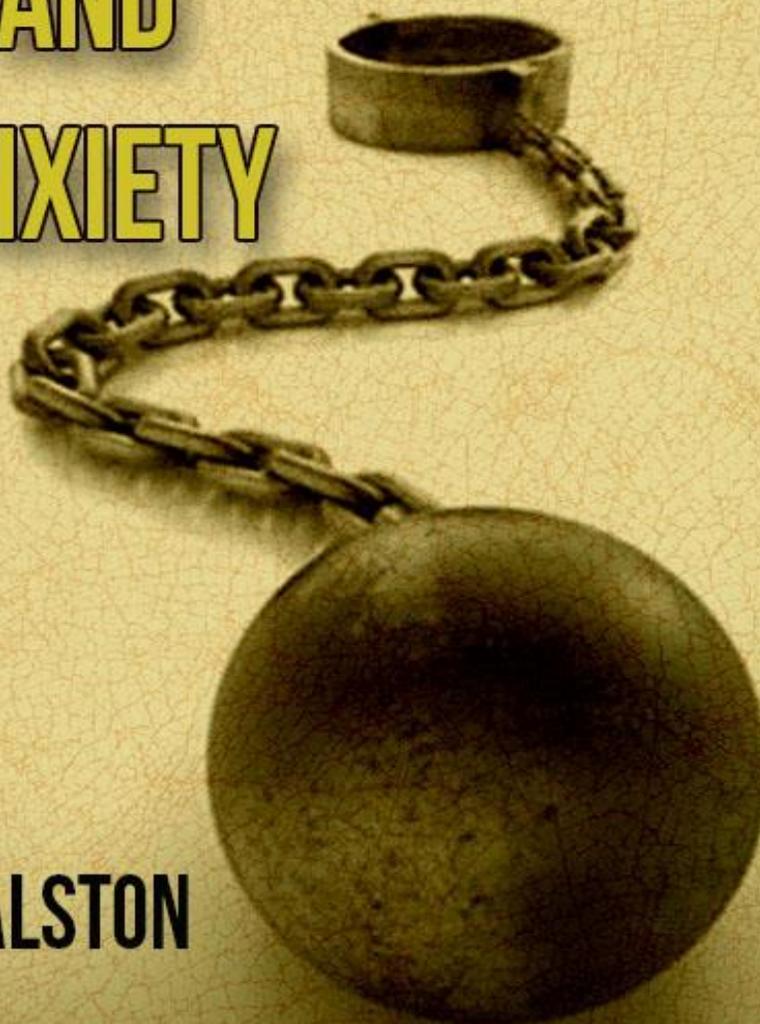


OVERCOMING

FEAR

AND

ANXIETY



KYLE ALSTON

Chapter 9



Haters

Many of us would have to admit that we like to be liked. We love to be loved. So no wonder we'd feel anxious—even it's just a little bit—when we see we have great opposition from people although we could be doing the right things for God. We know that Jesus said in Matthew 10:22, “And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

But it's just something about being hated that gets under our skin. The people who are still of this world's system hate those of us who are believers in Christ because they are of this world, but we are not. The world hated Jesus because He was not of this world.

1 John 3:13 says, “Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.”

Jesus said in John 15:18, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.”

When Jesus was praying for His disciples in the same Book at 17:14, He said, “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

The world hates the saints of God because we as saints do not conform to the world's way of doing things. The world's ways are not holy. We strive to be holy before the Lord because we want to be found pleasing in His sight. People who have not been born again yet cannot appreciate the idea of being holy before Almighty God. Therefore, the world does not understand us, what we are doing, or why we are doing what we're doing. Because of all that, the world ultimately hates us. People who are of the world cannot love us because they do not have true love for God.

Going deeper though, the world hates us really since it hates God's way. God's infinite wisdom is in constant opposition to the world's wisdom. God's wisdom is greater and it shows us that we are to be dependent on Him for what we need, but the people who are of the world would rather have a sense of self-sufficiency rooted in pride

and ego. So in a sense, the world is saying, "God is not enough." You know people are in a bad place when they feel like God is not enough for them.

The world was made by God, and we were created by God to fulfill the general purpose of giving Him maximum glory while living in this world. But many people of the world do not believe in the power of God, so they are therefore obviously not willing to submit to His authority. God wants to rule and reign in all our hearts, and it is like unbelievers are saying, "Nope, I don't want it."

