

Blood in the Sand
Series: The God Who Bleeds, Part 3

Primary Text: Revelation 12:11

Big idea: The Church does not overcome by avoiding suffering, but by bearing faithful witness in it — the blood of the martyrs becomes the seed of new life, and their testimony declares that Christ is worth more than life itself.

1. The Conflict in the Heavens

“Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”

Revelation 12:7–9¹ (NIV)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)**

2. Triumph through Persecution

They **triumphed** over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Revelation 12:11 (NIV)

a. By the Blood of the Lamb

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **Romans 8:33–34 (NIV)**

b. By the Word of Their Testimony

c. By Not Loving Life Unto Death

¹ All scripture is NIV unless otherwise stated.

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. **Matthew 10:39 (NIV)**

The God we serve is able to deliver us... But even if he does not, we want you to know... that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up. **Daniel 3:17–18 (NIV)**

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **Philippians 1:21 (NIV)**

We prepare for persecution we may never face only when we anchor ourselves so deeply in Christ that even if comfort, influence, or opportunity are stripped away, we will not move.

Closing

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. **2 Corinthians 4:10–11 (NIV)**