

an act of intelligent worship. When God is the center of our lives, our one desire is to give glory to Him in every aspect of our lives, whether that has to do with our diet and the things we eat, our dress and the things we wear, our entertainment and the things we view, or our music and the things we listen to. We give glory to God as we reveal His character of love to the world through lives committed to doing His will.

Revelation's Overcomers

Revelation's message speaks of a victorious people who overcome, through His grace and by His power. Jesus' last-day message is an urgent appeal to holiness. One day God will have a group of people who "keep the commandments of God and [have] the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). The only way anyone can keep the commandments of God is through the faith of Jesus. Notice our text does not say "faith in Jesus," although that is extremely important. Rather, it says "the faith of Jesus," which is something more. It is the quality of faith that enabled Christ to be victorious over Satan's fiercest temptations.

Faith is a gift given to each believer. When we exercise the faith of Jesus, the Holy Spirit puts in our hearts that faith, and it grows. We overcome not by our *will power* but by the *power of Christ working through us*. We overcome, not because of who we are, but because of who He is.

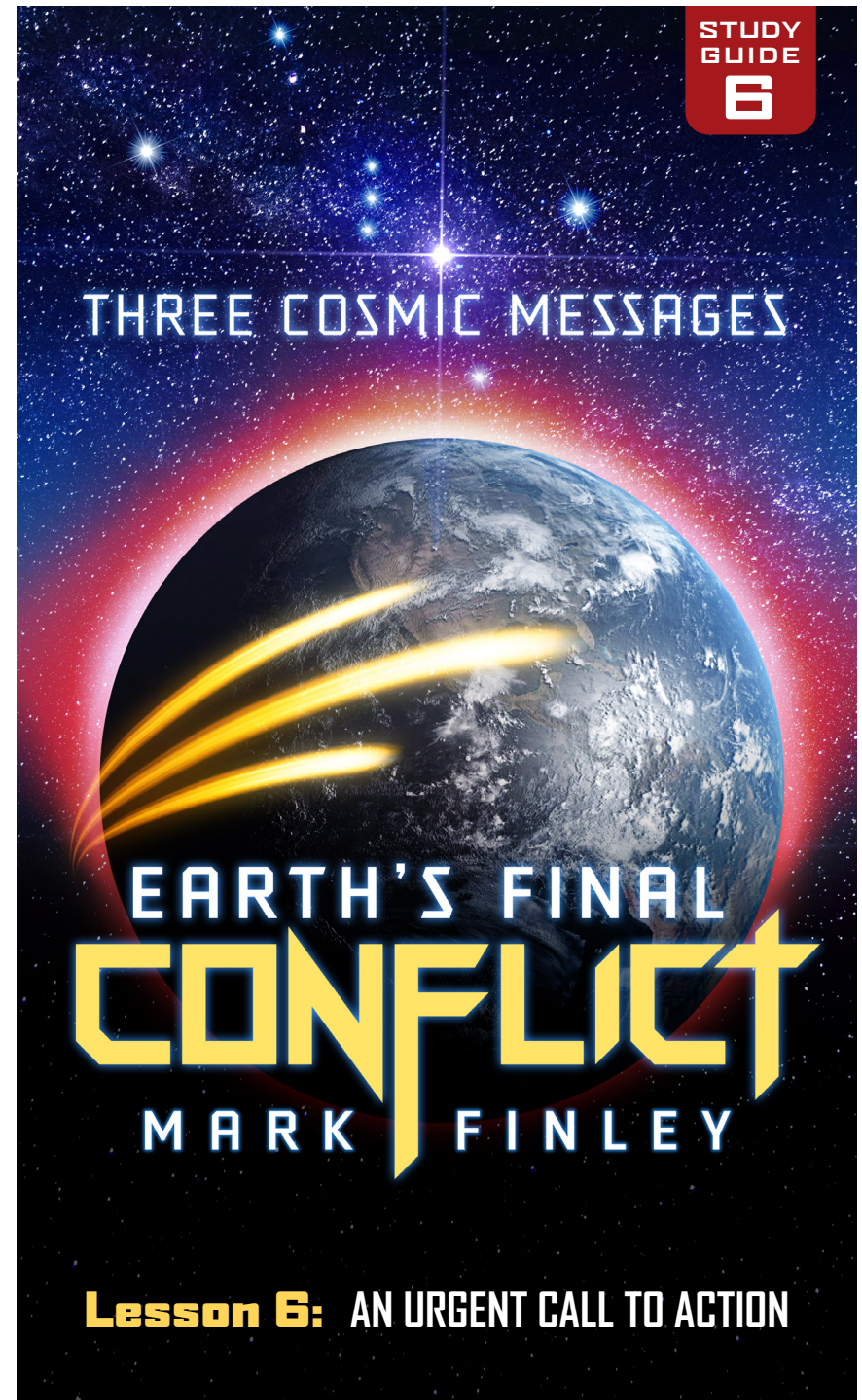
We can overcome because He overcame. We can be victorious because He was victorious. We can triumph over temptation because He triumphed over temptation.

