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Pastor Milton Carter ■ King George Church of God ■ Wednesday Night LIVE ■ June 24, 2020

**Key Spiritual Concept:**

*I must, by the Truth of God's Word and empowerment of the Holy Spirit overcome problems, temptations, allurements of the world, and satanic attacks (spiritual warfare).*

**Key Biblical Passages:** The Bible has much to say about being an overcomer:

- Romans 12:21
- 2 Peter 2:9
- 1 John 2:13-14
- 1 John 4:3-4
- 1 John 5:4-5

**1. What does it mean to be an Overcomer?**

To overcome means to endure until the end and achieve the victory (see Strong's Concordance, #3528 nikao). It is interesting that the word "Nike" comes from this Greek word.

Christ-followers, are empowered by God to overcome or achieve victory over the world system, Satan, sin, temptations, and tests.

- In Ephesians 6:11-17, Paul gives us a detailed description of the "Armor of God." Why? To help believers understand how to use what God has provided to be an overcomer.
- The word, "overcome" is used 17 times in the book of Revelation.
- In Revelation chapters 2-3, it is the primary message that Christ had for the 7 churches...Overcome!

**2. How to be an Overcomer**

**1) Recognize that God has made every believer an overcomer through Christ.**

- Paul wrote, "For our sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Rom. 8:36-37)

Everyday--Thank God for giving you a new identity as an overcomer over sin, death, and hell. It is God's will for me conquer any challenging circumstance, person or problem.

**2) Study the lifestyles of great overcomers throughout the Bible and discover the secret of overcoming—faith and trust in God!**

**An excellent example is Paul the Apostle.** Here was a man—a follower of Christ—

who throughout his Christian life was attacked, oppressed and threatened by all kinds of evil forces. He, through his faith in Christ, successfully overcame all things!

- Paul wrote, "As sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing and yet possessing all things." (2 Cor. 6:10)

Even though many circumstances made it appear that Paul lived most of his life as a defeated, dejected, and discouraged person, inwardly he was able to remain an overcomer of all problems through Christ's power.

### **3) Follow the formula given in scripture in utilizing the power of goodness in overcoming any form of evil.**

- "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom. 12:21)
- The Lord inspired Paul to write that promise that good will always triumph over evil every time and in every situation.
- If you ever feel yourself doubting that good will win out meditate on this wonderful promise. Trust the Lord to help you to overcome.

### **4) Rely upon the Lord within you to help you overcome whatever is challenging you.**

In daily life, purpose to live by the power of Christ and never give in to worries, riches, pleasures, troubles or the temptations of this world.

- "Greater is He who is in you than He who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)  
God is greater than ANY problem.

Trust the Lord's mighty power to be bigger than any of your doubts, temptations or self-destructive desires.

### **5) Remember Jesus Christ the greatest overcomer!**

- Jesus said, "In this world you have tribulations, but be of good cheer because I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Whenever you feel like giving in to feelings of discouragement, hate or apathy, remember that Christ paved the way for you to overcome any problem 100% of the time.

Just as Christ conquered sin, through the power of the Holy Spirit you are able to fight the good fight of faith and come out a champ.

- **Our greatest example of an overcomer is Jesus in the Wilderness Temptation (see Matthew 4:1-11).**

### **6) Let the Lord fight the battles for you and stop trying to conquer your obsessive compulsive desires in your own strength and wisdom.**

- The Old Testament Prophet Zephaniah said, "Not by power or by might, but by my Spirit says the Lord of hosts." (Zephaniah 3:17)

Grow a deep inner life in Christ. Resist the temptation to try to be successful in human terms with man-made strength.

Trust the Lord to empower, enable and inspire you to do everything God wants you to do with the help of Christ who gives you the strength and power. Practice Phil. 4:13.

### **7) Remember that failure is never final and success is never ending.**

- In other words, if you have fallen short on a few occasions do not get discouraged, In Proverbs 24:16, Solomon writes, "The righteous man falls seven times a day but rises again.

Application: If you have succeeded remember that there are still many more battles yet to fight. Trust the Lord to help you to remember to treat successes and failures alike; as temporary experiences.

### **8) Have a regular time of prayer and scriptural devotions so that your strength, vision, and mind are renewed every morning.**

- Jesus said, "Watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt 26:41)

Trust the Lord to help you to discipline yourself for the purpose of Godliness so that you are ready for any eventuality.

### **9) Put on the Whole Armor of God – Ephesians 6:11-18**

#### ***Think and Grow***

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you about the Call of Christ to be an Overcomer?

List some life issues, problems, or temptations that you desire to overcome (be specific).

Next to each one, describe how God can help you to overcome the issue.

*Ex: I want to overcome anger. I can overcome anger by reading the Gospel of Mark and learning from Jesus. I can overcome anger by praying...asking the Holy Spirit to help me. I can trust the Lord to help me be victorious over anger.*