

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



1John 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him [that is] from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

The joy of overcoming is a truly great reward. But there is a tremendous work involved. Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists, Page 232.3 says:

The work of overcoming is an individual work. Our only safety is in taking our position firmly in favor of the word of God; for this is the only foundation that will stand the test. And then as we try to walk in the path of humble obedience, we must expect to meet trials. They will come upon us from quarters where we least expect them. But we must remember that all who have obeyed the word of God have had the cross to lift; and in lifting it they helped others to lift it. *{Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists, Page 232.3}*

There is indeed a cross to be lifted. This is why the Youth Instructor, April 28, 1908 paragraph 1 says:

"I write unto you, young men," says the apostle, "because ye have overcome the wicked one." There is a work of overcoming to be done, and it is given to the youth to experience the joys of the overcomer. Into the life of every believing child of God is to be brought the work of resisting evil. *{YI, April 28, 1908 par. 1}*

This individual work of overcoming is supported by the promises of God. The promise is that we will receive all of the power and strength that we need. YI, April 28, 1908 par. 2 says:

Take the promises of God, and claim them as your own. If you fail,--and you may; for older persons fail,--do not give up in discouragement, and say, The Lord has forsaken me. If you have done wrong, go to the one you have wronged, and confess your fault. Then go to the Lord, and ask his forgiveness. He will receive you; for he has promised. "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." When Christ abides in your life, you may look to him to complete the work he has begun in you. *{YI, April 28, 1908 par. 2}*

To overcome, you must strive diligently. What is it that we need? Knowledge, wisdom and understanding is needed. Guess what! The Youth Instruction, April 28, 1908 par. 3 says:

God will give wisdom and understanding and knowledge to the youth who seek him with sincerity of heart. He will help the student to be a power for good in the schoolroom, and outside the school to live so true a life that the world will take knowledge of him that he has been with Jesus and learned of him. **He will enable the older members of the family to set a true example before the younger members, and will teach them how to seek together for perfection of character.** *{YI, April 28, 1908 par. 3}*



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Once we surrender to him, God becomes fully involved in our lives. There is a reason for this!

God wants us to be good and to do good. It is your privilege to learn of God, and then teach others what they must do to be saved. The voice is a wonderful talent. God wants you to improve this talent, that you may be a blessing to others. Learn to speak the kind and helpful and tender word. It is your privilege to break away from every form of wrong-doing. By putting away pride and selfishness and coming into right relation with God, you may begin to have heaven right here on earth. And in this work you will be laborers together with God. *{YI, April 28, 1908 par. 4}*