

An Overcoming Life

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1. Introduction

1. I want to give you some practical help for walking an overcoming life.

2. Jesus spoke of the new life as being born again—the key to an overcoming life is literally a new birth:

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

3. Being born again has two parts to it: being born (literally “regenerated”) of

a. the water, which refers to what God does in us when we are baptized in water; and

- b. of the Spirit, which refers to receiving the Holy Ghost.
 - 4. If you were baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ, then you have been born of the water. And there, God did a regenerating work in you, where He removed your sins and placed His sacrificial blood on your soul.
 - 5. And if you have received the gift of the Holy Ghost and the Spirit spoke through in other tongues, then you have been born of the Spirit.
 - 6. This is the key to a new, overcoming life in Jesus—cleansed of past sin, and filled with God’s Spirit—the source of new life.
- II. A new beginning
- A. Jesus regenerated you
 - 1. Again, the key to the new beginning is that we see it happening not by our own power to “turn over a new leaf,” but by Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2. When we turn over a new leaf by our efforts alone, we know new leaves will fade with the passing of seasons.
3. But in Jesus, when He makes old things pass away, your old sinful life is dead and buried.
4. When the preacher baptized you by putting you under water in the name of Jesus, that act had an invisible spiritual impact.
5. That baptism put all of your sins under the blood of Jesus that He shed when He died for our sin on the cross. And what is beautiful, when you came out of the water, those sins remain buried there.

Rom 6:3-4

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by

baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

6. But you rise up and your sins can't follow you—they remained dead and covered—buried. That is what it means to be buried with him in baptism.
7. And when you are filled with the Spirit, you walked into a newness of life—an overcoming life.
8. While the devil will continue to attempt to drag up your past, you must not forget that Jesus Christ forgave you.
9. And the good news is that he even the devil must run from you when we come at him in Jesus' name:
James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
10. Your first birth was a natural, physical birth that will one day end, but when you were

born again, that was a supernatural birth that will never end:

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

B. Jesus is the new authority

1. As we break away from our old life, we are no longer controlled by our old sinful habits or the devil.

2. Jesus made it clear:

Matthew 28:18 ... All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

3. And he gave some of that power to His born-again children to use over the devil.

Luke 10:18-19

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the

power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

4. You no longer are under the command and authority of the devil.
 5. But get this...the devil is now under your authority.
 6. With Jesus as your new boss, when the devil bugs you, you can say it like Jesus did: "Get behind me satan."
- c. The Holy Ghost gives a new nature
1. You may wonder, "How can I change? How can I truly be different? How can I live, look, and walk more like a Christian?"
 2. One of the benefits of having the Holy Ghost is that it is power to be different:
Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

3. Your old life may have immoral or wicked, but when you are filled with the Holy Ghost, that is power to begin to look and act more like Jesus—as a witness for Him showing God’s power lived through you.
4. The power that God put inside of you is literally making you into something different than you were—you are becoming God’s child.

*John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become **the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name:*

III. Three Basic Nutrients

1. Our new life is truly a miraculous gift from God, but that miracle also needs our cooperation.
2. You don’t want to slip back into your old routines and lose what you have gained. You need the strength of the Spirit to learn how to live in victory.

3. In order to get that strength, there are three basic nutrients [**slide-three basic nutrients**] that you must have in your spiritual diet. Those things are: daily prayer; daily Bible reading and consistent church attendance.

A. Daily Prayer

1. A simple definition of prayer is that it is a conversation with God. And as the success of any relationship requires regular communication, so does our relationship with God.

2. The best example of how to pray, Jesus provided a pattern in Matthew 6:9-13.

Matthew 6:9-13

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

3. Don't get bogged down by a pattern, just remember that prayer is talking to God.
 4. Start with 5 minutes, then move to 10. Move it on up as you learn how to open your heart to God. You can talk with your best friend for an hour and you wonder where the time went. And that is what Jesus wants with you.
- B. Daily Bible reading
1. When you open up the Bible to read, God will make this ancient Book come alive as if it were a text message from God written to you this morning.
 2. This Book is your key to your spiritual success:

Psalms 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

3. When we read and meditate on the Word, we are putting it in our heart, and that contributes to our success as a new Christian:

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

4. You can start with one of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.
5. Then read the Book of Acts which follows those four.
6. Read at least a chapter every day. Four or five chapters a day will get you through the entire Bible in a year.
7. Set aside time in each day for prayer and Bible reading. You will find yourself receiving much spiritual strength through that time and will feel as though you communicated with God.

- c. Consistent Church Attendance
 - 1. The three basic nutrients of a successful Christian are prayer, Bible reading, and third, consistent church attendance.
 - 2. One means of building your spiritual strength is to be at the house of God at every opportunity that you can.
 - 3. God commanded His people to gather for worship:
Deut 12:5 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:
 - 4. As the days progress closer and closer to the coming of the Lord, we need to make certain that we are faithful to God's house:
Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

5. In the church we have opportunities to pray together, to worship together, to hear an uplifting testimony, to hear preaching, to fellowship with one another, and for our children learn the Bible.
6. The church can become our new people—a new hangout group—an accountability partner. And in that, we find comfort and edification:
1 Thess 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

IV. Warning and Help

A. Warning

1. In our new overcoming life, it is important to remember this warning.
2. Yes the Lord is thrilled you are seeking Him, and yes the church is thrilled you are seeking Him. But know this, the devil will work hard to stop your forward progress in serving Jesus.

3. The scripture warns us to be on the lookout for his attack:

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

4. He will likely entice people, like family, old friends, or co-workers, to try to discourage you and even condemn you for becoming “holier than thou”, or a “holy roller,” or a “religious freak.”
5. He may attempt to turn up the volume on temptations to do things you used to do, to try to make you stumble back into your old ways.
6. He knows it only takes one slip-up to discourage a person and make them think about giving up on the idea of turning their life to God.
7. But the Bible calls new believers “babes in Christ”. When babies are learning to walk, they do a lot of stumbling, but eventually

they learn to walk because they just keep getting up. Just keep getting up!

B. Help

1. You need to know that you are not alone.
2. There is a group of people here who are dedicating prayer hours praying for your success.
3. We care for you and you can call any time. You can call on a church member, staff member, or your pastor.
4. We are a family. And as such, we care for one another and want to see you succeed. Welcome to the family!