

"I have overcome the world."

*John 16:23-33*

*23 "In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. 24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.*

*25 "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father. 26 "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. 28 "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father."*

*29 His disciples said, "Lo, now You are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech. 30 "Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God."*

*31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 "Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*

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Having fortified His disciples for the impending crisis, Jesus now returns to the subject of His going back to the Father. It is a subject that He has mentioned often in the gospel of John.

For example:

*John 14:27-28*

*27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. 28 "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.*

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There are eleven verses in this concluding passage.

Now the middle verse here is verse 28.

*John 16:28 "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father."*

Can you see what we have here? This is an executive summary of John's gospel.

/This statement by our Lord encapsulates the complete history of Christ from before the foundation of the world to His ascension and session.\ From eternity past, to the Word made flesh, to His death and resurrection, to His ascension and session.

*John 1:1*

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.*

/He was with God in the beginning, before the creation of the heavens and the earth.\ He was with God – and He was God.

Then, at the ordained time, /He left the Father and came into the world.\

*John 1:9-11,14*

*9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.*

...

*14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

/The Father sent His Son into the world to save the world from sin. \

*John 3:16-17*

*16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

*17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*

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/He came to bring life – true life, eternal life\. He is the living bread that came out of heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. (John 6:51)

/And soon He will leave the world again and go back to the Father.\

*/John 16:28 "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father." \*

/In a few hours, He will die on the cross as the savior of the world.\

/In a few days, He will be raised from the dead by His Father.\

/From that moment on, the disciples will have a joy that will never end.\

/Forty days later, He will leave the world and return to His Father. He will ascend into heaven and be seated at His Father's right hand.\

/And when He arrives and is seated, when He is glorified, He will inaugurate a new age. It is the age of the indwelling Spirit.\

*John 16:7*

*7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.*

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*/John 16:28 "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father." \*

/Jesus is going to leave the world, but His disciples will remain in the world.\

*John 17:15-19*

*15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. 16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

*18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.*

Let's return to our passage now.

*John 16:23-24*

*23 "In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. 24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.*

Jesus says, "In that day". What does He mean?

/He is speaking of the age that will begin when He seated at the Right Hand of His Father.\ Then He will send the Spirit. \The Spirit will be in them forever.

/So "that day" refers to the age of the indwelling Spirit: the church age.\

*Acts 1:3-9*

*3 To these (His apostles) He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.*

*4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

*6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"*

*7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

*9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

*/We end with the last words our Lord spoke to His disciples before His passion.\*



*John 16:31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 "Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.*

The hour has come for them to be scattered, and to leave Jesus alone. Jesus wanted them to stay with Him. He knew that their flesh was weak. They would fail this test. /In His hour of greatest need, they would abandon Him. \

*Mark 14:27-30*

*27 And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP SHALL BE SCATTERED.' [Zech 13:7] 28 "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." 29 But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not." 30 And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times."*

Peter denied Him but, they all fell away. They could not stay awake for even one hour with Him during His agony in the garden of Gethsemane.

*John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*

/The believer in Christ exists in two realms: in Christ, and in the world. \

/In Christ, he has love, peace, and joy. He has comfort and protection.\

/In the world, he faces tribulation and hatred.\

/The world hated Christ first; now we experience that same hatred.\

*Phil 1:29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,*

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/Yet in Christ we have His peace also. "My peace I give to you".\

/Christ has defeated the world, overcome it. He did so at the cross, when He secured the victory over the god of this world and his associates.\

*Col 2:13-15*

*13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*

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/Just as we are sharers in His tribulation, so too are we sharers in His victory!\

*Rom 8:35-37*

*35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written,*

*"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;  
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."*

*37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*