



Becoming an Overcomer - Handout #10

What is it going to take to be an overcomer?

We have before us the symbol and prescription for victory.

The _____ running shoe is our symbol for victory.

This Greek word literally means to

_____ or gain victory.



An Overcoming Spirit



“Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely **overcome** it.”

Numbers 13:30

• Caleb never forgot God’s promise even after _____ years. He could easily have forgotten it.

• Caleb requested Hebron when dividing the land (Joshua 14). Caleb had to go out of his way to get this place.

• Caleb wanted to go to the exact place that _____ the spies (Joshua 14:12). Caleb was deliberately showing to all that God was able.

• No easy inheritance! The Anakim were still there. There was a great liability with this inheritance. Someone else was there.

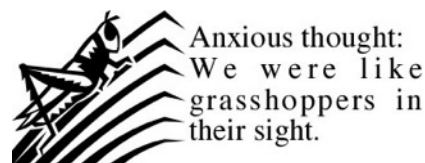
• No easy _____. The Anakim were tall people (giants). Nu 13:33 “There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

• No easy retirement. Caleb was 85.

• Caleb lived by faith not by fear.

Caleb in his old age was to take down the headquarters of the established mountain city-fortress of Hebron (see map).

The principle is that God will at times put us in circumstances that we ourselves are not able to handle. God wants to see whether we will trust Him or not. God’s intention is to show His great power and produce in us a testimony of praise.



A Change of Heart

Who are we describing here? The _____.

The difference between _____ and _____ the cross is so startling that it is often used to prove that the Lord Jesus indeed must have risen from the dead.

After Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples.

A Change of Heart



Facing Life's Problems

We face two kinds of life problems :

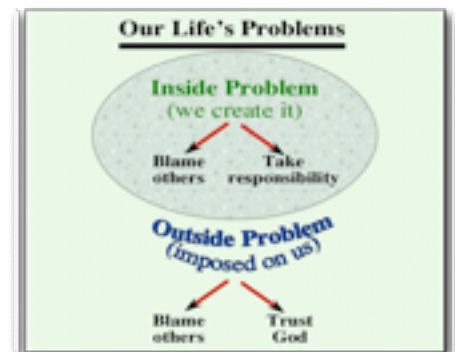
Inside Problems: _____ create

Outside Problems: _____ create

Our joy in life will be put on hold until we come and entrust our situation to God.

Blaming is _____!

“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.” (Proverbs 28:13)



A Father's Love

The question is not 'if' but 'when.' Even the most faithful Christians will go through distressing times.

Two Unchanging Facts:

- 1) God is Our Father - God is willing to help
- 2) God is Our Savior - God is able to help

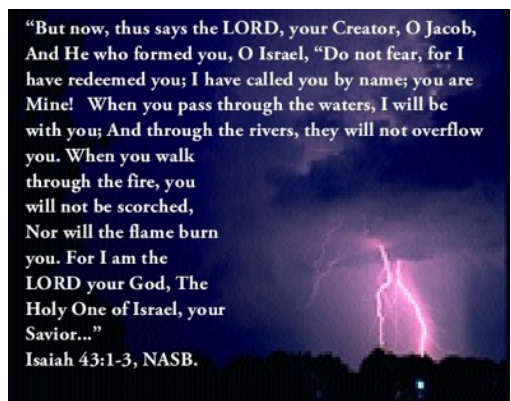
A Christian's joy comes not from the absence of affliction but from the presence of God even in the most distressing times. “And lo, I am with you even to the end of the age” (Mat 28:20).

What do you think about persecution, death, tribulation and tragedies?

Many think that the Book of Revelation was written to tell Christians that they would not need to go through the great tribulation at the end of the age. Actually, in this book God reveals that even in the most alarming and stressful times of great persecution, God is in full control.

Revelation 13:9-10, He says, “If anyone has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.” God is in perfect control.

A Christian's joy comes from not in the absence of affliction but in the presence of God even in the most distressing times. “And lo, I am with you even to the end of the age” (Mat 28:20).