Historically, at one point, Israel wanted a human king instead of having God as their King, (because the people wanted to be like the other nations). Samuel was displeased.¹

"And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them" (1 Samuel 8:7).

Here is some insight concerning the world.

The term *world* does not always refer to the universe as created by God. It often is used to describe the community of sinful humanity that possesses a spirit of rebellion against God (1 John 5:19). Because of its opposition to God, the world values those things which are contrary to God's will: 'the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life' (1 John 2:16). Its temptations to the believer are thus twofold: lust for the sensual and pride in mastery of his own life.

The attraction of the world is amplified by Satan who is head of its system. He is called the 'prince of this world' (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), and the whole world is said to be under his power (see...1 John 5:19, where 'wickedness' can also be translated 'wicked one').

Some of the tragic effects that love of the world will produce in the believer's life are: a. A turning away from the Lord's work

and other believers (2 Tim. 4:10); b. Alienation from God (James 4:4); c. Corrupting sins (2 Pet. 1:4; 1 John 2:15-17); d. Deception by false teachers (1 John 4:1; 2 John 7).²

Look at 1 John 4:2-3. These verses say, “²Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.

“³And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of an’-ti-christ, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

Because we as born again believers have confessed, “Jesus Christ is come in the flesh” (1 John 4:2) the spirit of antichrist in the world is against us. Those who do not confess, “Jesus Christ is come in the flesh” (1 John 4:3) are “not of God” (1 John 4:3). We are of God. Since we are of God, we know that we are to abide in truth, not in the untruthfulness of the world.

Second John verses 7, 9-11 say, “⁷For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an an’-ti-christ...

“⁹Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

“¹⁰If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

“¹¹For he that biddeth him God speed is a partaker of his sins.”

In other words, if someone comes up to you bringing a false doctrine, do not even entertain that person or the false doctrine. However, if you accept that false doctrine, and you “bid him God

speed" (2 John 10), you are just as wrong as he is. It is as if you are agreeing with him concerning that false doctrine. You are in agreement with that lie. A false doctrine is a lie. We as saints of God need to not hold fast to lies; but rather, we need to hold fast to the Word of God, which is full of truth.

1 John 2:22 says, "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is an'-ti-christ, that denieth the Father and the Son."

We cannot afford to associate with liars. A spiritually immature believer, if they are not careful, will start "dipping and dabbling," as it is commonly said, into all sorts of unclean things and may accept any kind of information the world has to offer. However, a believer should strive to abide in the truth and to discern between good and evil, and right and wrong.

Who are we allowing to speak in our ears? Whose report will you believe (Isaiah 53:1)? Will you choose to believe that which is of the world, or that which is of God? Praise God, since we are born of God, we have overcome the world.

1 John 5:4 says, "4For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

You cannot overcome the world if you're believing everything the world says and letting the false information the world has to offer cause you to be anxious and fearful. You cannot walk as an overcomer and yet be defeated by fear and anxiety at the same time.

Then the next verse after 1 John 5:4 says "5Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

According to a note in one of my study Bibles, "the solution to the love of the world is to have a greater love for the Father (1 John

2:15). The Christian who seeks daily to please God in everything and who strives for spiritual growth through prayer, study of God's Word, and witnessing need not fall prey to the temptations of the world."³ When the world persecutes you because you love God rather than it, don't worry about it. You keep doing what God has commanded you to do, and He will take care of you, and deal with your enemies.

I like how Deuteronomy 28:7 says, "The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways."

Just tell your haters, "That's alright, just keep on hating. You hate me for where I am now, and I know you're gonna hate me even more once I get to where I am supposed to be. But because I'm not trying to please *you* to win *you* over, I refuse to stress over *you*. I don't mind sharing the Gospel with you, because it's my Christian duty. But I refuse to shed another tear just because you don't like how God blessed me with a new job, just because you don't like how God showed me favor, just because you are still stuck *not growing*, shoot.... It could be just because! In the words of Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, 'It doesn't matter what you think!' God is taking care of me, and whether you support me or not, I will be just fine! Don't try to rob me of my joy you hater. You weren't there in my dry season. You weren't there in my season of desperation. You weren't there when hell and high water came against me. But it was the Lord that brought me out!"

Chapter 9 Sources

1. 1 Samuel 8:6
2. Holy Bible: The New Open Bible, Study Edition, New American Standard Bible.
"Temptation by the World." USA: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1990. Page 1438.
3. Holy Bible: The New Open Bible, Study Edition, New American Standard Bible.
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