

THE ONE WHO OVERCOMES:

No More Halfway, Revelation 3

September 27, 2026

Message Summary.

Jesus sees beyond appearances and evaluates our lives differently than we often do. Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea challenge us to choose relationship over reputation, faithfulness over strength, and heart for Jesus over possessions and comfort. Do the next thing Jesus is asking you to do.

Key Scripture Summaries.

Revelation 3:1-3 | Sardis had a public reputation for being alive. Jesus called them to wake up, strengthen what remained, and repent.

James 1:22 | Followers of Jesus are called to put His Word into practice.

Revelation 3:7-8 | Philadelphia had little strength, yet remained faithful to the Word & did not deny His name.

Revelation 3:14-19 | Laodicea trusted in wealth & comfort while failing to recognize spiritual poverty.

Revelation 3:20 | Jesus stands at the door and knocks, inviting His people into renewed fellowship with Him.

Start Talking.

1. What is a “scoreboard” people commonly use to decide success in life?
2. What’s harder: admitting wrong, admitting weakness, or admitting you need help?
3. What’s something you can do today that was easier 10-20 years ago? Vice versa?

Start Thinking.

- Why can knowing Scripture sometimes be mistaken for obeying Scripture? How does James challenge that?
- Based on what Jesus told Philadelphia, what does it teach us about the difference between strength and faithfulness?
- What are some ways Christians can mistakenly measure spiritual success by things Jesus doesn’t use to measure it?
- Why is the statement, “I do not need a thing,” spiritually dangerous?
- How can comfort, success, possessions, or independence slowly reduce our dependence on Jesus?

- How does understanding Jesus’s love change the way we respond when Jesus confronts (rebuke/discipline) something in our lives?



Start Sharing.

1. Which of the three churches (Sardis, Philadelphia, or Laodicea) connected most personally with you? Why?
2. Relationship over Reputation: Where are you tempted to care about how you appear instead of what Jesus sees in your heart?
3. Faithfulness over Strength: Where do you feel weak, discouraged, or inadequate? What would faithfulness look like?
4. Passion over Possessions: Where has comfort or self-sufficiency made it easier for you to live as though you don’t need Jesus?
5. Is there an area of your spiritual life where you sense God calling you to “wake up,” repent, or start growing again?
6. What is the next thing Jesus is asking you to do? What do you think your next step is?

Start Praying.

Jesus, You know our hearts. Wake us up where we’ve grown comfortable and strengthen us where we’re weak. Help us depend on You and obey whatever You ask. Give us courage to take the next step and follow You wholeheartedly. No more halfway.

Start Doing.

- Read or listen to Revelation 3. Ask: “Jesus, what do You see in me that I may not see in myself?”
- Which needs your attention? Relationship over Reputation, Faithfulness over Strength, or Passion over Possessions.
- Name an act of obedience: apologize, forgive, confess, serve, give, ask for help, get baptized, end something unhealthy, begin a new habit, or surrender something you’ve been holding back.
- Do the next thing Jesus is asking you to do.