

## Called to Overcome

### Joshua 1

**7** “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8** Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

### To the Seven Churches in Revelation 2 & 3

#### Church in Ephesus

**7** To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

#### Church in Smyrna

**11** He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death...

#### Church in Pergamum

**17** To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

#### Church in Thyatira

**26** And he who overcomes, and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations.

#### Church in Sardis

**5** He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

## Church in Philadelphia

**12** He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name.

## Church in Laodicea

**21** To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

- To each of the Seven Churches there is a Challenge...
- The Enemy was trying to hinder the believers at every Church...
- Some were facing Luke Warmness...
- Some were facing Temptation...
- Some were facing Spiritual Slumber...
- Some were facing Persecution...
- One a Jezebel Spirit of manipulation and immorality...
  
- For each of the Seven Churches there is something to Overcome...
- Yet Jesus calls them to overcome; even some of the most difficult situations. That means with God's help was possible...
  
- So if they overcame with the help of the Lord... So Can You...
- And with each Challenge there is a Reward...

## Joshua 1

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## James 1

**2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

**Story:** I remember when I was new in the Lord, it seemed like God was excited to grow my faith because right away, I went from test to test...

Vs. 3 says the testing of your faith produces perseverance...

The purpose of the test is not to break you down but to make you last...

**Story:** Testing the Plumbing

- I remember one time helping some friends with some plumbing...
- We had the sheet rock out and everything was put together and looked good...
- Before we covered it up I called a friend who is an actual plumber and he came over and he was able to check and test the plumbing...

I'm sure glad he did because it's always better if sewer only flows in one direction and we found a small leak in one of the lines...

The purpose for the test was not to destroy the work but to see if there are any areas that need additional work.

The purpose was to make sure it will hold up to the test of time...

## Vs. 2

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

- He said **whenever**, not **if ever** we face trials of many kind.

- James is saying this is not a time to quit, this is a time for joy...
- Trials of many kinds, that means all shapes and sizes...

Consider it Pure Joy:

- James exhorted us to count it all joy...
- Because there is a purpose in the trial...

### Hebrews 12:1,2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross...

- Jesus on the cross because of the joy on the other side...
- When we understand that there is a point, all the sudden it gets a lot easier to endure whatever trial we may face...

### Vs. 3

because you know that the **testing of your faith** produces **perseverance**.

Greek word used here for perseverance is *hupomone*:

- It does not describe a passive waiting but an *active endurance*.
- Like the quality that helps a runner finish a marathon.
- The greek root word means to “*remain under*”.
- It has the picture of someone under a heavy load and choosing to stay there instead of trying to escape.

**Story:** Working out with Paul

Paul said I don't want you to press it I just want you to hold it.

Static strength exercise is the ability to hold a pose without movement.

## Vs. 4

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature** and complete, not lacking anything.

There was an experiment done in the desert called the biodome. They created a living environment for humans, plants and animal life. A huge glass dome was constructed to house an artificially controlled environment with purified air and water, healthy soil and filtered light. The intent was to afford perfect growing conditions for trees, fruits and vegetables, as well as humans.

People lived in the biodome, for many months at a time, and everything seemed to do well with one exception.

When the trees grew to a certain height, they would topple over. It baffled scientists until they realized they forgot to include the natural element of wind. Trees need wind to blow against them because it causes their root systems to grow deeper, which supports the tree as it grows taller.

The wind has a purpose...

The wind challenges the root system of the tree...

The winds cause the trees to become stable and strong...

- The Things that Challenge you are the things that Change you...
- The Challenge is meant to Strengthen You...

Have you ever thought about this: God by design made you to grow through difficulty?

- Difficulty is not necessarily a bad thing...
- The Things that Challenge you are the things that Change you...
- You don't grow physically, mentally or spiritually when you do nothing...
- You Grow in a challenging environment...
- A man with a strong grip didn't get that from playing xbox.

- Your muscles grow when placed under resistance.
- That's why it's called resistance training.

Illustration: Dumb bells

### **The same is true of your faith...**

It's resistance training for your soul...

It causes your roots to grow deeper...

Your either going deep in God or your getting blown over...

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### **Closing Song:**

### **1 John 5**

**4** for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. **5** Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.