

Spirit of Overcomers

1. Defined: What is an Overcomer?

- a. It means to “Prevail, to succeed, to be victorious in dealing with obstacles that could overwhelm you.”
- b. The word is used 35X in the Bible—so it’s important.
- c. Can you maintain confidence in God even when face massive reversals yet maintain a victorious spirit?
- d. Job lost everything—wealth, children, health, wife’s confidence, family
(Job 1:21-22) The Lord has given & taken away—blessed is name of Lord
(Job 3:3) Let the day perish on which I was born
(Job 19:25) I know that my redeemer lives... (v.26) I shall see God. (Hope)

2. Why We Need to be Overcomers.

- a. Everybody faces enormous challenges.
(John 16:33) In me you have peace, in world TRIBULATION.
(Job 14:1) Man born of woman is few of days and full of TROUBLE.
- b. Overcoming is Essential.
In Life (1 John 5:4) Born of God Overcomes the world
Salvation (Rev 2:7) Overcomes - Tree of Life; (3:5) white garments

3. The Struggles: Bitterness (Ruth 1:20-21) Naomi call me Mara..

Death of spouse, death of your child, divorce, drug use, alcohol abuse, abandonment, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, mental illness, disease, dementia, poverty, fear, isolation, depression, kids & bad decisions, low self-esteem, bad habits, sinful patterns, major disappointments, etc

4. The Need to Build Overcoming as a Life-Style.

- a. Quitting can be a lifestyle—so is Overcoming!
- b. If you can learn overcoming in 1 area... You can apply it in other areas
- c. Each success is a seed that spawns many others.
- d. (Ps 84:5) “How blessed is the man whose strength is in thee (v.7) They go from strength to strength.”

5. Why Overcomers Are Such a Rare Breed.

- a. It's easy to give up. Average person doesn't pursue it.
- b. NY Post says (1-28-2020) Takes 32 days for avg person to give up resol. 68% give up in less than 32 days. 14% didn't expect to succeed in 1st pl.
- c. Expect to mess up sometimes (Eccles 7:20) Not a righteous man alive...
- d. Expect it to GET BETTER (Prov 4:18-19) Path of righteous is like light...
- e. Negative self-talk is so common. “I can't. I'm no good. I've failed”
- f. Talking positively to self: (Rom 8:37) We overwhelmingly conquer...
- g. Believer's trust God (Isa 40:31) “Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not get tired, they will walk and not get weary.”

6. Tools to be Overcomers (1 Tim 4:12) Be an example...

- a. Strength & Purpose in Love of God (Mat 22:37) with all your heart
Or are you just lukewarm (Rev 3:15)?
- b. Develop Positive Attitude (Rom 8:28) all things work together for good
- c. Seek Positive, Strong Christians as friends & mentors
(Eccles 4:9-12) Two are better than one...
(Prov 27:17) Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

- d. Develop a spirit of Thankfulness. Focus on showing gratitude...
 - (1 Thes 5:18) In everything give thanks
 - (Col 2:7) Overflowing with gratefulness...

- e. Take Action: (Dan 1:32b NAS) “Let them that know their God Display strength and take action.”
Quit procrastinating by setting the Day, Time and Steps to take.

- f. Get the Facts: (Prov 14:33) Wisdom lies in the heart of the one who...

- g. Improve Your Self-Talk: (Phil 4:13) “I can do all things through Christ”

- h. Allow for God’s Timing:
 - (Ps 27:14) Wait on the Lord, Be strong
 - (Ps 37:7) Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him
 - (Isa 40:31) Those who wait on the Lord will gain new strength...
- i. Accept the Event May Have Positive Results.
 - (Eccles 7:14) “In the day of prosperity be happy, in the day of adversity consider, God has made one as well as the other that man may not discover anything that will be...”
 - (Phil 1:14) Paul preaching in imprisonment gave others more courage..

- j. Get More Rest –weariness makes cowards of us all.
 - (Eccles 5:12) Sleep of a laboring man is sweet
 - (Mark 6:31) Come apart and rest a while.

- k. Don’t Focus on the Past (Phil 4:8) Forgetting what lies behind...

L. Fulfill Your Mission. Encourage Others

- (1 Thes 5:11) Encourage one another, build up each other
- (Heb 10:24) Stimulate one another to love and good works.