4. What does the Apostle Paul suggest is the key to overcoming?

(Hebrews 4:14–16)

Jesus, the divine Son of God, has overcome the wiles of the devil. He faced temptation, trusting in the promises of God, surrendering His will to the Father's will, and depending on the Father's power. Trusting Him, looking to Him, believing in Him, we too can be victorious. Jesus is our all in all, and the three angels' messages are all about Him.

Will you listen to heaven's urgent, last-day appeal in this first angel's message and give your life totally and completely to Him right now?



LET'S SAY YOU'RE AT CARNEGIE HALL IN NEW YORK CITY LISTENING TO THE FAMED

London Philharmonic Orchestra when suddenly in the middle of the concert someone stands up and yells, "Fire! Fire!" Everyone is stunned, confused, and wonders what to do.

Crying fire when there is no fire endangers public safety and is a crime punishable with heavy consequences. But if there is indeed an emergency and you know it, to not warn those in danger is gross negligence. The three angels' messages are God's final warning given in love to a world on the verge of a stupendous crisis.

The Bible's first book, Genesis, helps us to understand the Bible's last book, Revelation. The crisis that the world faced in Noah's day is similar to the crisis the world will face in the final days. Read Genesis 6:3, 5: "And the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever.' There will come a day when heaven's final appeal will be made. There will come a day when the judgments of God would fall upon the land.

1. What was the condition of the world in Noah's day? (*Genesis 6:5, 11*)

Noah preached for 120 years. Heaven had done all it could do. The cancer of sin had to be rooted out of the world. God would start all over again with righteous Noah and his family.

Once again in the last days, God sends His final warning message to the world. Once again, heaven is making its final appeal. Once again, Jesus is giving this world its last warning in the messages of three angels to prepare it for His soon return.

Revelation's Purpose

The purpose for the book of Revelation is to prepare a people to be ready for Jesus' soon return and to unite with Him in giving His last-day message to the world. The aged Apostle John, a prisoner on Patmos, continues his urgent end-time appeal in Revelation 14.

2. What urgent appeal does Jesus give His people? (*Revelation 14:7*)

What Does It Mean To Fear God?

The Greek New Testament word for fear in verse 7 is *phobeo*. It is used here, not in the sense of being afraid of God, but in the sense of reverence, awe, and respect. It conveys the thought of absolute loyalty to God and full surrender to His will. It is an attitude of mind that is God-centered rather than self-centered.

In Scripture, the fear or reverence of God leads to obedience to His commands. The book of Ecclesiastes makes this clear. "Let us hear the whole conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, / For this is man's all. / For God will bring every work into judgment, / Including every secret thing, / Whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14).

In the light of the judgment hour, heaven's urgent appeal is for those saved by grace to live godly lives. The gospel not only delivers us from the guilt of our past, but it also empowers us to live godly, obedient lives in the present. The Christ of Scripture never leads us to downplay His law that is the transcript of His character. Jesus never leads us to minimize the doctrines of the Bible that reveal more clearly who He is as well as His plan for this world.

Ellen White sets the record straight with this though-provoking statement: "Those who think that it matters not what they believe in doctrine, so long as they believe in Jesus Christ, are on dangerous ground" (*Christ Triumphant*, p. 235). You cannot separate Jesus from doctrine. Jesus is truth incarnated. He is doctrine lived out.

Revelation's final appeal calls us, through faith in Jesus, to accept the fullness of everything He offers. It calls us to "fear God" or by faith in His redeeming power to live godly, obedient lives. The final battle in the great controversy between good and evil is for our minds. Our actions reveal what we think. To fear God is to make Him first in our lives.

What Does It Mean To Give Glory To God?

Notice here a contrast. "Fearing God" indicates an attitude of God-centered obedience, whereas giving glory to God speaks to our actions or how we live. Fearing God has to do with what we think. Giving glory to God has to do with what we do. Fearing God deals with the inner commitment to make God the center of our lives. Giving glory to God deals with how our inner convictions translate into a lifestyle that honors God in everything we do.

3. What appeal does the Apostle Paul make regarding how we treat our bodies? (*Romans 12:1–2*)

A lot of people have the idea that how they treat their bodies is unrelated to their faith. The New Testament Greek word for bodies is *sumata*, which is better translated as the collective sum of who you are—body, mind, emotions. The Phillips translation of the Bible translates "reasonable service" as an intelligent act of worship. In other words, when you make a total commitment to "fear God" and "glorify Him" in all you do—giving your mind, body, and emotions to Him—this is