Message Two

To Produce the Overcomers

(1)

I. Through the degradation of the church nearly all the believers in Christ became defeated in the enjoyment of the processed Triune God (cf. 2 Cor. 13:14) and corrupted by Satan through sin, self, the world, and their flesh—1 John 3:8; Matt. 16:24; 1 John 2:15; Gal. 1:4; 5:16.

II. In His seven epistles to the degraded churches, Christ calls the defeated believers to be His overcomers by Himself as the sevenfold intensified Spirit for their experience of His organic salvation in His sevenfold intensification—Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 20-21.

III. Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit produces the overcomers by saving them from the things related to the degradation of the church:

A. Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit works to save the believers in Ephesus from the formal church life, which had lost the first love toward the Lord, the shining capacity of the lampstand, and the enjoyment of Christ as life—Rev. 2:1-7:
   1. In the church life we need to be genuine, not formal; to be genuine is to be in the spirit and do everything in the spirit—Rom. 8:4.
   2. We need to recover the loss of the first love by giving Christ the preeminence in everything, making Christ everything in our life—Col. 1:18b.
   3. We also need to maintain the eating of Christ as the tree of life—Rev. 2:7.
   4. This will cause us to shine forth the divine light as the lampstand, corporately versus individualistically, in the dark night of the church age to be the testimony of Jesus in our locality in our hating the works of the Nicolaitans—vv. 5-6.

B. Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit works to strengthen the suffering believers in the church in Smyrna to overcome the persecution by being martyred so that they would be rewarded not to taste the second death during the kingdom age—vv. 8-11:
   1. Christ’s love of affection constrains us to live and to die to Him—2 Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 14:7-9; cf. Rev. 2:10; 12:11; Rom. 8:35-37.
   2. The more we are persecuted and suffer poverty for the Lord, the richer we are in Christ—Rev. 2:9; 2 Cor. 6:10; cf. 1 Pet. 4:14.
   3. Those who are faithful unto death will receive the crown of life, the overcoming strength which is the power of the resurrection life—Rev. 2:10; Phil. 3:10.

C. Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit works to sanctify the believers in the church in Pergamos from the union with the world and from the teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans to be the overcomers so that they may be rewarded to eat the hidden manna and to have a white stone, upon which a new name will be written in the kingdom age—Rev. 2:12-17:
   1. While the church goes the way of the world, the overcomers come forward to abide in the presence of God in the Holy of Holies, where they enjoy the hidden Christ as a special portion for their daily supply—v. 17a; John 6:57.
   2. If we do not follow the worldly church but enjoy the Lord in the proper church life, we will be transformed into stones for the building of God—Rev. 2:17b; 2 Cor. 3:18.

D. Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit works to rescue the believers in the church in Thyatira from idol worship, fornication, demonic teachings, and the deep things of Satan to be the overcomers so that they may be rewarded with the authority over the nations in the kingdom age—Rev. 2:18-29:
1. In Matthew 13:33 Catholicism is typified by a woman who leavened the “three
measures of meal,” the entire teaching concerning the element of Christ in His
person and in His work.

2. Catholicism is portrayed as the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess,
teaching and leading the people of God, even with “the deep things of Satan”—
Rev. 2:20, 24.

3. To overcome such a heretical religion is by keeping faith in Christ’s divine and
human person and all His works in His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection,
ascension, descension, and second appearing to be rewarded with Christ as the
morning star—2 Tim. 4:7b; Rev. 2:26, 28; cf. 17:1, 5-6, 16.

E. Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit works to revive the believers in the church
in Sardis from their dead and dying condition to be the overcomers so that they may
be rewarded with walking with the Lord in white and with not having their names
erased from the book of life but having their names confessed by the Lord before the
Father and His angels in the kingdom age—3:1-6:
1. We must conquer the deadness of Sardis by being shining stars, messengers,
filled with the sevenfold intensified Spirit—vv. 1-2; 1:20.
2. We can conquer the deadness of Sardis in the Body life by presenting our bodies
as a living sacrifice to God and by not being fashioned according to this age but
being transformed by the renewing of the mind—Rom. 12:1-2.

F. Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit works to encourage the believers in the church
in Philadelphia to hold fast what they have so that no one may take their
crown, but they may be the overcomers and be rewarded to be a pillar in the temple
of God with the name of God and the name of the New Jerusalem and the new name
of the Lord written upon them in the kingdom age—Rev. 3:7-13:
1. We must do our best for the Lord with what we have, with the “little power” that
we can afford—cf. Mark 14:8.
2. We must overcome the trend of not keeping the Lord’s word and the tide of
denyng His name.
3. We must follow the Lamb wherever He goes, since the Lord has given the Lord’s
recovery a worldwide opened door which no one can shut—Rev. 3:8; 14:4.
4. The overcomers in Philadelphia will be pillars in God’s temple—Rev. 3:12;
1 Kings 7:15-22.

G. Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit works to awake the believers in Laodicea
from their lukewarm and Christless condition, exhorting them to pay the price for
the refined gold, white garments, and eyesalve and to open their door to the
knocking Lord to be the overcomers that they may be rewarded to sit on the throne
of the Lord in the kingdom age—Rev. 3:14-22:
1. We must hate and abhor the pride and boast of being wealthy and rich in vain
doctrinal knowledge—v. 17a.
2. We must pay the price to gain the processed Triune God in our experience—v. 18.
3. We must open ourselves to the Lord, who is shut outside the door of the luke-
warm church, to enjoy Him as our feast—v. 20.
4. We need to repent of our lukewarmness and be zealous, boiling, burning, that we
may regain the enjoyment of the reality of Christ—vv. 15-16, 20; cf. Rom. 12:11.

IV. Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit saves the believers from degradation
by His speaking and by the participation of the overcoming believers, who are
living in their spirit drawn by the Lamb—Rev. 2:7b; 1:10; 4:2; 21:10; 14:4.