

*E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* came out in 1982. If you don't remember, it's an American sci-fi-family film co-produced and directed by Steven Spielberg and written by Melissa Mathison. It tells the story of Elliott, a lonely boy who befriends an extraterrestrial, dubbed "E.T.", who is stranded on Earth. He and his siblings help it return home while attempting to keep it hidden from their mother and the government.

Jesus prays for his disciples (that includes you and me): *“Father, I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.”*

The fact in the matter of our faith life is that we are like E.T.—we are in the world, but not of the world. And, we are longing to go home. However, unlike E.T., we should not attempt to keep our Christianity hidden from family and society, but proclaim it to the world.

Why? Because we have the GOOD NEWS of eternal life. In Jesus, we share in His victory of sin and death. In the Resurrection, God the Father has shown His love for all of us, and says “you will be mine forever.”

Now, even though this is the GREATEST news, Jesus predicted that the world will hate us for it. We will experience trouble while IN the world, because our beliefs will conflict with culture. Jesus tells us plainly in this world you will have trouble. But Jesus tells his disciples to take heart, to have courage when trouble comes.

Why? Because HE has OVERCOME the world. When troubles come, we should remember that it is JESUS who has overcome the world!

When conflict with the culture of the world comes, it is easy to get discouraged. Sometimes it feels like the world is winning. The temptation is to either give up, to throw our hands up and say, “I'm out. I'm done.” Or worse yet, to give in ...to look like the world's side. In essence, we start to wear the world's uniform. We begin looking like the world. We are like E.T. with a sheet over our heads hoping not to be discovered.

We forget that Jesus has overcome the world. We forget that He has already defeated sin. We forget that he has gained control of the world as his own. When we feel like our culture is winning the battle, we can take courage. Jesus has overcome the world.

You and I are sent into a fractured world and a culture that is different than God's Kingdom. The language is different, the food is different, the way we live is different. But we are still sent. We are sent into a region...the world...where conflict reigns, where trouble brews on a constant basis. And we are sent with an authoritative message from the one who was here before the world existed.

The message: God will be glorified, Jesus was sent by God, and Jesus has the authority to grant eternal life. We are sent to share the message that Jesus has overcome the world.