

Since God Is for Us, We Will Always Overcome (Tamil)

by Zac Poonen

Zac Poonen emphasizes the importance of actively working out our salvation through the Holy Spirit to live a victorious Christian life.

Duration: 1:01:57

Scripture: Isaiah 30:18, Matthew 8:16, Romans 7:4, Romans 8:28, Philippians 2:12, Hebrews 8:10, Hebrews 10:5, 1 John 4:4

Topics: "Salvation", "Sanctification"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding the full scope of salvation, beyond just being saved from judgment, to include deliverance from the sinful nature inherited from Adam and ultimately from the presence of sin itself. It highlights the three tenses of salvation - past, present, and future - and the need to continuously work out one's salvation with fear and trembling. The sermon also stresses the role of the Holy Spirit in sanctification, giving believers the desire and strength to do God's will, leading to a transformed life marked by victory over sin and a deep relationship with Jesus.

Transcript

As I was saying in the last session, there are so many blessings in the new covenant that we do not possess because we are ignorant. Let me show you one verse, Philippians in chapter 2, which shows us the balance there is in the Christian life. It says in Philippians chapter 2 verse 12, the last part, work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

Now many people have only one understanding of the word salvation and that is because they listen more to preachers in their church rather than read the bible. Salvation means much more than salvation from judgment. Just by the way, you never read in the bible about salvation from hell.

You can read from Genesis to Revelation, there is not a single verse that talks about being saved from hell. The bible, I mean preachers talk a lot about it and if you listen to them, you will speak their language and not the language of the bible. The bible speaks about being saved from the wrath of God.

When we confess our sin and believe in Jesus Christ as our saviour, salvation is by grace and through faith. But salvation is more than that. There is salvation from this wretched life we have inherited from

Adam.

That is what the bible calls the flesh. That is a progressive thing that should take place all through our earthly life. And then we will experience salvation from the very presence of sin itself.

When Christ comes again. So salvation has got three tenses. Past tense, present tense, future tense.

In the past I am saved from the judgment of wrath of God. And now in the present I have to be continuously saved from my flesh, from the life of Adam that dwells in me. My past salvation is through the blood of Christ and my present tense salvation is through the operation of the Holy Spirit.

That is what the bible calls sanctification. Then one day I will be saved when Christ returns from the presence of sin itself. So what does this verse mean? Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

I am sure you have read that verse if you have read Philippians. Have you even tried to obey it? If you have tried to obey it, you would have first tried to understand what it means. I think most of you sitting here will not be able to tell me what it means.

Even believers. Because either you read the bible carelessly or you read it too fast or you read it but you don't meditate on it. If you studied your school books like that you would have failed in every subject.

Most of us have studied our school and college books much more seriously than the bible. I want to ask you. Do you really believe that there is only one book in the whole world written by God? I believed it when I was a little boy but I didn't take it seriously.

But when I was 21 years old, I got baptized and I decided that I am going to study this book. In the middle of my work. And in 5 years, I really got to study this book.

In the middle of my work, during my spare time. Of course, after that the next 45 years I have been understanding more and more and more and more. I want to encourage you to study God's word.

If there are two things that have changed my life, it is the study of the word of God and being filled with the Holy Spirit. I want to encourage you to study the word of God and seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit everyday. Work out your own salvation means you have to do something to be saved from this wretched life of Adam that makes you sin everyday.

You can be saved in such a way that your tongue gets controlled, your thoughts come under control, your attitudes to people come under control, you have control over your discouragement and your fear and your anxiety and every wretched thing that the devil has put upon the race of Adam. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. But we have to work it out.

If you just sit back and don't work it out, nothing will happen. So if you find that you are being defeated by the same sin you were defeated by many years ago, look at it like this, that your child has gone to school and started studying addition. You know 2 plus 2 is 4 and then they have bigger sums of addition, 2-3 lines of numbers and how to total it up.

And if you find that your child is struggling to learn that in first standard for 10 years, you would be really worried, what type of son have I got? And when you are defeated by the same sin for 10 years, God is also concerned about you. I am not saying that a child learns addition in one day. I am not saying that you will overcome all sins in one day.

But if you are being defeated by the same sin even for 10 years, something is seriously wrong with your spiritual education. You are not working out your salvation with fear and trembling. You are taking sin lightly just like some children take their academic studies lightly.

You know some children who are not serious about their studies and they are a great sorrow to their parents. And there are many God's children who are not serious about giving up sin. And they are a great sorrow to our Heavenly Father.

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling. But that is not the end of the sentence. Because here it says, verse 13, God is at work inside you.

