

I. WE MUST HAVE EARS TO HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches... (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)

We need to develop ears to hear what Jesus says to us through the Holy Spirit; This is Jesus' most repeated exhortation. We must have ears to understand the eternal rewards which impact our hearts to live for God in the present.

II. JESUS PROMISES ETERNAL REWARDS FOR OVERCOMERS

- A. Jesus knew we would need to be motivated and stabilized during the release of the glory and crises in His End-Time plan (1 Cor. 3:8; Luke 6:23; Mt. 16:27; 1 Pet. 1:17).

To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. (Rev. 2:7; cf. 2:11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21)

- B. Rewards are not automatic. Salvation is free, but rewards are in response to our obedience. There will be a vast difference in the difference in the measure of glory of each one's reward (Matt 5:19; 25:21; Luke 19:17)

Rev. 22:12 And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

Matt. 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

- C. The promise of these rewards equips us to persevere by being anchored in eternity with confidence that our choices will be rewarded in eternity. When suffering is seen in God's light, it loses its power to intimidate. (2 Cor. 4:16-18; 1 Pet. 1:6-7).

2 Cor. 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

III. REWARD #1: THE GLORY OF GOD IN OUR RESURRECTED BODY

- A. There will be a vast difference in the measure of glory manifest in our resurrected bodies. This will greatly differ according to the measure of one's obedience.

1 Cor 15:41-42 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

Dan. 12:2-3 And many of those who sleep in the dust (physical death) of the earth shall awake (resurrection), Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise (those who gain wisdom and revelation of God and His Word, i.e. hear

what the Spirit says) *shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.*

Matt 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

- B. Our resurrected body will be conformed to Jesus' resurrected body. (Phil 3:21; Mt. 28:1-20; Mk. 16:1-8; Lk. 24:1-53; Jn. 20:1-21:25; Acts 1:1-11).

IV. REWARD #2: STRATEGIC WORK ASSIGNMENTS

- A. God gives us work assignments in this life. Work is not pain. Work itself is a source of joy.
- B. God gave Adam work without any toil or frustration. We will continue to work in the age to come, except the frustrating parts brought on by sin will be removed.
- C. In the age to come, we will each receive strategic work assignments that will bring us joy and fulfillment. Some will be made kings or rulers over different spheres of life (Mt 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17)

Matt 25:21 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

- D. For some, this will include receiving positions of authority over nations or cities.

Rev. 3:21 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.

Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations

V. REWARD #3: HEAVENLY PRAISE OR HONOR FROM GOD

- A. The saints will receive varying praise or honor from God. He will honor us openly in the public arena, and He will release glory (1 Pet. 1:7; 1 Cor. 4:5; Luke 19:17)

1 Cor 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Luke 19:17 And he said to him, "Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities."

- B. Jesus will acknowledge you openly before the Father and His angels. Think of Jesus bragging on you to the Father. Father, this is David.. and Jesus begins to brag on you!

Rev 3:5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.