

## Overcome! Part 2

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **Recap:**
- Part of being a believer in Jesus is being an overcomer!
- Key Verse: **John 16:33**
- Lessons from Romans 5:1-5 and James 1:2-4
  - o Interpret your trials the right way. “rejoice” and “pure joy”
  - o Perseverance is not the end goal! Don’t quit. But hey, find the solution!
  - o We come out stronger and wiser on the other side! The trial will be redeemed if you let it!
- **Overcoming Unbelief**
  - o This is a topic that I have some personal experience with. You?
- Let’s look at a situation, **Mark 9:14-29**
- 3 Lessons:
  - o 1) You can believe and not believe at the same time. It’s complicated.
    - Have you been there? (Peter walking on water.)
    - Example: Do you believe the Bible is true?
      - How about **Matthew 6:33, Matthew 10:39, John 14:12?**
  - o 2) Jesus didn’t reject the dad for unbelief. (or Peter) Jesus healed his son.
    - Thomas. **John 20:19-29**
  - o 3) Sometimes the miracle is right around the corner!
    - This is why perseverance is so important!!
    - But guard against a transactional relationship with God. (You are happy with God if he does what you want, but mad if He doesn’t.)
      - Good example: **Daniel 3:13-18.**
      - Stay humble and thankful. Do you need more than Christ’s death on the cross and everlasting life in Heaven?
- Personal Testimonies from Pastor Mike
  - o So, I’ve struggled with pretty much everything faith wise that you can struggle with.
    - From unbeliever, to skeptical believer...now pastor.
  - o At first I had no intellectual framework for faith. I wrangled for a long time.
    - This will save you some time: It all boils down to faith!!
  - o 5 ways I had to overcome unbelief:
    - Not trusting the Bible.
    - No faith in the church.
    - No understanding of abundant life.
    - No concept of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit
    - No understanding of walking by faith.
  - o My point: it’s OK to work things out over time!!
    - I wanted to plant a church where I would be welcome in all my stages!
    - I will never reject you for having questions!!
    - But know this, God is there for you. God is good. God is faithful.
- Last thought before we close: Come to a mature childlike faith!
  - o Naïve faith, then trials, then pick: mature idealism, jaded unbelief, fake.
- There is a blessing for me that I thought I had forfeited.
  - o **John 20:29**
  - o I did forfeit this blessing before. But today is a new day. I can live in it now in many ways.
  - o How about you? Do you want this blessing?
  - o Let’s go get it.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!