Whenever you read in the New Testament that God is working inside, it is always the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. God the Father works outside, working all things for our good. That is Romans 8, 28.

But God the Holy Spirit is working inside us. This is amazing. God the Father working outside of me.

God the Holy Spirit working inside of me. And God the Son pleading for me in Heaven. What shall we say to these things? If God be for me, who can be against me? Do you believe that? Father, Son and Holy Spirit all working for me.

What an important person I am. I believe that. If you believe that, it will be true for you too.

That is why I don't get depressed. Because I am an important person in God's eyes, even if I am a nobody in the world. You must believe that.

I don't care if you are an uneducated person. If you have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, I want to tell you today in Jesus name, you are a VIP, a very important person in Heaven. You are a very important person in God's eyes.

And the Father will work all around to make everything work for your good. And the Son of God will work on your behalf there. And the Holy Spirit will work inside you.

What will He work inside you? See it says here. Two things. He will work inside me first of all to will His good pleasure and then to do His good pleasure.

So first of all He works in me to desire to do the will of God. To desire to give up sin. Has the Holy Spirit already done that in some of you? Do you find in yourself a desire to be free from sin? Do you desire to give up your internet pornography? Do you desire to give up watching those dirty movies? Do you desire to give up listening to that rubbish called rock music, which has destroyed so many people? Do you find a desire to give up all types of sin? That is the Holy Spirit.

Don't imagine that you had that desire. You got to be pretty proud thinking that you had that desire. Let me tell you that is the working of the Holy Spirit.

And I believe that it is because of such a desire that some of you have been coming here all of yesterday and all of today. Because God has been working in you, giving you a desire for a better Christian life than you already have. So the first part of this verse is already fulfilled in you.

That God, the Holy Spirit is already giving you a desire to do God's will. Now I want to tell you the good news. That the same Holy Spirit will also give you the ability to do God's will.

See the desire to do God's will people had in the Old Testament also. Let me show you a verse that David said in Psalm 40. You know I will show you an example of how we read the Bible carelessly.

Psalm 40. I don't know if even one person sitting here has discovered this. If you have heard any of my messages, you probably already know.

But I have hardly ever found anybody who has discovered this because people don't read the Bible carefully. David says in Psalm 40 verse 8. I delight to do thy will oh my God. What did he say? I have a great desire to do God's will.

But when I see Bathsheba, I fall down. Are you like that? Oh Lord, I have a great desire to do God's will. But I see some Bathsheba in my office and I am finished.

That's Old Testament life. Jesus came to lead us to a higher life. Now come to the New Testament where that verse is quoted.

Hebrews chapter 10. He is quoting this verse. But now he says when Jesus comes into the world, he is quoting from that Old Testament verse.

Hebrews 10.5. When Jesus comes into the world, he says to his father, sacrifice an offering you have not desired. Have you ever heard a preacher tell you that God doesn't desire your offerings? I am probably the only preacher who will tell you that. I am probably the only preacher who will show you the verses in the Bible which says that God does not desire your offering.

But what does he desire? A body you have prepared for me. I beseech you brethren. Romans 12.1. Not present your tithes but present your bodies as a living sacrifice to God.

You tell me, which is easier? To give 10% of your income or to give your body to God? Supposing you are given a choice. What is your income? 25,000 rupees a month. Give 2,500 rupees a month to God.

Other alternative. Give your body. Lord here are my eyes.

For 31 days I will never look at anything that you don't want me to look at. I will never look at or read anything that you don't want me to look at. Here is my tongue Lord.

I will never speak anything that you don't want me to speak for 31 days. I will never speak one rude word to my wife or one angry word to anybody. Here are my hands.

I never want to sin with my hands. Here are my thoughts. I don't want to have a wrong attitude even for one second in 31 days.

Here is my body. I never want my legs to take me any place where you don't want me to go. Here is your 2,500 rupees.

Let me keep my body to myself. This is too much. It is easier to pay your tithe than to give your body.

Some people say brother Zach preaches against tithing. Because brother Zach preaches something more difficult than tithing. He says give your eyes and your tongue and your legs and your hands and your thoughts everything to God.

Where did he get that from? Is that some new doctrine? No. It is written in Hebrews 10.5. He doesn't want an offering but he wants your body. It is written in Romans 12.1. Ok further.

Verse 7. Jesus says I have come. Does he say to delight to do thy will? No. I have come to do thy will.

Do you see the difference here from Psalm 40 verse 8? This is quoting Psalm 40 verse 8. But there is a difference here. David says I delight to do thy will but when I see Bathsheba I fall. But when we come into the new covenant.

