

## AN ETERNAL MINDSET

Pastor Katy Reeves

The Holy Spirit woke me up Monday morning with Revelations 12:11.

*"And they did overcome him because of the Blood of the Lamb and because of the Word of their testimony and they did not love their life until death."*

You know we all know the first part of that scripture. We overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of our testimony but what the Holy Spirit was talking to me about -- and they did not love their life unto death. And later that week, I was looking on Facebook and The Blaze had posted this news story about all the persecution of our brothers and sisters in Egypt. You know the Christians in Egypt are being horribly, horribly persecuted and they had just horrific pictures of death and destruction on our brothers and sisters in Christ. And Sister Micki and I were talking about it. To me, we should be so victorious that when we decide to lay down our lives for Christ and be a martyr, it's because we want somebody who sees our death to be impacted for the Kingdom of God. When we leave this earth and the devil's persecuting and attacking, we should leave it to where somebody who sees it says, "Wow." What's different about them? Why aren't they afraid to die? What's different?

The early Christians understood. The Western Church has lost it. They don't have an eternal mindset but BWC is going to get an eternal mindset. We're going to transform our minds and we're going to line it up with Scripture and we're going to think like God thinks. He doesn't think in time. He thinks in eternity and that's where we need to be. The Bible says that we're in this world but we're not of this world. We're from another world. And as I was reading and studying this whole week, some of the things that I ran across was there can be a longing in the Christian. "Oh, if I just get this, that'll satisfy me. If I just get this, I'll be happy." People in the world too but I'm talking to Christians and they get the success and they get the money in the bank but at the expense of their relationship with Jesus. And there's nothing that's going to feel that longing in us than Jesus Christ because the things in this world are temporal. We're going to read Scriptures about that. The things that we see are just temporary. They're going to pass away. They're going to decay and pass away and it's the things that we don't see that last for eternity.

So that's what we're talking about is the eternal mindset. So ya'll turn over in your Bibles to Revelations 12:11 and we're going to read that again. I read it out of the Young's Literal. That was the Young's Literal. I'm going to read it out of the Amplified.

*"And they have overcome and conquered him by means of the Blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony for they did not love and cling to life even when faced with death, holding their lives cheap until they had to die for their witnessing."*

We want to understand life and death in time and we want to understand life and death in eternity. If we can do that, then we can make this scripture a reality in our lives. Does everyone want to do that? Let's look at two words. Overcome - that is a verb and it means to conquer. It means to carry off the victory, to come off victorious. Of Christ, it means victorious over all His foes and of Christians, it means that they hold fast their faith even unto death. Listen to this. Against the power of their foes. So, yes, the devil is defeated but how many of us know that we are in a war. We are in a war. A spiritual war. And you have Christian people, good Christian people, that don't have a clue. They don't have a clue

that when they accepted Jesus Christ, they come into His Kingdom and they come into direct opposition with satan, who wants to steal, kill and destroy them. He wanted them in bondage and he had them in bondage but Jesus purchased them, redeemed them, translated them out of His control, His dominion and into God's Kingdom and now they're at war. And they don't have a clue.

This is kind of going to be a hard lesson because I wrestled with it for two days before I said, "Well, yes, Lord." Because we're talking about death. We've experienced death. 2012 was filled with death for us. I remember, well, December his Mom died, 2011.

And then right after that in January, Pastor and Sister Micki and I were ministering to this woman who had liver failure. Some people at our old church had asked us to go and start ministering to her and so we went. She was in a nursing home where they were trying to take care of her and the first time we went, we prayed with her to receive Jesus. She thought she was a Christian. She confessed Jesus Christ. "Oh, yea, yea, I've been baptized, I know Him." But then when you go to asking some personal questions, "Well, when did you meet Him?" I mean everybody here remembers when ya'll met Jesus. When you meet Him, there's just not knowing when you meet Him. He's that kind of a Person. And as we were ministering to her, the Holy Spirit just impressed upon me, "She doesn't know Me. She thinks she does. But she doesn't." So we began to talk with her and pray with her. And I'll never forget it. She was laying there in her bed and one single tear just come right down her cheek. She met Him! She met Him then. Now, of course, we were believing that she was coming off that bed of sickness and she was going to be totally healed. I mean, our faith was there and we were -- left tapes and CDs. We'd go by and pray with her and anoint her but how many know when doubt and unbelief surrounds them because that's what she was surround with when we weren't there. It was doubt and unbelief. And I'll never forget it. We were in our old church it was told to the pastor there that she had just passed away. We were supposed to go see her after church. I was devastated. I had never cried so much and I didn't really know her that well but I just felt like I had let down the Lord because my faith wasn't strong enough raise her up off that bed. I was putting it all on me like I could do something. How many know that Jesus is the Healer? All we are is a conduit for His Holy Spirit to work but the person has to receive or there's got to be special faith there that overrides. But let me tell you. We went to the nursing home and they hadn't touched her yet. I have never seen a dead person like that before. It shocked me. She was sitting up in her bed and her husband had told us in life she always smiled. She just had the most beautiful smile. And we walked in and expected to see her laid out in the bed. She was sitting up and she was -- her eyes were open. It looked like -- the expression on her face -- she was smiling. The most beautiful smile. Like she had seen Jesus. Jesus came for her and her face just like frozen with that expression.

