



UNVANQUISHABLE

Overcoming as Men of Faith

Unvanquishable Resilience

Revelation 2:18-29

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on June 20, 2026



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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **UNVANQUISHABLE: Overcoming as Men of Faith**

- This series is for men!
- Let's open with a word of prayer. **Pray.**
- Our definition for unvanquishable is.

Unvanquishable means unable to be defeated, conquered, or overcome, describing something with an invincible, unbeatable, or unconquerable quality, like a strong spirit or an unstoppable army. It's an adjective used for people, forces, or concepts that are incredibly resilient and cannot be subdued.

- It is my belief that every man can be unvanquishable.
- Turn to **Revelation 2.**
- This series is based on the letters Jesus dictated to the Apostle John to seven churches in Asia Minor.
- These letters told the churches and the believers in those churches what they needed to do in preparation for Christ's Second Coming.
- All seven letters ended with a promise to those who overcome whatever circumstance Jesus described in the letter.
- Whatever circumstance we find ourselves in, Jesus says there is a way to be unvanquishable.
- The part that applies to us most directly is at the end of the letter where Jesus addresses the individuals in the church.
- Jesus exhorts them to overcome the local culture and the negative things going on in the church and live lives that are right in the sight of God.
- With that exhortation comes a promise for anyone who overcomes.
- So, our goal in this series is to understand the environment these believers were living in and being called to overcome in.
- And then, understand what overcoming looks like.
- This morning, we come to the fourth of seven letters that Jesus wrote to the churches in Asia Minor.
- Let's read the whole letter and then we will break it down.

- **Revelation 2:18-29**

- Thyatira was a wealthy city, a center for trade and commerce.
- Trade guilds, like modern unions, were very powerful.
- Many, if not all, of the guilds had a patron deity they worshipped.
- That was the culture this church was operating in.
- Because of the influence of the false, pagan gods, Jesus addresses the church as God, the One True God.
- As God, He claims His right to judge the church and call them to repent.

- **Revelation 2:18-19**

- This was a busy church that was doing good things.
- They were doing good and growing in doing good.
- But it was not all good.

- **Revelation 2:20-23**

- There was a woman in the church who had attained some level of influence over the church.
- Jezebel was probably meant to be symbolic of a wicked woman.
- She was encouraging people to interact with the culture in their pagan worship services, which almost always included some type of immorality, especially sexual immorality.
- She was teaching them how to compromise with the culture so that the culture would accept them.
- Compromise with this world is the pathway to spiritual destruction.
- God calls us to be separated from the culture. **Ezra 10:11**

¹¹ Now therefore, make confession to the Lord God of your fathers, and do His will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land...

- We see these kinds of influences in churches today.
- The call to tolerance around gender-identities or sexual preferences or the call to refer to abortion as women's healthcare.
- Jesus then speaks to the faithful in the church in Thyatira.

- **Revelation 2:24-25**

- Jesus is speaking to the pastor of the church and the faithful.
- They were doing good work and growing in those works.
- Keep doing that.

- Hold fast or hold on or keep is in the Aorist, active, imperative and has the sense of expressing a command to perform a specific action viewed as a single, complete occurrence, without regard to how long it takes.
- Hold fast what you have...what did they have?
- Jezebel was teaching false doctrine – they had the true doctrine.
- They had the gospel of Christ.
- It would probably be hard to be a faithful Christ-follower in that church.
- It is interesting to me that Jesus doesn't tell them to leave this corrupt church and go find Calvary Chapel French Valley.
- He tells them to hold on.
- That would be hard in a church where there was a strong influence toward compromise.
- But then comes the promise.
- **Revelation 2:26-28**
- In this church and culture, overcoming is staying pure and faithful in the constant temptation toward compromise.
- And keep doing the good works he commended in verse 19 until the end, probably the end of your life.
- Two things are promised.
- The first is power or authority over the nations.
- Verse 27 quotes Psalm 2:8-9 and probably refers to the Millennium, the 1,000 year reign of Christ on the earth.
- Those who overcome will have a place of authority in Christ's kingdom over the nations.
- It also says He will give the overcomer the morning star.
- The morning star is the last star seen before the sunrise.
- There are a couple of possible interpretations of that.
- First, it could refer to Christ Himself. **Revelation 22:16**
¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."
- It could be referring to the Rapture of the church.

