

03-06-Purpose-05

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Text:

*John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Introduction: (Review)

In these words of Jesus we come to understand the purpose of His visit to earth – peace. If there is a Biblical author that wanted to make sure that his readers knew why he wrote what he did, it was the disciple John. And John wanted his readers to know this peace that Christ came to earth to give us. In his first epistle John makes several clear purpose statements. So far we have looked at six of them.

1. **Belief** that leads to eternal life brings peace
2. **Joy** in fellowship with God and His Son brings peace
3. **Victory** through an advocate brings peace
4. **Clarity** about the new law brings peace
5. **Forgiveness** brings peace
6. To **Know** God intimately brings peace

John's next stated purpose... to **Overcome**

When an athlete takes the field, Nike would have you believe that his or her great confidence and dazzling performance are due, at least in part, to the Nike equipment they use. In February 1972, Blue Ribbon Sports introduced its first line of Nike shoes. They used the name **Nike**, which is the Greek word for victory, and the name of the Greek goddess of victory.

Through the years Nike has signed many great athletes to promote their products. They signed Tiger Woods for 5 million dollars before he won his first major tournament. When you see Tiger play golf you will see the Nike logo somewhere on him. While Nike provides great equipment and great support for Tiger and many athletes around the world the real success of an athlete goes way beyond the equipment they use. Tiger's great success came from his father who coached him and taught him how to play golf from a very young age. He taught Tiger to concentrate and focus beyond the distractions that would come at him on the course. Look at this video clip.

***Nike Video:**

I think that most athletes will tell you that one of the most important things they do in competition is focus. I think focus is an important concept often overlooked by most Christians in their relationship with God. A lack of focus produces a sporadic

relationship with God. This morning we are going to learn how focus can help us overcome the evil one and bring us peace in our relationship with God.

Aslam was really interested in a career in sales. In fact he would do anything to start his career in sales if someone would just give him a chance. A skeptical manager in a major equipment company was tired of Aslam continually coming to him, begging for a job. He just wanted to get rid of this persistent pest so he sent him to the Valley of Elah where a great contest was brewing. Aslam was sent by his manager to the camp of the underdogs. In the camp of the underdogs Aslam would either sink or swim. Aslam saw this as his change to succeed in sales so he started looking for an opportunity to take advantage of. He heard that a young athlete named David was going to go up against a super athlete named Goliath. This may be the opportunity that Aslam has been looking for to get his career started so he begins to ask questions about David. Aslam heard that David had refused Saul's armor so he went to see David. He offered David a free pair of Nike sandals and a new Nike sling. He told David that his company would pay him lots of money to wear the sandals and use their newly designed sling. Walking out onto the battle field in a new pair of Nike sandals and carrying a new Nike sling, David killed the giant named Goliath. Aslam had his first big break as a salesman, becoming the supplier for all of the sandals and slings that Israel needed. His advertising slogan – Nike! "Our sandals provide a solid footing for any activity, and our slings shoot straight and true for any adversary you might face."

But alas I must tell you that there was much more than a good pair of sandals and a sling involved in the victory David had over Goliath. And if you and I are to have victory and peace in the battle over Satan there will be more involved than a good church and a good Bible. This is what John wants to tell us. We will come back to David in a little bit but first we need to look at what John wants to say to us.

***The Purpose:* I write that you might OVERCOME**

*1Jn 2:12-14 NIV

(12) I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

(13) I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have **overcome** the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.

(14) I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have **overcome** the evil one.

In these verses John speaks to three age groups; **children**, the youngest in the crowd, **fathers**, representing the older generations, and **young men**.

To the **Children** he writes:

Your sins have been forgiven
Because you have known the Father (God)

To the **Fathers**:

Twice he says, "You have known Him who is from the beginning"
To the **Young Men** he writes:
You have overcome the evil one
You are strong
The word of God lives in you
You have overcome the evil one

This morning we want to look at John's comments to the young men. His comments to them might have sounded something like this – "Young men you have **overcome** the evil one. You have this victory because you are strong. You are strong because the word of God lives in you. **(FOCUS)** As a result you have **overcome** the evil one and have come to know victory and peace in your relationship with God." dgb

Like the focus Tiger has on the game when he steps out onto the course, we must focus on the Word of God. This focus on the Word makes us strong. This strength is what overcomes evil.

