

Unbridled Surrender— God's Answer to Overcoming...

According to the Bible, anyone who is a believer through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is “*one who overcomes the world*” (1 John 5:5). To overcome the world speaks of being victorious over the world, evil, and all the adversaries of God's kingdom. We, as Christians, ought to live according to this marvelous promise, conducting ourselves as overcomers in every facet of our lives. But regrettably, very few of us do, particularly those of us who have suffered at the hands of another.

Take a few moments to ponder the following questions:

- * Are you being controlled by the negative effects of your past experiences? If so, do you desire to triumph over them instead?
- * Do you carry in your heart hatred, anger, shame, guilt, bitterness, or unforgiveness? If so, would you instead like to have your heart filled with love and forgiveness?
- * Do you often feel emptiness, loneliness, hopelessness, or lack of purpose in your heart? If so, are you tired of feeling this way?
- * Have you encountered times of deep need—maybe a yearning to experience real love, a love that will never leave you? If so, do you long to have those needs met?
- * Do you struggle with various destructive behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse, promiscuity, extreme prudishness, anorexia, bulimia, work-oholism, shop-oholism, or perfectionism? If so, would you like to be set free from such self-destruction?
- * Is your life often permeated with defeat and despair? If so, are you ready to exchange these for victory and joy?
- * Would you like to have power over sin instead of sin having power over you?
- * Do you want God to be more real in your everyday world? If so, are you ready and willing to do whatever it takes to make this a reality?
- * Do you consider yourself an overcomer according to God's definition? If not, would you like to be “*one who overcomes the world*”?

To accomplish such formidable tasks, it will likely be necessary for you to undergo spiritual surgery—maybe even major spiritual surgery—which will certainly be quite painful at times. I have learned not only from the Scriptures, but also from my own personal experience with major spiritual surgery, that in order for Christians to live consistently as overcomers, we need to make Jesus the Lord—the Master—of every part of our lives. In other words, we must choose to live a life of *unbridled surrender* to our Savior, *abandoning* ourselves *totally* into His hands, *trusting* Him in *all* circumstances—past, present, and future.

Does this sound impossible to you? It is...that is, in your own strength. For apart from Christ, we can do nothing (John 15:5). Yet, through Christ who strengthens us, we can do **all** things (Philippians 4:13).

If you are willing or, even better, desirous to start down the path toward unbridled surrender—even though you may feel unprepared—be assured that the Holy Spirit will be faithful to guide you (John 16:13). For the Bible tells us that “*He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 1:6).

No one this side of heaven will perfect the surrendered life and no one will live perfectly the life of an overcomer. However, this Bible study may be just what you need to help you proceed in that direction. For even though God knows we will not reach perfection while on earth, His desire is that we strive to “*become conformed to the image of His Son*” (Romans 8:29), who is our supreme example of one who overcame the world by living the ultimate surrendered life.

At this point, it is not a matter of your abilities, but of your desire and willingness. If you honestly yearn to conquer the negative effects of your past or present circumstances, to triumph over your temptations, to rid yourself of sins, to clothe yourself in godly virtues, and ultimately to live as a godly overcomer by surrendering every area of your life to Christ, praise God! And welcome aboard!