- It is a promise that the future is good for those who overcome by staying pure and faithful, resisting the temptation to compromise and keeps doing the good works of God.
 - Jesus ends this letter with a statement that is found in all seven letters.
 - **Revelation 2:29**
 - Someone who has an ear to hear is someone who has put their faith in Christ and wants to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying and is willing to obey.
 - Being an overcomer in Thyatira was hard.
 - In places like that you had to be a part of the trade guild if you wanted a good job.
 - To be a part of the trade guild, you would be compelled to be involved in the pagan practices of whatever false god they chose as their deity.
 - And then the church in Thyatira was telling them it was okay if they did that as long as they worshipped God too.
 - God does not share our affections with anything else, especially with something that is a false god.
 - The danger of compromising in that way is that you might unknowingly be worshipping demons.
 - All of that could make life hard for the overcoming believers in Thyatira.
 - One of the traits of an unvanquishable man is resilience.
- Resilience: the capacity to adapt to adversity, trauma, or significant stress and continue moving forward.**
- Resilience is getting back up after you have been knocked down and reengaging in whatever knocked you down.
 - In the movies that is the trait that identifies the hero.
 - Even though life or circumstances seem to be stacked against them, they keep moving forward.
 - If their plan is interrupted, they make whatever adjustments they must to keep moving forward.
 - To be unvanquishable in this life, we must be resilient.
 - Resilience is not something we are born with, it is a learned behavior.
 - Here are five characteristics of resilience.

- First – **Strong Moral Compass**
- An unvanquishable man has a clear sense of his values.
- He knows what is right and wrong.
- As men of God, our compass is the Word of God and the Spirit of God.
- An unvanquishable man sees most things as black and white, true or false, right or wrong, good or evil, righteous or wicked.
- He tries to avoid the gray areas of life.
- Gray is a mixture of black and white – it is the area of compromise.
- That strong moral compass leads an unvanquishable man to say no to things that others are saying yes to.
- He says no to things that he would enjoy or might benefit from, but they are not right for him as a man of God.
- Things like gambling are spiritually gray, so, he chooses to say no.
- The second characteristic of being resilient is **Adaptive Problem-solving**.
- In a perfect world, everything would go exactly the way I plan them, right?
- Well, we don't live in a perfect world.
- Things don't always go the way we want them to, right?
- We make our plans and then something comes along and disrupts our plan.
- A resilient man accepts that as a part of living in a fallen world.
- Instead of dwelling on what went wrong, a resilient man accepts reality as it is and actively searches for ways to adapt his plan.
- If necessary, he scraps his plan and makes a new one to reflect the reality that is rather than the one he desires.
- The third characteristic of a resilient man is **Emotional Regulation**.
- The stereotype of strong men is that they don't have any feelings.
- Kelly has teased me for a long time saying that I only have one feeling.
- Most man have as many feelings as every other human, including women.

- What makes a man strong or unvanquishable is he understands his feelings and practices self-control to express his emotions in a manner that is healthy and productive.
- He controls his emotions and doesn't allow them to control him.
- The fourth characteristic is **Vulnerability and Connection**.
- As men, we should strive for self-sufficiency.
- But a man should be realistic about what he can and cannot do.
- An unvanquishable man is not a super-soldier who can single-handedly take on the whole world.
- An unvanquishable man is one who knows he might need help, but he is also available to help.
- The fifth and last characteristic of a resilient man is **Realistic Expectations and Persistence**.
- When someone or something doesn't meet our expectations, the problem may not be with them.
- It might be a problem with our expectations.
- Be realistic and make adjustments when you must.
- We must also be persistent.
- Just because something or someone doesn't meet our unrealistic expectations, doesn't mean we give up.
- Reevaluate, adjust, and persevere.
- Resilient men bend but don't break.
- Resilient men are like water that flows around obstacles to get to its destination.
- Unvanquishable men are resilient.
- They have a strong moral compass.
- They use adaptive problem-solving.
- They regulate their emotions.
- They are vulnerable and connected.
- They have realistic expectations and are persistent.
- Gentlemen, be resilient – be unvanquishable.
- **Prayer**