

#4 Fight to Win



Understand spiritual warfare and how to overcome!

The Four Foundations

"I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and **you have overcome the evil one**" (1 John 2:14).

LIGHT
OVERPOWERS
DARKNESS

Conqueror

Never have
to lose

- Review #1,2,3
- 4th foundation: Conqueror: Light overpowers Darkness > Never have to lose!
- Point: "You have overcome the evil one!"
- Purpose: Remind us of our power in Christ; no fear
- Problem: Do not believe we have overcome
- Product: Feel manipulated

Nike!

Ephesians 5:8-14

"For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light" (Ephesians 5:8-14).

Ephesians 5:8-14	Truths
"For you were formerly darkness" (5:8)	A war with two sides exists: darkness and _____.
"But now you are light in the Lord" (5:8)	Christians are light because what the Lord has done for them.
"Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth)" (Eph 5:8-9)	If one walks in the _____, then he/she will not carry out deeds of darkness.
"Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness" (Eph 5:11)	If one does not walk in the light, then he/she will carry out deeds of darkness.

Principles of Spiritual Warfare

- Light and truth produce righteousness.
- Darkness and lies (temptation, opposite of truth) produce sin.
- Light and darkness, like truth and falsehood, cannot coexist.
- Darkness always retreats in the presence of light.
- Darkness is not to be feared; focus on walking in the light.

Making Connections

- If you spot sin, you know the person has accepted and been affected by one or more lies.
- Our actions are affected by our attitudes and feelings.
- Our attitudes and feelings are affected by our beliefs (false thoughts and _____).
- BELIEFS => ATTITUDES & FEELINGS => ACTIONS

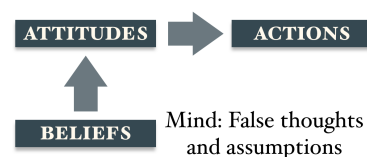
CAR

- Examine our conclusions
- C: Catch what we do and think.
- A: Analyze what we think - Why do we mistrust God that way?
- R: Respond to the Spirit's conviction and truth by humbling one's heart and confession.



Finding the Source of Problems

- Identify your disobedient action or attitude. This is not the source.
- Expose poor attitude, vague excuses, noncommittal ways, etc.
- Ask, "Why am I doing these things?"
- Be honest with yourself about why you rather don't trust God.
- Find scripture that relates to this issue. What does God say?
- Respond and confess.



The Victory Prayer & Two Sides to Confession

- The V prayer includes the whole process, and so is quite powerful.
- Confession forms the two sides of the V. Confession means to 'agree with'.
 1. Confessing the truth about _____.
 2. Confessing the truth about God's righteous ways.
- **Always start** by telling how you disappointed the Lord. Be specific! Speak aloud.
- Don't forget to go through the cross to gain forgiveness and resolve guilt.
- Clearly state the truths about the issue and agree with them.
- Pledge yourself to live out God's truth.

Life Application: The Breakthrough

- Doubts and unbelief repudiate the power of God's Word.
- Light, the truth, always overcomes the darkness.
- Spiritual warfare involves placing truth next to the lies.
- The Victory prayer goes from confusion to praise via the cross.
- We soon move onto stage #3 by handling one area after another.

➡ **Key: Victory can always be found!**

Exercises & Life Sharing

- Do exercise #2, The Victory Prayer.

1. Restate the CAR points. Which is most challenging for you and why?
2. What is the victory prayer for? What questions do you have about it?
3. **Home assignment:** Do exercise #1.

The Victory Prayer

