

MY PEOPLE OVERCOME

Sermon Series : My People

Speaker : Brad Peterson

Date : February 4, 2018

1. Life is Full of Opposition, Suffering & Struggles (John 16:33; 1 Jn 4:4)

2. **Problem:** When it comes to opposition, suffering and struggles in life, we usually go to one of three defaults:

Victim: We are easily overcome, believing we are weak & powerless against them.

Aggressor: We become fixated on the problem, investing ourselves entirely to eliminate it.

Avoider: We minimize, deny or hide our challenges, believing we are weak for having them.

3. **Solution:** God provides us with a different way to face problems (1 Cor 10:1-13)

- a. See it as a "test" (Your test is your testimony)
- b. How do we pass? (We endure)
- c. How do we endure? (Jas 1:2-4; Heb 12:1-3)

Acknowledge our problems (lament)

Avoid all counterfeit forms of comfort and escape

Seek & declare God's goodness, promises and presence in the midst of them.

4. **Our overcoming requires humility & community** (Luke 18:9-12; Gal 6:1-2; Heb 10:24-25)

Humility is seeing yourself as God sees you and admitting that to others

Community is a place where you are seen as God sees you and championed by others

QUESTIONS

1. What is a significant test you have faced in your life and what did you learn through it?
2. What is your default when faced with challenging circumstances: victim? aggressor? avoider? something else? What will it take to "pass the test"?
3. Why do we find humility and community so difficult? What role do they play in overcoming?

Report Card

A = Student ultimately experiences inexplicable Joy, Peace, and Hope in the midst of even the most difficult circumstances; Prays continually and offers raw, emotional appeals and laments to God, while remaining faithful and true to declare His goodness, promises, and provisions. Truly an inspiration to the class!

B = Student demonstrates a strong ability to endure hardships and often finds Joy, Peace and Hope in the midst of very difficult circumstances. Has shown genuine honesty and desperation at times in their prayer life, and a sincere effort to declare God's goodness even when it's hard. A pleasure to have in class.

C = Student shows ability to rise above circumstances through the power of the Holy Spirit, yet struggles with consistency to do so. Has shown moments of tremendous faith, hope and courage in the face of daunting situations and challenges, followed by moments and even seasons of doubt and uncertainty. Gets along well with others.

D = Student is struggling with losing heart, due to difficult circumstances and trials. Beginning to believe lies concerning their own value, identity, and purpose, as well as regularly doubting God's goodness, faithfulness and provision. Often turns towards other forms of comfort and pleasure in order to self-medicate. Has become a distraction at times to others in class. Remediation needed.

F = Student appears to have little to no regard for God's goodness or promises, and appears to be focused solely on difficult circumstances and fully vested in deception about self and God, resulting in self-pity, helplessness, and despair. Attempts by others in class to encourage, support or even correct their thinking with truth in love have been rebutted and proven futile. Student will require special attention to pass.