

# The Pursuit of Excellence

A Publication of Brad Brede Ministries

Autumn 2008

Volume 7, Issue 4



## The Means of Success!

First Corinthians 15:57 says, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." This victory means a triumph or conquest. You can experience victory in all your endeavors because of what Jesus Christ has done for you.

The Apostle John makes mention of this victory in 1 John 5:4 where he declares, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

### Your faith is your means of success!

A simple definition of the Greek word translated "victory" in this verse is *the means of success*. Your faith is your means of success. The victory that Jesus has provided for you is manifested in your life as a result of your faith. But to truly understand this victory we need to further examine this verse and others.

First of all, notice that it says "whatsoever," not "whosoever." Whatsoever is not a whosoever. So, what is the writer referring to?

Previous to this statement he is speaking of loving God and keeping His commandments which includes loving others. The love of God and His commandments (His Word) are what are born of Him.

When you hear and receive the Word of God, faith comes to or is born in your heart (Romans 10:17). A word from God not only includes the written Word sown in your heart, but also the leading of the Holy Spirit as He witnesses to your spirit.

First John 5:5 says that the one that overcomes is the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. To believe in Jesus is to believe the Word of God. Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:14). To believe the Word is to keep His commandments. To keep His commandments is to believe, speak, and do whatsoever God births in your spirit.

Living by faith in that which is born of God is the means of success. Your faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

The world that is mentioned in 1 John 5:4 is the

world's system. It is a system of attitudes, beliefs, and behavior that is contrary to the Kingdom of God. It is a kingdom of darkness that is controlled by sin and fear. It propagates all that is evil - sickness, lack, strife, divorce, lust, violence, theft, lies, and so forth. Satan is the god of this world.

God's ways are crosswise to the world and your means of overcoming all that it is endeavoring to spread. First John 5:4 in "The Message" says, "The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith."

You must be strong in faith to keep the world from overcoming you. There are several truths that are very helpful to your faith. One such truth is that the devil or satan is defeated. Jesus trounced him!

Colossians 2:15 says, "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it." Jesus stripped the devil of all his authority. He declared after His resurrection that all authority in heaven and earth had been given to Him (Matthew 28:18).

### The power of satan has been broken!

The devil does not have the authority to do whatever he wishes to do in your life. As a believer in the Lord Jesus, you have been delivered from the control and dominion of darkness (Colossians 1:13). The power of satan has been broken!

The only power of rule that the devil now has is what people give him. He must resort to lies and deception to gain such authority. He tries to keep people from hearing, believing, and acting on the truth of God's Word. He must get them into fear and doubt in order to propagate his plans and purposes.

However, you can overcome all the devil's strategies by your faith. Ephesians 6:11 instructs you to, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." The Amplified Bible speaks of the "strategies" and "deceits" of the devil.

Then Ephesians 6:16 says, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench

### Brad's Itinerary:

Xtreme Life Training Center  
Willmar, MN - Oct. 7-10

Brighter Day Ministries  
Park Rapids, MN - Oct. 11

Break Forth Bible Church  
Miles City, MT - Oct. 12 AM

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - Oct. 12 PM, 19

Victory Celebration Church  
Roseville, MN  
XP Youth Rally - Oct. 25  
AM Service - Oct. 26

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - Nov. 2, 5, & 9

AFCM Meeting  
Moorhead, MN - Nov. 14

Freedom by the Word Church  
Wausau, WI - Nov. 15-16  
AFCM Meeting - Nov. 17

Xtreme Life Training Center  
Willmar, MN - Nov. 18-21

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - Nov. 23

AFCM Meetings  
Helena, MT - Nov. 24 AM  
Billings, MT - Nov. 24 PM

Faith Hope Love Church  
Moorhead, MN - Nov. 30 AM & PM

AFCM Meetings  
Sioux Falls, SD - Dec. 4  
Des Moines, IA - Dec. 5  
Auburn, NE - Dec. 6

Grace Community Church  
Rockport, MO - Dec. 7 AM & PM

all the fiery darts of the wicked." It does not say "almost all" or "some." No, it says "all."

If you keep your shield of faith lifted up, the devil cannot touch you. You may live amongst a corrupt world's system, but you will overcome it. Jesus has given you the victory. Your means of success is your faith.

## **Yes, there is a fight, but it is a fight of faith.**

You are not in a big, spiritual battle with the devil. Jesus has already defeated him. Yes, there is a fight, but it is a fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12). The real warfare is against the deceits and lies of the devil that try to pull you out of faith and into doubt and fear.

Paul spoke of this warfare in 2 Corinthians 10:5 saying, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

You must trust God's Word and not lean to your own understanding. You must believe and pursue God's plans and purposes and not be moved by circumstances or what other people might say and do.

You must not believe the lies and deceits of the devil. He has been stripped of his authority, so do not give him any place in your life! Keep the shield of faith held high and it will quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Live a life of faith and you shall overcome the world.

The devil has been dethroned but he still has a legal right to operate in this world. Adam gave him that privilege by his sin. That entitlement will come to an end when the devil is finally locked up for all eternity.

But for now, he is free to roam around seeking someone to seize upon and devour (1 Peter 5:8).

He works to deceive and control people, even affecting governments, nations, and churches. He is the source and propagator of all that is evil in this world.

However, you need to understand that as a born-again child of God, you have authority over the devil and any demonic powers.

Jesus has been exalted to a high place of authority at the very right hand of God, far above all principality, power, might, and dominion. He has been given a name that is above every name and all things are under his feet (Ephesians 1:20-23).

## **We must enforce the victory that Jesus has won for us.**

You have been raised up together with Him and are seated together with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:4-6). You have been given the legal right to use the name of Jesus Christ and the responsibility to exercise your authority over the works of the devil.

You can prevent the devil from working in the political, economic, social, and spiritual scene of your nation. You must enforce the victory that Jesus has won for you. You must proclaim the truth so that others will not be deceived. You must believe the Word of God and live by faith. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

by Brad Brede

**X**TREME  
*Passion*  
Youth Rally

Saturday  
October 25

10 am - 8 pm

Victory Celebration Church, Roseville, MN  
Brad Brede and Xp Ministry Team  
Drama, Worship, Preaching, Games, Food!

Rev. Bradley and Patricia Brede hold ordination credentials with the Association of Faith Churches and Ministers. Brad Brede Ministries was established after twenty years of successful pastoral ministry.

Brad and Patty have faithfully served as AFCM Regional Directors since 1988. They travel extensively promoting the vision of AFCM, encouraging and equipping pastors, and strengthening churches.

Brad and Patty have established several youth camps beginning in 1994. They founded Xtreme Passion in 2005 and Xtreme Life Training Center in 2007 - ministries devoted to helping teenagers and young adults pursue the purposes of God.

You may become a ministry partner by joining our Par Excellence Club. Please, contact us for details.

The Pursuit of Excellence is published as a ministry of Brad Brede Ministries. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated. If you have been blessed by this issue of The Pursuit of Excellence or desire prayer, we would like to hear from you.

If you desire additional information about Brad Brede Ministries or to receive a list of powerful teaching materials from Rev. Brede, please contact our ministry office.

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# Glory & Power

**January 18-20, 2009**

**Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm**

**Monday and Tuesday 7:00 pm**

**AFCM Meetings**

**Tuesday 10:00 am & 2:00 pm**

**Word of Faith Family Church**

**3010 7th Ave NW**

**Willmar, MN**

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Please contact us for additional information and application packets.