

**Don't Hit Reset: John 16:33** – “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Do you have one of those bad tempers when it comes to video games? C'mon, be honest! Have you ever thrown your controller at the TV? What about dying over and over and OVER on the SAME LEVEL every time you get there?!?! Have you ever gotten crazy angry to the point where you swear off that “stupid game” forever, only to return 10 minutes later because it's just driving you *nuts* that you can't beat it? Have you ever made it near the end of a game only to be surrounded by too many villains and you're convinced that you don't have enough lives to finish it out? You've worked so hard to get there, but the “reset” button is only inches away. It calls to you to push it, and all your worries will disappear. You can start over, gather up more lives, and use a cheat code here or there to inflict more devastation on your enemies, all in hopes to beat the game before 2am? . . . *I just described my life during years 8-16.*

I was reading John 16:33, 1 John 4:4, Matthew 10:22 and John 15:18-21, and for some reason video games came into my mind. I can remember hitting the “reset” button when playing a video game felt like giving up. It's like I was saying, “I just can't win. I can't beat this level. This is too hard for me to do. I'm worn out, I'll try tomorrow.”

These verses tell us that during our lives, there will be people persecuting us and hating us and that there will be forces against us all because we are followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus didn't say that our lives as Christians would be easy; in fact, He said we may get run out of town for what we believe. *But*, God's Word assures us that we have victory over all that opposes us, and that victory is found in Jesus Christ. When Jesus died for us, rose from the grave, and ascended into heaven, He forever defeated sin and the power that death and hell had over us.

So, no matter what struggles we have in our lives, no matter how difficult it may get, no matter how oppressed or persecuted we may be, no matter how many “villains” try to take us out, WE HAVE ALREADY WON, AND VICTORY HAS COME IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD! So, whatever trials or hardships come your way, don't give up, never quit, don't even think about throwing in the towel, and whatever you do, don't hit the reset button. Jesus is greater and stronger than anything this world can throw at you!

**\*\* I encourage you to use these passages from God's Word as a resource in your daily life. Don't let this truth just rest on this tag or on this shirt. Use it! Let it become a part of you, let the scripture be written on your heart and move you to live your life in obedience to God out of love. Dive into God's Word, spend time with Him in prayer, connect with other believers, live for Jesus who died for your sins and rose again! \*\***

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