Overcome is a key word in John's comments to the young men.

The word **overcome** used here is the Greek verb **ni-kao** (g3528). It is a verb that means conquering, overcoming, or prevailing. I could not believe this when I first discovered it but this verb for overcome, comes from the Greek noun **nike** (g3529) which means victory, to conquer, or to prevail. When I first saw this I thought I was seeing things. Immediately I began to research this Greek word **Nike** which means victory. Could it, in any way be the source of the name used by the Nike Company? I discovered that a company called Blue Ribbon Sports is the company that develops, manufactures, and distributes **Nike** shoes and equipment. They used the name **Nike** because it is the Greek word for victory.

Nike, the noun, is only used in one place in the New Testament. It is found in [1Jn 5:4](#) where John uses both the noun **nike** (victory) and the verb **ni-kao** (overcome).

*1Jn 5:3-4 NIV

(3) This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

(4) for everyone born of God overcomes (verb **ni-kao**) the world. This is the **victory** (noun **nike**) that has overcome (verb **ni-kao**) the world, even our faith.

The use of the verb overcome (**ni-kao**), shows that there is an ongoing action of persistent pursuit of love for God in faith. These persistent actions result in victory (**nike**), and victory brings peace in our relationship with God.

In our text, [1Jn 2:12-14](#), overcome (**ni-kao**) is a verb, a word of action, it is something you do. It comes from the noun meaning victory (**nike**). "I write to you, young men, because you have **overcome** the evil one... I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have **overcome** the evil one." John wants us to know that the young men did not have

victory, they had not yet fully conquered, but rather they were in the state of prevailing. They were living out victory moment by moment as they lived their lives. They were in the process of a battle that moved them ever closer to victory by continually conquering the evil one. They were in the process of prevailing, they had not arrived yet, but were well on their way.

Jesus uses this verb (**ni-kao**) to state that He has overcome the world.

*John 16:29-33 NIV

(29) Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech.

(30) Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

(31) "You believe at last!" Jesus answered.

(32) "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

(33) "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. (What is it that we want? Peace!) In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome (verb **ni-kao**) the world."

This is the same word John uses to describe the young men in his epistle, 1John. Remember that this is a statement of action, the word overcome (**ni-kao**) is a verb. Christ is in the process of overcoming the world. That process will one day be expressed as the noun victory (**nike**), when Christ returns and sets up His eternal kingdom here on earth. There will be a day when all will accept this victory (**nike**). Ever knee will bow to Jesus Christ and every tongue will confess that He is Lord of lords and King of kings.

Paul uses the verb overcome (**ni-kao**), quoting scripture to encourage us to overcome evil with good.

*Rom 12:19-21 NIV

(19) Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

(20) On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

(21) Do not be overcome (**ni-kao**) by evil, but overcome (**ni-kao**) evil with good.

John uses this verb to describe how those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God are those who are living out the actions necessary to overcome (**ni-kao**) evil in their daily lives.

John states that only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God are able to overcome (**ni-kao**) the world. Look at...

*1Jn 5:5 NIV

(5) Who is it that **overcomes** (verb **ni-kao**) the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

In his writings in the book of Revelation John uses the verb overcome (**ni-kao**) to show that overcoming is the path to eternal life.

*Rev 2:7 NIV

(7) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who **overcomes** (verb **ni-kao**), I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. This same truth is also seen in [Rev 2:11](#), [Rev 2:17](#), [Rev 3:5](#), [Rev 3:12](#), [Rev 3:21](#).

The Overcoming of Evil:

Let's go back to our text in 1Jn 2:12-14. John wants those who will listen to him to know that they can overcome evil in their daily lives. Can you imagine John as he stands at the front of a small stone church filled with families? He is an old man now and the scars of the years of abuse and persecution are very evident in his line creased face. His deep scratchy voice booms out as he relates to the different age groups in the church.

