

Overcome! Part 3

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!
- **This Week: Overcoming Evil with Good**
- This week we aren’t just talking about hardships like sickness or financial problems. We talk about evil.
 - o How many of you have had problems with bad people?
 - o How many of us have been bad people? It feels different on the other side. Do the math.
- **Romans 12:17-21**
 - o Do not repay evil for evil.
 - The natural reaction to injustice is rarely just. We tend to overreact and do evil.
 - The command of Scripture is to do right in response to wrong.
 - o Leave room for God’s wrath.
 - God can deal with this just fine. **Matthew 18:6**
 - God will avenge. Your job is to forgive. Harpoon story.
 - o This can bring the other person to repentance rather than escalation.
 - Explain the “heap burning coals” thing.
 - o Do not be overcome by evil.
 - Many possible forms of this:
 - Submitting to a victim mentality. Validate the pain, but never let the actions of evil people define us. Who created you?
 - 3 levels of damage: injured, self-destruction, hurting others.
 - Lose ability to trust God due to trust being broken. Protective shell.
 - o But overcome evil with good!
 - Add good to the situation!
 - Marriage example: joke about the man who was nice to his nagging wife.
 - This works in so many areas! Try it by faith!!
 - o You still need to be wise with all of this.
 - Compare **Matthew 5:38-42** and **John 2:13-16**.
 - Do you see a contradiction between Jesus’ words and actions?
 - I don’t. He did what it took to break the cycle of evil.
 - o Being the bigger man vs taking your stand. Both good.
- Let’s cover one more section of Scripture. This describes the attrition over time that can take us from enthusiastic believer in Jesus to deep discouragement and a faith crisis.
- **Hebrews 10:32-39**
 - o This describes another way we can be overcome by evil. We shrink back.
 - o But we are called to overcome!
 - o In this case, we overcome by faith!
 - The next verse goes into Chapter 11, the great faith chapter.
- Two challenges today:
 - o What situation do you need to add good into so you can overcome evil?
 - o What situation do you need to add faith into so you can overcome discouragement?
- Pray for each other before you finish up!