

ALL IN

A Church That Overcomes

May 5 & 8, 2022 | David Whiting

Matthew 16:13-18

¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Is Jesus Failing to Keep His Promise?

- The _____ Church is thriving even though the _____ Church is not.
- Jesus' Promise is given to the _____ Church, not every _____ church.
- Jesus' Promise doesn't _____ individual churches either.

Characteristics of Churches that Overcome:

- A church that overcomes lives out the confession that _____ is _____. (vv. 16, 24-25)

_____ devotion to God is _____ short.

Increasing devotion to Christ and His cause should be _____ for every believer.

- A church that overcomes lives out that confession within sight of the _____ of _____.

The reason churches don't overcome isn't because we are _____ the battle.

Often it is because we aren't even _____ in the battle.

- A church that overcomes accepts our commission to engage in battle for people who are _____ from _____.

What is Hades?

- "Hades" literally means "not to see" and refers to the spiritual, unseen world.
- Jesus is referring to the stronghold from which Satan and his workers go to deceive people, destroy people, and gain control of the world.

What Does "Gates of Hades" Mean?

- "Gates of Hades" could be translated "gates of _____."
- In this context it is not the place of _____.
- It is the _____ of Satan and his demons - their war room.
- Gates are fixed in place and are _____ in purpose.
- Jesus is describing Hades or hell (unseen world) as under assault by the _____!
- The Church is to be an army in full _____ mode.

Discussion Starters:

- Christians can tend to be very forbearing and forgiving regarding the neglect of the "lost." But they tend to be extremely impatient and unforgiving regarding the neglect of the "found." (Randy Pope) Why do you think that is so commonly true?
- What are some reasons that we may not succeed at making more & better disciples?
- What does it look like for a church and Christians to be winning the battle for those who are far from God? How does that happen?