“But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior...”
Isaiah 43:1-3, NASB.

Love Conquers All Fears (Romans 8)

We might have any kind of difficulty thrown at us: tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword. But none of these can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

But why would God allow such things?

God has something better for us.

The Principle:

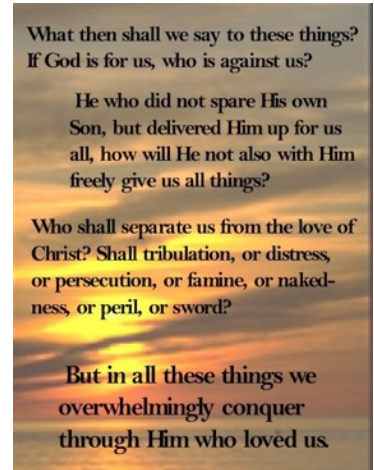
God is able to accomplish a greater _____ in our lives and others through suffering.

“All things work together for good ...”

The Evidence:

God was willing to send His own Son to _____ and _____ an unjust death so that others and Himself would receive a greater glory. God worked out the very last detail to bring great glory to His Name. He does the same for us.

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all.”



What is good for His Son is good for His sons.

The Goal

What is true with the _____, is true with the body.

If God would call us to share in Christ's _____, does it not make sense that He would also call us to suffer with Him.

Martyrdom means losing one's life for Christ's sake.

“And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.” (Revelation 6:11)



Overcoming the Fear of Death

How does one overcome the fear of death?

By the truth of God's Word!

• People enslaved

They were in slavery through fear of _____.

• Devil's power

The devil prided himself in his _____ of death.

He controlled everyone through death.

• Christ's delivery

God sent Christ in human form so that He could _____ and strip the devil of his power over death.

• Our freedom

When we believe in Christ, we no longer need to fear death because Christ died for us. We now have life eternal.



Stepping Forward

A good disciple of Jesus Christ is always _____ for life's most difficult of circumstances. This is done in two ways.

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1,2).

1) Give your _____ to the Lord.

Give absolute control of your life to the Lord through prayer. Pray aloud and mark down what you have done. Included in this is:

- Willingness to go where He sends
- Willingness to do what He wants
- Willingness to die when He chooses

2) Die _____

Each day we go through a prayer where we die to our old nature.

- Acknowledge and deny sin nature.
- Acknowledge and embrace the risen Lord's will for your life that day no matter what it brings.

"Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, **that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death,** that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives." Hebrews 2:14,15

Praying Power

In times of tribulation, distress, famine, persecution, etc., we need to understand God is in control. None of these circumstances can thwart our goal to serve God.

Romans 8:28-30

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren ³⁰ and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."

God uses these same difficulties to accomplish His great plan

1) Affirm God's Truths

- God causes all things to work for good
- God is for us
- God did not spare His own Son
- Nothing can separate us from God's love

2) Ask help for needs

- Care of needs -
- A true forgiving spirit
- Strength for future -

3) Assess our situation

- Am I holding any resentment?
- How am I praying for my persecutors?



The Bridge of Hope

When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Thy consolations delight my soul.



Part 1

Accepting our limited
control of circum-
stances

*When my anxious
thoughts multiply
within me,*

Part 2

Casting our hope
on the Controller of
circumstances

*Thy consolations
delight my soul.*

Touching Our Lives



- **Principles:** What principles were strongly impressed on me today?
- **Applications:** What clear decisions, plans, confessions, etc. do I need to make because of what God spoke to me during this session?
- **Testimony:** What one or two special lessons, stories, illustrations, warnings, etc. can I share with others that might encourage their faith?

OA Handout Answers #10

Nike running shoe
means to overcome

after 45 years

place that scared the spies

No easy battle

The 12 disciples

Before and after

We create

Others impose (create)

Blaming is concealing

greater good

Son to suffer and die

with the head

share in Christ's glory

through fear of death

his power of death

so that He could die

always prepared

Give your life to the Lord

die daily