Lord when I see a thousand Bathshebas I do your will. Hallelujah. What a wonderful life.

When I am tempted to be bitter against somebody. The Holy Spirit works in me not only to desire his will but to do his will. And just in case you missed it the first time.

He repeats it a second time in verse 9. I like that. Sometimes when you miss it in the first sentence God says ok I know you missed it but I will repeat it again. This is written for the benefit of those who read the Bible too fast.

Again in verse 9. I have come to do thy will oh God. Now let me show you Hebrews chapter 8. Now you will understand Hebrews 8. I often say this that my calling is to give people a new Bible. To show them things they have never seen in their Bible.

Verse 8. Hebrews. The days are coming when I will effect a new covenant says the Lord. And what is this covenant? Verse 10.

This is the covenant I will make. See it verse 10. I will put my law inside their mind and write them upon their hearts.

In the Old Testament he wrote it on two tablets of stone. Today the two tablets are my mind and my heart. It is not outside it is inside.

In the Old Testament it is outside and God said do it do it do it. Now the Lord puts it inside and says I will make you do it. That is much better.

It is not like pushing the car it is getting inside the car and driving it. This is the new covenant where the Holy Spirit comes inside and he writes his law not in my mind but in my heart. Do you know what that means? He gives me a desire to do the will of God.

But he does not stop there. He writes it in my heart. That means he gives me the strength to do that will.

He gives me a desire in my mind first and then gives me strength to do it. It says in Hebrews 13 verse 9. It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace. What is that for? To do God's will.

See it is like if there is a one ton weight here I try to lift it. It is like trying to keep God's law. I strain and strain and strain and get a slip disc.

Life under the law is like that I give up. But the Holy Spirit comes in strengthens me and almost without any effort I can lift up that one ton. I can keep God's law.

It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace. So when God says I will write my law upon your mind he gives us the desire to do God's will. So when God says I will write my law upon your mind he gives us

the desire to do God's will.

This is the new covenant. The old covenant he wrote it outside. There is another big difference.

If you read the old covenant in the ten commandments in Exodus 20. I will tell you what it is basically.
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this is Christ, and I marry him, and I discover after my marriage, this is not Christ, this is the law of God, who never does anything wrong, always tells me to do what is right, tells me never to worship idols, never to tell a lie, he is not like the old man, he is the exact

opposite of the old man, but my life is miserable, he is so demanding, very exact, if he says breakfast at 8 o'clock, breakfast must not be at 8.01, it must be at 8 o'clock, if he says breakfast must be at 8 o'clock, breakfast must not be at 8 o'clock, but I am such a lazy wife, I can make breakfast only by 12 o'clock in the afternoon, and everyday he condemns me, the shoes are not polished properly, you did not iron my shirt properly, he never asks me to do anything wrong, everything he asks me to do is right, but my life is just as miserable as when I was married to the old man, how many of your sisters would like to be married to a man who never asks you to do anything wrong, but breakfast must be ready at 8 o'clock, the shoes must be polished perfectly, the clothes must be washed,

there must not be a spot on them, the house must be spick and span, what a miserable life, this is religious life, struggling under the law to please, to do what is right, your old man is dead, you are not doing evil things now, you are born again, but you married the wrong person, you married the law, and now you say, I wish this husband will die now, but he will never die, the law of God can never die, he has no diabetes, no blood pressure, nothing, he will never die, he is eternal, Lord, I am doomed, I married the wrong person, does God have a solution for this?

He can kill the old man, but he will never kill his own law, impossible, what is the solution? He kills me, the wife, and then I become free, doesn't it say that in Romans 7 and verse 2, the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living, but if her husband dies, she is released, old man died, I was released, but this new man, this law will never die, so what to do? Verse 4, you the wife were made to die to the law, did you understand that now? Did you understand Romans 7 now?

You the wife were made to die to the law, and what did he do? Verse 4, he raised you from the dead, he kills me as the wife, and breaks my connection with the law, and then raises me up from the dead, he says your old marriage is cancelled now because you died, now you can marry Christ I said praise the Lord, what a wonderful way God did it, now read Romans 7 verse 4 and see if that is not exactly what the Bible says You were made to die to the law through the body of Christ, that you can be married to another who was raised from the dead, so that we might bear fruit, children for God The children of love and joy and peace and patience and humility and bringing souls to Christ and building the church, this is true Christianity So when you are married to the law, it is a religious life, very heavy, now what are the standards of Jesus Christ?