I believe when my Daddy passed. I can't remember which arm but he was kind of paralyzed on one side. But one of his arms, I think it was the one that was paralyzed. It kept raising his arms up even though he was in a coma. And it was just like he was like, Hey.

And then a couple of months later, a dear friend Ray, he collapsed with liver problems and they took him to Shreveport. It was a month. He was a dear friend and he went to our Life Group but you know? Every time we laid hands on him to pray for him while he was in a coma, he would just thrash, like he did not want it. And the last thing him and his wife talked was he was so concerned for her health because she had a very, very stressful job and he was concerned for her and he said that it would be better for me to die because then you can get a widow's pension and you can do this and you'll be taken care of. I believe that's what he wanted to do because he would not receive healing ministry.

A month later, my son, my baby boy was killed by a drunk driver. And I'll tell ya'll. Jesus is so faithful. He is so faithful because there's just nothing like losing a child. There's nothing like it. I lost my Daddy. That's hard but it's different. It's different when you lose -- nothing like it. But our Heavenly Father knows exactly what I went through because he went through it. And your heart can lie to you because mine lied to me for over a year, thinking I was handling it fine. I had my days. I remember one day I picked a fight with Larry and took off because I hadn't grieved. You know how the Bible says we grieve different than the world. I was just not dealing with it. Just pushing it down, pushing it down, like Jesus is with me. I know where's he's at. I'm good. And how many know you've got to face the truth? Well, I did. I got it all out. I cried and I thought that I had dealt with it. But then, right here, a couple of weeks ago when we had that awesome Sunday service, I realized -- I was surrendering all to the Lord and He told me, He said, "You lied to yourself." I was crying and it was that grieving cry that I'd cried with Joshua. And, I'm like, I thought I'd dealt with this and He just kept telling me, "He died, Katy. He died. I would never say that. I would say, "Well, he left this world." I wouldn't even say he was killed. I would say he left this world. He moved. I was lying to myself and you can't do that. You can't surrender everything to God and be lying to yourself and holding on to stuff. And so Jesus, he just drove it home. "He died, Katy. He died. He died." And see in my mind, that's not supposed to happen to me. That's not supposed to happen to me. I will just raise him from the dead. I've always said that. But how many know we've got to lean on God and trust Him. And lean not unto our own understanding. But Jesus said, "It's okay because you don't grieve like the world."

Because you see the world doesn't have any hope. But we have a hope. We have a hope and His Name is Jesus Christ and He has given us the Great Holy Spirit as a Deposit because when this body dies, we're going to read this in Corinthians, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. But how many know that when Jesus steps out on that cloud, and it's not going to be long, and He blows the trumpet, the dead in Christ -- they're going to have new bodies. They're going to be raised. The old corruptible body is going to be changed and they're going to have a new body and those of us that are still here, we're going to be caught up in the air and changed. So we'll all have better bodies. See that's our hope. We don't want to shrink from the truth about death. Death is painful but we have the victory. We have the hope and that's where you lean not to your own understanding and you trust God and He will bring you through.

The other word was Death and it means the death of the body. And it means that separation, whether natural or violent of the soul or spirit and the body by which life on the earth is ended. That's what those two words in the Greek mean. Overcome -- we conquer. Death -- death of the body. It's the separation of the soul/spirit and the body. That's going to be important in a little bit later on. Let's look at Colossians 3. We're going to talk about our heavenly mindset. You've got to have a heavenly mindset.

