, experienced by all human beings as a result of sin.
- **First Resurrection**: The resurrection of the just, which includes Jesus Christ as the firstfruits, the church, Old Testament saints, and tribulation saints, granting them eternal life.

- **Great White Throne**: The final judgment seat of God at the end of the millennial kingdom where unbelievers are judged and resurrected into the second death.
- **Hidden Manna**: A symbolic promise from Revelation 2:17 representing Jesus Christ Himself, the true Bread of Life, whose full glory is currently hidden from physical sight but will be fully shared with overcomers in heaven.
- **Invincible**: The ultimate spiritual standing of a Christian whose eternal life can never be stolen or destroyed by any enemy or trial.
- **Millennial Kingdom**: The thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth, during which He rules in righteousness alongside His saints.
- **Obedience**: The sustained, heart-felt action and desire of a believer to keep the commandments of God cheerfully and willingly rather than through legalistic force.
- **Overcomer**: A true Christian who maintains sustained faith in Jesus Christ, purposeful love for God and others, and a lifestyle of joyful obedience to God's word.
- **Paradise**: The heavenly dwelling place of God and the ultimate home of overcomers, symbolized in Revelation as containing the river of life and the Tree of Life.
- **Second Death**: The spiritual and eternal separation of unbelievers from God, taking place in the lake of fire following the Great White Throne judgment.
- **Tree of Life**: A tree featured in Eden and the heavenly New Jerusalem that symbolizes eternal life, spiritual edification, and the eternal presence of God.
- **White Stone**: A gem or diamond given as a reward to overcomers, symbolic of victory and granting admission into heaven's exclusive eternal celebrations.

Greek Words Used in This Study Guide

During the exposition of Revelation 22:2, a specific Greek term was referenced to clarify the purpose of the leaves of the Tree of Life for the nations.[^1]

Greek Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
θεραπεία (therapeia)	[thay-rah-PAY-ah]	Care, service, well-being, or healing; used in Revelation 22:2 to describe the spiritual well-being and enjoyment provided to the nations in heaven.

[^1]: **Footnote**: In Revelation 22:2, the speaker notes that a better translation of the Greek word therapeia (often rendered "healing") implies the continuous "well-being and enjoyment" of the nations in paradise, since no physical disease or illness can exist in heaven.