He also says breakfast must be ready at 8 o'clock And here the lazy woman like me still making breakfast at 12 o'clock, see Jesus standards are not lower than the law of God, never, but he says never mind darling I will help you He comes and helps me in the kitchen, this is not like the old husband the law, and we work together, and after one week breakfast is now at 11 o'clock, I am improving And he says don't get discouraged we will do it, after another week breakfast is at 10 o'clock, another week 9 o'clock and I am encouraged Another week I have made it breakfast at 8 o'clock, he did 90% of the work, or 99%, I say I want to live with this husband forever He says the shoes must be polished perfectly, he does 99% of the work, and he says just rub it perfectly that is enough for you to do I say boy Lord what a wonderful life this is, you ask any woman here sitting here would you like to marry such a husband, no I say any day, then why aren't you all surrendering yourself completely to Christ I am talking about Jesus, many of you are married to the law, that is why you are so gloomy, long faced, miserable, I was married to the law for a

long time But one day God killed me hallelujah, and raised me up, and said marry Jesus Christ, my life has changed, many times when I stand up to speak, some places in 3 days I have to speak 12 times 12 hours in 2 and a half days, and in between those 12 hours counselling people for hours and hours and hours, many places I go to I have to sit till 2 o'clock at night talking to people And in the days when I was married to the law, I used to get headaches, struggle, it was a burden, I was weary and heavy laden, but I can testify I am not weary and heavy laden now Because I married Jesus Christ, He does 99% of the work, 99% of the work He does, many times I say, Lord I will never go and stand in a pulpit if you are not standing there with me I will just waste people's time, I will waste people's time, I will bore them, I will show off myself, I won't draw them to Christ But Lord if you stand next to me, I will go anywhere, any number of times, have you experienced this type of marriage to Jesus Christ?

There is only one condition, you have to surrender everything, it is not cheap, but it is wonderful, there are some things in the Christian life that are free, see that is the mistake that some Christians make They think everything in the Christian life is free, no, forgiveness of sins is a gift, it is free, the gift of the Holy Spirit is a gift, it is free The moment you ask Christ to come into your heart, His Spirit comes in, but to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to be baptized with fire, to partake of God's own nature, for that you have to pay a price, that is not free Do we have to wait?

You know a lot of people have tarrying meetings, yeah we have to wait because God is waiting for you to open every area of your life to Him, you don't have to wait, God is waiting When did you accept Christ? I surrendered my life to Christ when I was 19 and a half, was I waiting? Yes, Jesus was waiting at the marriage wedding altar for 19 and a half years He was waiting for me, have you ever seen a wedding where the bridegroom is waiting for 19 and a half years, waiting just for the bride to say yes I will marry you When the man conducting the marriage asks the bride, will you marry him?

And she looks around for one minute, he will say something is wrong here One minute, what if she says, I am still thinking about it, that is what I said to Jesus for 19 and a half years at the marriage ceremony Was there a tarrying there?

Yes, who was waiting, not me, the Lord was waiting, the disciples had to tarry before the day of Pentecost, after that the Lord is tarrying for us now Isaiah chapter 30 verse 18, the Lord longs to be gracious to you, verse 30 verse 18, the Lord longs to be gracious to you But he is waiting, he is waiting to have compassion on you, there is a tarrying meeting but the Lord is doing the tarrying, not you, you don't have to tarry When you tarry, you are waiting, God is waiting for you to surrender, that is the only tarrying meeting, even for salvation there is a tarrying, Jesus waited 19 and a half years for me, what a long waiting that is Finally like some big Maharani, I said yes, what a shame, I made the son of God wait for 19 and a half years, I am really ashamed of myself But he is long

suffering with me, and then he waits till I surrender everything in my life, that may also take time, he says I want to fill you with my Holy Spirit But I must give every room in my heart to him, if you don't give every heart, he can't fill you, so some people have to wait 20 years, 10 years, some people 10 years, some people 40 years, that depends on you, when are you going to open all the rooms in your heart It is the Lord who is tarrying, don't forget that, lot of foolish people go to tarrying meetings thinking that I am waiting for the Lord to do something, they are insulting God God has already sent his Spirit to this earth, he is waiting for you to open up every area of your life, and then he becomes your companion all the time, the Holy Spirit comes to fill us to bring Jesus with