*Colossians 3:1-3 - If then you have been raised with Christ to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead, aim that and seek the rich eternal treasures that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set you minds and keep them set on what is above. The higher things, not on the things that are on the earth.*

This is the heavenly mindset. The eternal mindset. When you think about we're all just a split second away from death. Life is fragile. Just a split second and we're out of here. So, if your mind is consumed with heavy things that don't matter. They don't amount to a hill of beans. So what if somebody cuts you off in traffic? Big deal. What does that have to do with eternity? Just means that they're in a hurry or they're rude but should that ruin your day because somebody cuts you off in traffic? Or you don't get

the parking spot that's right there by the door? I'm talking because sometimes I get upset with stuff like that. Don't we all? Stupid silly stuff. Remember Lowes? Hey, anybody working here? What does that have to do with eternity? When we're here to show the love of Christ. That kind of thinking is on the earthly things but if your mind is on the heavenly things -- when somebody does something like that to you, then you're not looking at it from the earthly. You're looking at it from the heavenly. That really doesn't matter. Go ahead. Like what you did with the lady that wanted to cut in front of you. Is it worth getting in a fight over it, losing your peace, getting arrested? We have to start thinking about the heavenly attitude, the eternal -- what is this going to matter in eternity? Well, you never know, Micki. That one thing right there could have planted a seed. Somebody else could come along and they did another nice thing and somebody else come along and did another. Well, what are all these people being nice to me for? Well, let me tell you about Jesus. See? We've got to start thinking the eternal. Eternity, what am I doing that's going to make a difference in eternity?

*2 Corinthians 4:18 - Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but the things that are unseen for the things that are visible are temporal. They're brief and fleeting. But the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting.*

Does somebody else have a different translation?

*NIV - 2 Corinthians 4:18 - So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but what is unseen but for what is seen is temporal but what is unseen is eternal.*

Eternal. They're eternal. The invisible things are deathless and everlasting. They're eternal.

*2 Corinthians 5:1 - For we know that if the tent which is our earthly home is destroyed, we have from God a building, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

Now notice the word 'tent.' Paul's talking about our body. Tents are usually temporary. But look he said God is building us a building. Buildings are permanent, usually. More permanent than a tent. And, so, the body that we have now, the earthly body, is a tent. Well, if it's destroyed, we don't have to be discouraged. We don't have to get all upset and be afraid. Why? Because God is building us a house not made with hands. He's preparing us an immortal body. Do you see the hope that we have?

We have a hope that if faced with persecution. You know, you think, well that will never happen here. It's already happened. What about Columbine? The little Christian girl, who wouldn't deny Christ, shot. Well, I'll tell you one thing, she had an eternal mindset right there. We've got to develop that because, let me tell you folks, it's not going to get any easier here. We've got a hostile government. Any other religion that's fine. Don't you mention Jesus Christ? Don't you even mention Christmas in the public square. Take down the ten commandments. Don't say that what the Bible wrong, don't you say it's wrong. Don't you say homosexuality is wrong. That's hate. You're being hateful. No, we're just agreeing with God. But this kind of talk can get you into some deep trouble. So we have to have an eternal mindset. We have to make up our minds and in our hearts, commit that this life, this is just a vapor. But it's just a proving ground. The Holy Spirit is in us. How well are you going to do? How well are you going to do? How well are you going to obey Me? How well are you going to work for Me here? It's going to make a big difference of what happens in the heavenly kingdom. I like that illustration that you and Janie were talking about earlier about Jesse Duplantis. Are we going to strong ones? Or are we going to be the weak ones, having to get fruit from Abraham? No, BWC, we're going to be strong. We're going to be leading the pack towards Jesus. Leading the pack towards the throne and we're not

going to need no help because we're going to be strong. Why? Because we're going to have an eternal mindset.

*2 Corinthians 5:2-4 - Here indeed in this present body we sigh and groan inwardly because we yearn to be closed over. We yearn to put on our celestial body like a garment with our heavenly dwelling so that putting it on, we may not be found naked or without a body for while we are still in this tent we groan under the burden and sigh deeply. We're weighed down.*

In this body we have aches and pains. The devil attacks this earthly body but we have the victory. We don't have to but you're always under attack. Why? Because we're in a war.

*2 Corinthians 5:6-7 - So then we are always full of good and hopeful and confident courage. We know that while we are at home in the body, we are abroad from the home with the Lord that is promised us for we walk by faith. We regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our convictions or belief, respecting man's relationship to God and divine things with trust and holy fervor. Thus we walk not by sight or appearance but we walk by faith.*

Okay, let's go to Genesis 5:24 and I'm going to dispel some old religious stinking thinking and Hollywood misconceptions here.

*Genesis 5:24 - And Enoch walked in habitual fellowship with God and he was not for God took him home with Him.*

Now, that word 'took' doesn't mean to die. Notice, Hebrews 11:5. Flip over there. It explains a little more of what happened with Enoch.

*Hebrews 11:5 - Because of faith, Enoch was caught up. He was transferred to Heaven so that he did not have a glimpse of death and he was not found because God had translated him. For even before he was taken to Heaven, he received testimony still on record that he had pleased and been satisfactory to God.*

Do you know that you have that same record because of the Blood of Jesus? And one day, you will be transferred, you will be caught up and transferred to Heaven. Folks, that's how God takes people. He doesn't take people in death. Let's look at Elijah. We'll go to the Bible for two witnesses. Let's go to Elijah. Many times people think God takes people in death. No. The only two places I had ever found where God took somebody were Enoch and Elijah and if you study these original words out, it's not talking about death. Elijah is getting ready to be translated.

