

“Unashamed – The Power to Overcome: Week 2” Part 7

“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

1 John 4:4

A. All of us have battles to overcome...

1. No one is exempt from the trouble in this world.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

2. No one is beyond temptation.

“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

3. No one is without struggles.

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.” James 1:2

4. All of us face battles, there is no shame in that fact...discouragement, fear, insecurity, jealousy, addiction, loneliness, worry, depression, stress, lust, anger, self-worth, rejection, judgmental spirit, selfish, physical, emotional, etc.

Why can't we just pray away our struggle?

Why isn't prayer enough??

B. Identify your battle...

1. The battle begins and continues in your mind.

“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:2

2. The battles we face center on patterns.

“We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.” 2 Corinthians 10:4

3. The battle is spiritual...know your enemy.

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”

1 Peter 5:8

“That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.” Romans 8:8

4. The battle is hard!

“But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.” Matthew 7:14

“The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.” Galatians 5:17

“And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.” Romans 7:18

C. Plan your strategy...

1. Realize God will give you the power to overcome.

“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

“Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.” The Message Philippians 4:13

2. Faith is a key factor to overcoming.

“Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” 1 John 5:5

3. Put on the full armor of God and His Word.

“Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.” Ephesians 6:11

“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.” Hebrews 4:12

4. Replacement of negative thoughts is the only way to overcome.

“throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.” Ephesians 4:22-24

D. Walk in victory...be unashamed...

“for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.” 1 John 5:4

1. Remember the battle is already won.

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57

2. Thank God for the victory.

“They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” Revelation 12:11

3. Keep focused on the Holy Spirit's leading.

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.” Galatians 5:16

4. God equipped you to be more than a conqueror.

“No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:37-39

