

**December 21, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**John 16:33** *"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (NIV)

This is the conclusion to Jesus' farewell to His disciples and all who would follow Him. Before Jesus prayed for His disciples, He wanted to assure them that if they would abide in Him, they would find peace and assurance. They would certainly need this peace because they were all to face persecution and trials and even death. Jesus knew that He would be arrested, humiliated, tortured, mocked, scourged and crucified. He had peace because He knew that no power would ever overcome Him, not even death. He is the giver of peace because He is peace. He also knew that His followers would have trouble. This world didn't want to receive the good news because they would have to submit themselves to the LORD and admit their sins. **John 1:12-13** *Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.* (NIV)

Jesus then tells them that they will all face tribulation because of Him, but to take heart! This world doesn't have the final say. Only He does. Jesus has already overcome death. He took on our sin debt and paid it in full. He has already told us that Satan and all of his demons will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire for eternity. And we will be with the LORD forever more. Now to me, this is the best reason for the season! We are also overcomers because of Him! **Rom. 8:35-37** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us.* (NIV)

**Dear LORD, You have overcome the world! We are filled with Your peace because You have given us Your Holy Spirit. Praise the LORD! In Jesus Name, Amen**