*2 Kings 2:1 - When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to Heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were going from Gilgal.*

Now those are the same words. 4191 in the Strong's Concordance. To take or take. Took, to take. It means to translate. It doesn't mean to die. Now look back at Genesis 5:24. I know everybody has read through all this and when Adam was so old he begat so and so and he lived so many more years and begat more sons and daughters and then he died. Remember that? So altogether Adam lived 930 years and he died. And it goes on. Seth lived and he died. Enosh lived and he died. Kenan lived and he died. On and on and on. They lived and died. Of course, when you got to Enoch, he didn't die. God took him. Remember what to die means, death? It's a separation of the spirit/soul from the body. Well, Enoch

and Elijah are two men that were not separated from their physical body. They were taken to Heaven in their physical bodies. That's what the Bible says.

And I remember at Joshua's funeral. This one guy, and bless his heart, I can see his heart. But he comes up to me and he said and his heart was breaking for me. I could see that. And he said, Well, God just needed another flower in His garden so he took Joshua. God does not -- do you see how that could make people mad at God? What if it was a little baby? What if it was a little infant? Well, He just needed another angel. Well, why couldn't He take somebody else's baby and make an angel out of him? Why did He have to take mine? You see? That's the devil. It's stinking thinking, trying to get people to blame God for tragedy that He has nothing to do with. He says I have come to give you life and abundant life. Who comes to steal, kill and destroy? Satan does.

Why do babies die? Because there's a stinking devil out here that nobody knows about because the church is too afraid to talk to people about the devil. That you're in a war. That you've got the victory. Glory to God, you've got the victory over that stinking devil. You don't have to take it anymore. But people don't know. We've got a job to do church. We've got to tell people, well, you don't have to put up with this. Now there's a time and a place. You don't try to tell people that when they're burying their baby? You love on them. You cry with them. You weep with them. Just like he was crying and weeping with me and I received that from him. But when God gives you an opening to talk to somebody and you can tell them the truth about your Father. He's a good God. He loves. He does -- every good and perfect thing comes from Him. But there's a devil out there that wants to steal, wants to kill, wants to destroy your family.

But the good news is that Jesus has overcome. Jesus came. He redeemed us. Glory! We can walk in victory. That's the good news. That's the eternal mindset. There's not defeat for us. The devil thought he defeated me when Joshua died. No! Death is a spirit. It's the spirit of death and we have authority over all spirits, right? Jesus said, I have overcome the world. All authority has been given to me and now you go as my representatives. You go as my ambassadors. You tell people in the earth that they don't have to take it anymore. That My Kingdom has come and if they would just give their lives to Me, if they will accept My sacrifice, if they would take the Blood that I shed for them, then all their sins can be washed away. They can be a new creature in Me. Old things passed away. Let me tell you folks that can be some good news for a drug addict who has no hope. Who thinks I'm just a useless piece of thhhsss. And they've got people out there that think that a way about themselves. They've got Christian people that don't any self-esteem, self-worth because of the past that they've lived. We've got to tell them the good news. You're not no dirty rotten stinking sinner. You're a saint, washing by the Blood of the Lamb. You're Blood-bought. Let me tell you about the Holy Ghost. Get you filled with the Holy Ghost. Praying in other tongues. Moving in the gifts of the Spirit. Glory to God!

In summary, remember this life is just temporary. The good news is Jesus is our eternal life and whether we live in this body, he's with us. Or whether we lay this body down and move to Heaven, that's way better. We win. We win. What can man do to me? What can man do to me? Keep that in your thoughts when you're dealing with a cranky person or just a downright mean person. And think about eternal. They need Jesus. Keep that mindset. Eternal life is more real and more physical that the one we live in now. What was that?

*2 Corinthians 4:18 - What is seen is just temporary. What is unseen is eternal.*

And that's good news because what your circumstances, what you can see, that's got to change. That is subject to change. What's going to change it? Your faith. Can you see faith? No, you can't faith. You can see the effects of your faith because it's going to change your circumstances if you stand and don't give up. And God is preparing us for that life through the work of His Holy Spirit. What are we? Ambassadors. We are ambassadors for Christ. We are His Representatives. And something He showed me at that Conference. As ambassadors, what happens when a country just goes into anarchy? What do embassies usually do? They shut down and the country pulls them home. That's good news. When things start to deteriorating so bad over here, we're out of here. Our Father is going to say, Okay, come on home. We've got a party. We've got a big marriage supper. And so we're out of here. The best is yet to come.