

## Daily Devotional, April 30, 2021 Overcoming Adversity, Increasing Productivity

***Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:5 (NIV)***

Between these last few days of rain, causing us to be indoors; the healthy snacks I have consumed now that I am beginning to get back into a routine of office hours at church again, I can't say that I feel very much a conqueror right now. In fact, far from it. Some days I feel more like a car that is spinning its wheels. I'm sure we all have those days when productivity gives way, and we find a more sedentary way of existing.

I don't believe those type of days are all bad though, everyone needs a break, and a time of sabbath. It's just a matter of not letting those days become our norm. Right now, I think that is the challenge for many of us. The days keep ticking by, and we wonder when we will get the green light to get out, and when we do get that go ahead, we wonder if it is really all that safe? We still know there is a potential danger out there, and out of precaution we have our masks, and we see others wearing theirs. It all makes us realize that it really will be a while yet before life seems normal again, that is, if we ever get to what we consider "normal" again.

It's hard, and we know it's going to be harder to get back into normal routines each day that we are without it. Yet, tucked away at the end of the first epistle of John we find that we already have those things that can help us overcome this time as people have overcome so many times before. *It is through faith.* We have a faith in the love of God that can overcome death, so we must believe faith can overcome the uncertainty that still lies ahead. We don't have to rush back into all the things, nor should we forgo using good and common sense as we do get back into society. In faith, we should also look to the ways in which we can show care to those around us. We should look for ways to help others who may be more frightened or more vulnerable than we are. We can do the great work of being encouragers and reminding others of a faith that overcomes.

This overcoming faith even overcomes our lack of productivity, and we can begin to look and plan with care and attention to the needs of those around us, even now. We are only a day or two away from the lifting of many stay at home orders, yet many, out of caution will still stay at home. Some businesses are even remaining closed for the time being. However, hope is not closed, it never has been. The hope that we bring in the One who conquers the world, remains forever, and we get to rise up with that good news in our hearts and minds.

The Apostle John closes this first letter with these words: *We know that those who are born of God do not sin, but the one who was born of God protects them, and the evil one does not touch them. We know that we are God's children, and that the whole world lies under the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

***Prayer: Lord, I desire so much to be compassionate. I want to be aware of those in need. I want to have the means to help. Let me give to those who are not as privileged as I am. Give me the confidence in my actions so that I can give back. Let me be what others need, Lord. This is all I ask. Use me as a vessel of compassion to a world in need. In your Holy Name, Amen.***