The children present that day were just like our children, always looking for the approval of the adults around them. John assures them that they are forgiven by a loving heavenly Father.

He talks about the oldest generation present that day as individuals who have come to know God in intimate relationship. They know the creator and how He can supply all of the needs we may ever have. John knows that this knowledge of an intimate relationship with a loving God must be passed on to the younger generations.

Then addressing the young men and women in the church that day John emphasizes their struggle to overcome the evil one. These are the young men and women who stand on the front lines of the battle field for the Kingdom of God much like David who faced Goliath. In his comments to the young in the church John gives us the formula for victory (**nike**).

Young Men:

Listen to John's comments to the young men and women that day. "Young people you have overcome the evil one. You have this victory because you are strong. You are strong because the word of God lives in you. (**FOCUS**) As a result you have overcome the evil one and have come to know victory and peace in your relationship with God." dgb

This is the secrete, this is how David had victory over Goliath. The real reason for David's victory was not his fighting skill. He had victory (**nike**) because he overcame

(**ni-kao**) with his faith in God. It was all part of the process of living out an intimate relationship with God. When David stepped out onto the battle field that day his focus was on God. Let's look at the account again. **1Sam 17**

Each day as Goliath came out to taunt the army of Israel, Israel saw no hope for any kind of victory until David stepped out and cut the head off of the giant. I am sure they all thought, as David volunteered to go out against Goliath, that he was just a little kid with big ideas and extraordinary dreams. When he tried on Saul's armor, it was confirmed that he was just a little kid not a worrier. As he stepped out onto the battle field they all thought, "he's going to get slaughtered". As the giant cursed him, David took action. (*1Sam 17:40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.)

Can you imagine what went through David's mind as he lifted the smooth stones out of the cool water in the stream? I think he was praying. After lifting the stones from the stream dripping with cool water he placed them into a leather pouch around his waist. Then he dipped his hand once more, into the cool water and splashed it in his hair and on his face. As the warm sun glistened on his wet face he stepped out of the stream and started walking toward the giant Goliath. After a few steps his stride turned into a dead run to meet his opponent. His pace was exuberant with the confidence that God was his armor bearer and that his armor bearer was running just in front him.

As David ran toward the giant they all thought he was crazy. When Goliath fell to the ground, everyone thought the giant was only stunned and would soon spring to his feet in action. They thought David had made a lucky shot at best. As David stood over the body of Goliath holding up his bloody head by the hair for all to see, suddenly Israel came alive. Rushing into the valley below Israel followed David in pursuing the Philistines in a great victory. They took spears and swords, and some even went to their tents to get their slings. (And guess who was up by the tents? Aslam, he was holding a large bag of Nike slings.) As the young men walked up the riverbed toward the enemy old men followed them picking up smooth stones to fill leather pouches they would hand to the young men as they pursued the enemy. Old men carried extra swords, spears and arrows to keep the young men supplied for their battle that day. Wow! Look at what can be done through just one individual who will dare to overcome (**ni-kao**) the evil one. When the battle was over David took the head of Goliath to Jerusalem for display in the city square. David wanted all of Israel to know what God had done for them that day. (Oh, guess who was there by the display of Goliath's head? Aslam, only this time he was not giving away Nike slings and sandals. He was selling them.)

It was not his skill with the sling that brought David victory that day. It was his faith in and focus on Almighty God.

(*1Sam 17:45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. [46] This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the

carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. [47] All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands.")

This is what John wants us to understand about our relationship with God. If we will run out onto the battle field with the confidence that Almighty God, the King of kings, is our armor bearer and that He is ever before us, we can overcome evil. To have confidence in God comes from a focus on His Word. And when we have overcome to the end we will have final and eternal victory (**nike**). Every time you see the **Nike** symbol remember it stands for the victory you can have in overcoming the evil one. You only need to step out onto the battle field with faith in God.

Listen to John's words to you today. "Young people you can **overcome** the evil one. You can have victory because you can be strong. You can be strong if you let the word of God live within you. (**FOCUS**) If you will do that you can **overcome** the evil one and have victory and peace in your relationship with God." dgb