



"You will never turn from a sin you don't hate."  
—Jen Wilkin

**19-Jun-26**

## **The Motivation to Overcome**

Motivation is among the most powerful forces shaping human behavior. It determines how a person acts, what decisions he makes, and how persistent he is in the face of difficulty.

In the Christian life, motivation is more than just an inner feeling or a personal desire for success. It is the God-given drive to pursue [holiness](#), resist [sin](#), and endure trials with [faith](#). So, we need to understand what truly motivates us to overcome, to fight temptation, and to find strength in seasons of struggle.

Motivation is often described as "the reason behind our actions." People may be motivated by a goal, a reward, or even fear. Human nature responds strongly to rewards because it always wants more. For instance, if sin did not promise something pleasant or attractive, we would not practice it to the extent we do.

Scripture teaches that human motivation is ultimately a matter of the heart. [Proverbs 4:23](#) instructs, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life." Or, as the New International Version puts it, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

What drives us internally will shape every decision we make. Our lives flow out of our motivations.

For those whom [God](#) has called, motivation must come from God's truth and one's relationship with Him. Our ultimate motivation is not self-glory or success in this life but the desire to [love](#), honor, and obey the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind. The apostle Paul urges in [I Corinthians 10:31](#), "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Thus, our motivation for resisting temptation or persevering through hardship is not merely about avoiding consequences but about glorifying the Lord with our lives.

In His [letters to the seven churches](#), Christ promises glorious rewards in the resurrection that should motivate us, even as we struggle, to attain them.

- "To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" ([Revelation 2:7](#)).
- "He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the [second death](#)" (verse 11).
- "To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it" (verse 17).
- "And he who overcomes and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations" (verse 26).
- "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments" ([Revelation 3:5](#)).
- "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on Him My new name" (verse 12).
- "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" (verse 21).

Each of these verses gives us an awesome goal that should motivate us. However, notice that none of them specified specific circumstances or sins that we must overcome. They just say that overcomers will be rewarded.

Note, too, that [Revelation 3:21](#) says that Christ overcame and sat with His Father on His throne. Christ never sinned, yet He overcame, which implies that sin is not our only enemy.

What did our Savior overcome? [Jesus](#) says to the disciples in [John 16:33](#), "[B]e of good cheer, I have overcome [the world](#)." We can conclude that, in addition to sin, our enemy is the world and all its attitudes that reside within us. The world is the motivating force of human nature. It tells us that we can get whatever we want in this temporary life. If nothing impedes it, it molds and shapes our character based on lust, greed, and pride, among other sinful attitudes.

God admonishes us in [Revelation 18:4](#), "Come out of her [Babylon the Great, a type of the world], my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues." We are to overcome the world's viewpoints and motivations, which drive us to sin, replacing them with truth and the motivation to please the Father, walking in the footsteps of Christ, who always did what pleased Him.

Without strong spiritual motivation or drive, it is easy to give in to temptation. The writer of Hebrews speaks of "the deceitfulness of sin" that hardens the heart ([Hebrews 3:13](#)). To overcome it, we must be fueled by something greater than the fleeting pleasures of sin.

When we grasp God's awesome holiness, our motivation to resist sin becomes rooted in reverence. The prophet Isaiah fell on his face when confronted by God's glory and holiness ([Isaiah 6:5](#)). In the same way, the more we see God's greatness, the less appealing sin becomes and the more we desire to reflect His righteousness.

Knowing that Jesus gave His life for us should be the strongest motivation of all. Paul expressed it clearly, speaking of the fact that Christ died for all, and thus we should live for Him: "For the love of Christ love compels us" ([II Corinthians 5:14](#)). When we remember that our sins cost Jesus His life, we will desire to honor Him by turning away from disobedience.

Scripture frequently reminds us to keep our eyes on eternal promises. For instance, [Romans 6:23](#): "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is

eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Remembering what is at stake—life with God for eternity and all the rewards listed above—motivates us to persevere in righteousness.

When temptations come, God provides both help and hope. [I Corinthians 10:13](#) assures us, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

Under temptation, motivation to overcome comes from three anchors:

- *Identity in Christ*: Remembering that we are new creations in Him ([II Corinthians 5:17](#)), which motivates us to live in line with who we truly are.
- *God's Presence*: Knowing that God is with us in the battle motivates us not to fight with our own strength but to trust in God's strength.
- *Practical Escape*: Defining what motivation means forces us to make real choices in the moment—closing the laptop, turning off the phone, or walking away from whatever draws us to sin. We act not out of willpower alone but also because we have set our hearts on pleasing God.