us everywhere we go The Lord wants to go with me everywhere I go, one of the sad things that I see in some Christian churches nowadays, is the very immodest way in which some young girls dress Young teenage girls and in their 20s, with tight dresses, exposing more and more of their body, as it is the poor brothers have a struggle by fighting lust And these girls come and provoke them even more in the church, one day one sister, young sister came to me in my church and said, brother can you please tell me how I should dress I was very happy that she asked me like a father, I said I will tell you, imagine that Jesus is living in the next street to your house, and one day Jesus calls you and says, please come to my house I want to go for a walk with you in the market place, how will you

dress when you go to meet Jesus, to go for a walk with him in the market place Will you walk with your tight jeans and your midriff exposed, and those who wear sarees will they have that 6 inch belt exposed around their midriff And the big thing exposed at the back, the new cut of blouses, people say brother it's hot, why is it the brothers don't come with shirts like that cut at the back, they are also feeling hot Aren't they feeling hot, I have never seen any brother with a U cut shirt like that saying it's hot, it's got nothing to do with heat, it's because you follow the film world, the models in the world rather than respect Jesus Christ And I said if you want Jesus to come with you only to the church, then dress like that when you come to the church, if you don't want Jesus to come

with you when you go to the office, then go as you like But if you want Jesus to come with you to the office, then dress like that when you go to the office also, but brother Zach all the young girls will laugh at me, let them laugh, Jesus will pat you on the back and say I am proud of you We want young girls like that who want to please Jesus, and I hope your parents will bring up your daughters like that, I want Jesus with me every time I am in the pulpit, I want Jesus with me everywhere I go Sometime ago I was taking a flight from Bangalore to Delhi, and an old friend of mine from the Navy who is a Commodore now was travelling in that plane, we sat next to each other, he knew me very well from the old Navy days And when we were going to Delhi, the plane suddenly dropped in some air

pocket, and it went up and down, and he held my hand He said Zach I know as long as you are in this plane nothing will happen to this plane, he knew me from 40 years ago that I was a servant of Jesus Christ, it is a wonderful thing to travel in a plane with Jesus travelling with you The scooters and cars are more dangerous than the plane, I will tell you that, we want Jesus with us every moment of the day, no demon will be able to stand before us Let me tell you something, I have had to cast out many demons in my life, in different villages, even in the United States once, let me tell you my testimony I have never had to ask a demon to leave a person more than once, because I read in Matthew 8 16, Jesus cast out demons with one single word He didn't have to tell a demon to go twice, and

so I say in Jesus name get out of him, get out of her, every single time they have gone, they are not afraid of me, but they are afraid of Jesus And if you walk with God, and you use the name of Jesus, the devil will be afraid of you, if your whole life is given to Jesus, the devil will be afraid of you He is not afraid of those believers who watch dirty movies, he is not afraid of people who are committing sin and trying to cover it up, but a person who is living a clean life, who confesses sin as soon as he falls, and keeps his heart clean all the time Demons will be afraid of such a person, the demons will say Jesus I know, Paul I know, and this man I know, I want to say to all of you brothers and sisters, you must have faith, greater is he that is in you than he who is in the world

The devil cannot mess up your life, he cannot touch your children, he cannot spoil your business, he cannot mess up your bank account, he cannot do a single thing to you Because all his armour was taken

away by Jesus on the cross, just make sure that Jesus is with you all the time, and there are only two things to ensure that One, keep your conscience clean all the time, if you get angry a hundred times a day, apologize a hundred times a day, ask forgiveness from that person, confess to God, immediately, don't wait And secondly, humble yourself, always humble yourself, I can guarantee, you keep your conscience clear, and you humble yourself always, Jesus will be with you And if God is with you, who can be against you?

My dear brothers and sisters, it is a wonderful life Jesus Christ has called us to, I have tasted a little bit of it, and it gets better every year And that's the thing I wish for all of you, and when you get it, share it with others, let's pray There are many things God has spoken to you in these days, you may not remember all of it, but like the little boy gave five loaves and two fishes completely to Jesus, give everything to the Lord And tell him like this, Lord if there is anything I have not given, please show me, some of you may be seeking honor for yourself, and that is why you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit Give up that desire, say Lord I don't even want honor, I want to be unknown, I want to serve you, that's all, make me a blessing to others, thank you for hearing me Lord, everybody who has sincerely prayed that prayer here, lead them to a spirit filled life, and make them a blessing to others in Chennai and around the world Let the name of Jesus be honored in India, let everyone know that Jesus Christ is Lord, stretch out your hand to do signs and wonders in this country, in Jesus name, Amen Live a holy life filled with the Holy Spirit Live a holy life filled with the Holy Spirit Jesus is calling you to be like the living sacrifice, come and join us Jesus is calling you to be like the living sacrifice, come and join us

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