We know that life is full of trials—financial struggles, loss, illness, broken relationships, and seasons of discouragement, among many others. These moments are not meant to destroy our faith but deepen it. [James 1:2-4](#) reminds us:

My brethren, count it all [joy](#) when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. But let [patience](#) have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Here, motivation takes on a different dimension. It is no longer only about resisting wrong, but about enduring suffering with hope. Trials sharpen our character and mature us. Paul writes in [Romans 5:3-4](#) that suffering produces

perseverance, character, and hope. When we grasp that trials can mold us into Christ's image, we can face difficulties not with despair but with anticipation of God's work in us.

Trials also allow us to serve in ways we could not have otherwise. Comforting others who go through what we have endured becomes a testimony ([II Corinthians 1:4](#)). Our pains may be preparing us to help heal someone else's heart.

Fixing our eyes on eternal glory and the gifts God wants to give us provides us with the strength to endure. Paul exhorts Christians in [II Corinthians 4:16-17](#):

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light [affliction](#), which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

With the [Kingdom of God](#) in view, earthly trials lose their power to destroy us through depression or the lies of [Satan](#).

As we fight this battle daily, we must remember to stay motivated and press on toward the goal through daily prayer, keeping our hearts aligned with [God's will](#) and strengthening our resolve against sin and discouragement.

We can also maintain motivation by meditating on Scripture, placing God's Word in our minds, which will protect us when temptations come ([Psalm 119:11](#)). Paul urges us in [Romans 12:2](#) to be transformed by renewing our minds. Feeding our minds with truth renews motivation daily.

Of course, we must always be "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" ([Hebrews 12:2](#)). Keeping Him as our focus is the surest motivator.

The heart of the Christian walk is motivation, not grounded in fear, pride, self-effort, or lust, but in the overwhelming grace and [faithfulness](#) of God, always trying to please him rather than to please ourselves. Sin loses its appeal when we see the outcome of human nature on the one hand and the thought of losing all the gifts God is willing to give us on the other. Trials

become bearable when we remember God's promises and see how He is shaping our character. Temptation grows weaker when we rely on His Spirit and understand that the strength to overcome does not come from sheer willpower but from being motivated by love for Christ, the Father, and the glorious future that awaits us. So, let us overcome and receive God's blessings just as Christ overcame and received all things!

- Joshua Montgomery

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## **New Transcripts**

### **[1879: Flag of Our Father](#)**

Given by Mark Schindler on 06-Jun-26

### **[1880: John 3:16 in Context](#)**

Given by Richard T. Ritenbaugh on 13-Jun-26

### **[606As: More Blessed To Give Than Receive](#)**

Given by John W. Ritenbaugh on 17-Apr-03

### **[659Bs: Parental Examples](#)**

Given by Mike Ford on 06-Apr-04

### **[840s: Understanding and Wisdom](#)**

Given by John W. Ritenbaugh on 28-Jul-07

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## **From the Archives: Featured Sermon**

### **[Checklist for Overcoming](#)**

by John W. Ritenbaugh

The church of God has a problem with empty externalism (accompanied by no inward change), a problem which led to its scattering. All of us, individually and collectively, were responsible for its demise. God has promised to hear our prayers if we humble ourselves and turn from our sins.

Having the right doctrines is of no avail unless they are acted upon. After our conversion, our minds become a perpetual battleground against our prideful human nature, requiring that we sacrifice and humble ourselves in God's service. Romans 12-16 provide a checklist for overcoming and promoting positive relationships, developing tender affection toward one another. We must realize that we are mutually dependent upon one another, and that God has given gifts so that all may benefit or profit.

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## From the Archives: Featured Article

### [The Elements of Motivation \(Part Six\): Eternal Life](#)

by John W. Ritenbaugh

If you knew you would live forever, how would you live? John Ritenbaugh explains that, biblically, eternal life is much more than living forever: It is living as God lives!

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## Featured Audio Schedule

### Friday Night Bible Study

The next Bible Study (Friday 19-Jun-26) will be **Psalms 90-100**, given by **Richard T. Ritenbaugh**. The Bible Study will be featured on the [CGG homepage](#) from **6:00 pm Friday (EST)** and all day Saturday.

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